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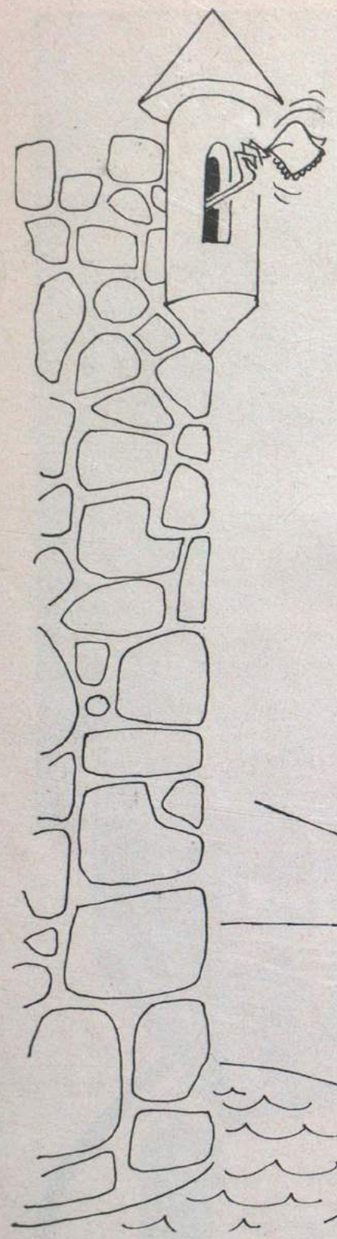




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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

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JANUARY • 1965

Vol. 19 *(New Series)* **No. 1**

Editorial

Soldiers' Widows' Fund

(See A.C.I. 86 of 1964)

We wrote in June of this year of this excellent scheme. We write again as its merits have been brought vividly to our notice. Two soldiers of our Corps who tragically met their deaths during recent months were wise enough to have joined this Fund. Their widows both received some £350 almost within hours of their deaths. One of the great merits of this scheme is the speed and ease with which a widow or dependent receives payment. Below is an actual example of the speed at which this scheme can operate.

A soldier in an Infantry unit signed the necessary form to join the Fund at 9.30 in the morning. This was merely authority for the paymaster to commence deductions of 2/- a week from his pay. Before any actual money had passed he was tragically killed in an accident on the same afternoon. His widow was in possession of £350 the next morning!

In the light of the above it would seem very foolish for any married soldier not to participate in this excellent scheme. All that is required is to complete the necessary form authorising the Regimental Paymaster to deduct 2/- a month from the individual's pay at source. Thus a mere 24/- a year secures cover and this operates from the moment the application form is completed authorising the first 2/- to be paid. If you are a married soldier you really must do something about this **NOW**.

☆

Clothing for Welfare

We have been asked if we can give a bit more information about gifts in kind to the Association to help our welfare work—particularly clothing.

All gifts, such as clothing, toys, books and footwear, are always very welcome. Clothing, as long as it is clean and has a reasonable amount of wear left, can be particularly useful, but please do not send us anything with moth in it; nor are discarded uniforms much help. In particular demand is men's and children's clothing—especially children's shoes. Ladies' jerseys are also much needed, as are men's overcoats and warm clothing.

We are much indebted to the very kind friends and units who sent us gifts for Christmas; also to the ladies of the 10th Regiment who so kindly helped our welfare staff in making up parcels for despatch. This support from the Corps not only helps those in need but is also a great encouragement to our welfare staff.

Obituary

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR W. RONALD CAMPBELL PENNEY, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.



His very many friends will have heard with deep regret of the sudden death of General Sir Ronald Penney on 3rd December, 1964. A service and cremation took place in Edinburgh on 5th December, at which many friends and members of the Corps were present.

General 'Ronnie' Penney was a great Corps personality. He had a most distinguished military career, some of the highlights of which were the award of the M.C., and both the Belgian and French Croix de Guerre in World War I; his appointment as Brigade Major to H.Q., Shanghai area, in 1931; command of the 3rd Infantry Brigade in 1940-41; S.O.-in-C., Middle East Forces, 1942; C.S.O., 18th Army Group, and later C.S.O., 15th Army Group, 1943; G.O.C., 1st Division (in which appointment he was severely wounded at Anzio in 1944); D.M.I. at Supreme H.Q., S.E.A.C., and finally Assistant Controller of Supplies (Ammunition) 1946-49. He was a Colonel Commandant of the Corps from 1947 to 1957. He was awarded the D.S.O. in the 1936/37 Waziristan Operations, and in World War II he was awarded the C.B.E. (1943), the C.B. (1944), the Legion of Merit (U.S.) and the Order of the White Lion (Czechoslovakia). He served with the Foreign Office from 1955 to 1957, and was knighted in 1958. These are but some of his appointments and honours, which are indicative of the great personality that he was.

Apart from his soldierly achievements, he was a sportsman of note, and a well-known rugby player, being capped for the Army and awarded his "Jimmy" for representing the Corps.

It was as a very human and likeable person that he will be particularly missed, and he will be remembered with much affection by those who had the privilege of serving under him when he commanded the 1st Indian Divisional Signals, 1935-38.

He was a staunch supporter of the Association, and records show that he was taking an active part in its affairs as far back as 1921. His wise advice—and sometimes well-merited criticism—invariably proved extremely sound, and were inspired by his deep regard for the Association and all that it stood for. He also performed great services for S.S.A.F.A., in which he held high office.

Honours and promotion never made any difference to Ronnie Penney; although he had a strong will and a forthright viewpoint, he remained as charming and approachable as ever, and numbered amongst his legion of friends all ranks, from Signalmen upwards.

This short tribute can pay but brief homage to such a man. He will be long remembered by the Corps, and in many circles outside it.

He lost his first wife, so well-known and liked, in 1960, and it is to his second wife, Stella, whom we were just beginning to know, that our deep sympathy goes, as well as to the two daughters of his first marriage.

A full memoir will appear in the Spring issue of the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution.

W.O.II W. G. McLEOD

W.O.II W. G. McLeod (22265389) who served in Royal Signals from 1949 until his death in Aberdeen on 19th December, 1964, had already started work with the Royal Signals Institution which he intended as his career in retirement. He was taken ill suddenly and was in Millbank Hospital when he heard he had passed the Civil Service Examination to enter as a clerical officer. He had already become our friend in R.H.Q., and our deep sympathy is offered to Mrs. McLeod and her two young children. He was a life member of the Association.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST

Congratulations to the following who received the awards shown against their names:

Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B.E., (T.A and A.F.A.).
Lieutenant-Colonel T. I. Ronald, O.B.E.
Major A. Begg, M.B.E.
W.O.I (Bandmaster) B. J. Tamplin, M.B.E. (T.A.)
Sergeant F. G. Holmonroyd, B.E.M.
Sergeant R. G. Rotherham, B.E.M.
Sergeant D. S. T. Sparrow, B.E.M.
Sergeant P. W. Todd, B.E.M.
Sergeant Partiman Pun, B.E.M. (Gurkha Signals).

Did the Corps beat the B.B.C. to it?

Extract from the April edition of "The Wire," 1921

WIRELESS TELEPHONE CONCERTS

Great success has been achieved by Lieutenant Walker in transmission of Wireless Telephony. Several concerts have been given, and the other week he entertained London, Eastbourne and Maresfield.

"Hello, London! Hello, London! Crowborough speaking! Crowborough speaking!"

Sergeant Speller gave a song; Signalman Kirk a pianoforte solo; Signalman Starling a violin solo; Signalman Glessop a pianoforte solo; Signalman Jones a violin solo; Lance-Corporal Gibbs a song; Mr. Smart a pianoforte solo; Signalman Young a song; Mr. Waldie a pianoforte solo.

Splendid signals were received in London. Twenty people were entertained at one station alone. Records were taken at Eastbourne for a gramophone, and Maresfield had quite a treat. It is hoped that these concerts will be given weekly.

Well—what do you know?

VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS MAJOR-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM SCOTT, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E. TO THE BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE

THE Master, accompanied by Lady Scott, arrived at Monchengladbach railway station on the morning of Monday, 12th October. The party were met by Brigadier and Mrs. J. E. Anderson and Lieutenant K. Ryding of the **7th Regiment** who acted as ADC to the General throughout his tour.

After lunching with the C.S.O. the General visited H.Q. B.A.O.R. and met all Royal Signals Staff and E.R.E. officers and soldiers who were serving in the Headquarters.

On Tuesday morning the General again visited the Headquarters, this time to meet Signals Division Northag before driving to Bergelin to see the **13th Regiment.**

In the afternoon a small parade was held at which the Master presented L.S. and G.C. Medals to W.O.I (F. of S.) A. Whittington and W.O.II (A.Q.M.S.) T. J. Fermor, R.E.M.E. The General then visited the training block and had tea with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants while Lady Scott, who had watched the parade, had tea with the Wives' Club before returning to Rheindahlen to attend a dinner party with C.A.F.S.O., Colonel B. R. M. Hayles.

On Wednesday the visit took the General to Laarbruch to meet the **21st Regiment,** where, during a very full day, the Master was shown some of the varied facets of the Regiment's tasks with the R.A.F. The Master who was accompanied by C.A.F.S.O. and the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Horner, saw a demonstration of No. 1 Squadron and R.A.F. (Germany) Communications Centre equipments, and appeared impressed with the co-operation between all ranks of this complex, which is so vital to its success. He spoke at length to Warrant Officers, senior N.C.O.s and men and after luncheon with the Station Commander and officers, he visited the Operations Bunker and finally watched an animated Lieutenant R. J. C. Middleton instructing his basic German Language Course.

Thursday the 15th was taken up with a visit to the **16th Regiment** in the morning where the General inspected a Quarter Guard and 2 Squadron drawn up in battle order with all their transport. He then visited the Tape Relay Centre and the Training School where he was shown the "School Bulge" trainees carrying out part of their Comcen Op training and talked to Major Sinclair, the Regimental Training Officer. In the afternoon the General moved to Francisca Barracks at St. Tonis to visit the **28th Regiment.**

On Friday morning the Master had a meeting with the C.-in-C. B.A.O.R., General Sir William Stirling, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., followed by a meeting with Air Marshal Sir Ronald Lees, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., before departing for Hubbelrath where he was met by Major E. G. Watkeys, of 217 Squadron.

The General met the Commander of 7 Artillery Brigade and watched a demonstration of Brigade Headquarters in the field before visiting the gunner signal troops. After lunch in the Brigade Headquarters' Mess the General and Lady Scott left for Bielefeld where a dinner party had been arranged by C.C. Royal Signals, Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., to introduce the General to the Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Goodwin, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

After a quiet weekend the Master began his visit to 1 (B.R.) Corps units by visiting 204 Squadron at Iserlohn where he inspected a Guard of Honour composed of Royal Signals, A.A.C., R.A.S.C. and R.E.M.E. personnel. Integration at its best.

He then visited various aspects of Brigade training and watched wireless and line detachments taking part in a competition of fast deployment and line laying.

At 11.15 the party left for Lippstadt where the **22nd Regiment** produced a Quarter Guard commanded by Sergeant Stewart of 244 Squadron. After inspecting the guard, General Scott was conducted to the Officers' Mess by Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe. Following lunch the General inspected five representative radio detachments in battle order and then visited the rest of the Regiment at work.

In the meantime Lady Scott and Mrs. Lafferty, wife of the R.S.M., visited the quarters of Mrs. Ferguson whose husband is in Cyprus and Mrs. Costigan whose husband, Corporal Costigan, is in Borneo. After tea in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where the General and Lady Scott met the majority of members and their wives, the party left for Bielefeld.



21st Regiment — Inspecting the Regimental Quarter Guard

On Tuesday, 20th October, the Master visited the **4th Regiment** at Herford where he was shown a layout of Divisional Headquarters. Having been introduced to the Divisional Commander, the Master then took the salute at a drive past of the Regiment. The narrowness of the road and the closeness of the vehicles were an impressive feature.

In the afternoon the Master drove to Detmold where he met the Brigade Commander of 20 Armoured Brigade Group, and inspected the Quarter Guard of 200 Squadron. After meeting all the Squadron officers in the O.C.'s office, the Master inspected the living accommodation and offices and met the Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron. He ended his tour with a visit to the Squadron Social Club which had recently been redecorated with suitable murals and christened "The Blue Lagoon Club."

In the evening General and Lady Scott returned to Herford to meet the Divisional Staff officers and their wives at a cocktail party given by the Regiment in the recently integrated Officers' Mess.

On the 21st the Master should have visited **2nd Regiment,** and the squadrons of 6 and 12 Brigade in the field but owing to his indisposition the visit had to be cancelled much to everyone's disappointment.

On the 22nd the **7th Regiment** were all prepared for the Master's arrival when the lights in R.H.Q. failed. This, together with the dull weather outside, really set up a cloud of gloom. However, everyone breathed sighs of relief when a galloper reported that the TV screens, at the mist enshrouded demonstration on the square, were still flickering happily.

At 10.45 precisely the Master stepped from his car to watch the Quarter Guard turning out under Sergeant Purdy. The regimental trumpeter sounded the General Salute. After a short talk with the Commanding Officer, in the new illuminated

offices, the General was taken to see a layout representing the work of each Squadron in the Regiment. The eyecatching feature of this demonstration was the television control vehicle and the two specimen monitor vehicles where the General spent some time studying the facilities provided by this new departure in signalling.

In the more cheering atmosphere of the Sergeants' Mess, the Master was introduced to Lieutenant Kelly and the Unit Motor Cycling Team who had just returned from their bid to win the U.K. championships. After lunch in the C.O.'s house and a short visit to 211 Squadron at Minden where, in addition to meeting Squadron officers and senior N.C.O.s, the Master also met the Brigade Commander of 11 Infantry Brigade before he left for Soltau.

Having spent the night with Brigadier I. G. Gill, O.B.E., M.C., Commander of 7 Armoured Brigade, the Master met officers and warrant officers of 207 Squadron and inspected the "G" complex vehicles, and Q.M.'s department to see integrated stores. After visiting the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, the General left for Verden.

Before arriving at the **1st Regiment,** the Master called on the G.O.C. 1st Division, Major-General The Honorable Fitzalan-Howard, O.B.E., M.C. At Caithness Barracks the Master was received by a General Salute played by the Alamein Staff Band of the Royal Tank Regiment after which he inspected the Regiment drawn up on parade and commanded by Major C. O. Bound. After the advance in review order the Regiment formed up in a hollow square and the Master presented the L.S. and G.C. medal to Staff Sergeant D. Ross. At the conclusion of the parade the Master visited the gymnasium to see the ski team under training and was introduced to S.S.I. Barnes, the P.T.I. Then to the Sergeants' Mess, where R.S.M. C. W. Johnston introduced many of the members, in particular Staff Sergeant A. Baker (34 years' service), with whom the Master found a lot to talk about.

From the Sergeants' Mess the Master went to the Officers' Mess where he was joined by Lady Scott for luncheon with the G.O.C. and Mrs. Fitzalan-Howard, Brigadier and Mrs. Hancock, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Page, M.B.E., and Mrs. Page and the officers and their ladies.

After lunch the Master returned to Bielefeld where he stayed the night before motoring down to Rheindahlen.

On Saturday evening the Master gave a dinner party at the United Services Officers' Club which Brigadier and Mrs. Anderson attended together with a number of young Royal Signal officers and their wives.

The next day, the C.S.O. escorted General and Lady Scott to Aachen to start their journey to Bruges where after a short private visit they returned home to Devonshire.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the visit of General Sir William and Lady Scott and we hope that the Master was not overstrained by his very heavy programme. He has already kindly told us that he was very satisfied with the morale and state of readiness he found throughout Royal Signals in Germany.



1st Regiment — Presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Staff Sergeant D. Ross

A KENYA OCCASION

We are indebted to the P.R.O. H.Q. British Land Forces, Kenya, for the photograph below of a small ceremony in Nairobi on the eve of the departure of British Troops from Kenya



W.O.IIs Alan Spurgin (*left*) and James Paterson admire the sword received by Major M. K. Birgen on behalf of the officers of 1 Signal Squadron from the Corps

Corps Christmas Cards

Major R. F. Little of the 42nd Regiment T.A., writes:

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from Heav'n to men
Begin and never cease."

So runs the last verse of the hymn "While shepherds watched . . ." which will be a familiar word to everyone, and which epitomise to no small extent the purpose of Christ on earth.

It so happens that our Christmas festival is celebrated in many ways and one very common feature is the sending of cards. These cards capture many aspects of the Christmas activity from the remembrance of Mary and Child, the Wise Men, down to scenic views, and those depicting the gastronomical orgy, but all in their individual way symbolising an attitude to Christmas.

However, certain other cards have been received this year, and I thank the senders for their seasonal greetings but the frontispiece mystifies me. I shall mention but two.

A card with the Royal Signals crest showing the first use of telegraph in the Crimean War and one from the King's Own Royal Regiment showing the storming of San Sebastian in the Peninsular Campaign.

My puzzlement concerns the purpose of demonstrating our "bloody" past; here surely the words of Christ have fallen on stoney ground.

If the spirit of Christmas is to look forward with hope for the goodwill of all mankind, and for peace on earth, what purpose then these pictures.

Where are the lines crossed?

Regimental Headquarters will welcome views on this subject.

Help Safeguard Independence
in the
Zambia Defence Force

ZAMBIA (formerly Northern Rhodesia) has recently celebrated Independence. Because of this and the greatly increased demand on the Defence Force, a planned expansion programme is envisaged calling for men of initiative and ability. The following ranks are invited to apply for the exceptional and interesting posts now existing in the Defence Force.

SERGEANTS STAFF SERGEANTS WARRANT OFFICERS II
with experience in one of the following fields
Q, M.T., Signals, Clerical and Pay

COMPANY or EQUIVALENT COMMANDERS SIGNAL OFFICERS

Applicants, married or single, should not be more than 50 years of age. Period of agreement 3-4-5 years renewable for periods of three years by mutual agreement. Agreement terminable by six months notice on either side. Service normally in Zambia only—probably in Lusaka or Ndola.

RATES OF PAY
Example : Major £1,985—£2,285 p.a. Captain £1,550—£1,850 p.a.
Sergeant £751—£887 p.a. W.O.II £1,074—£1,290 p.a.

TRADE PAY comparable to British Army

CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCE
£50 minimum for first child, £24 for each additional child (payable up to a maximum salary of £1,290).

TERMINAL GRATUITY
25% of total gross pay received over the period of the contract, subject to 30 months service completed. Married Quarters and hard furniture supplied. Passage to Zambia and back to U.K. on completion of tour for wife and children under age of of 19.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Zambia is a fast growing energetic Country with a cost of living on a par to the U.K. (Income tax lower). Some items, e.g. cigarettes and petrol cheaper. It has a warm, dry climate most of the year, allowing for a wide range of outdoor and sporting activities—swimming, boating, fishing and hunting. It's National Parks, Victoria Falls, lakes and wild life offer exciting sightseeing and photography opportunities.

Applications, quoting age, rank and brief history of previous military service, should be sent to :

The Defence Liaison Officer,
THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
7-11 Cavendish Place, London, W.1.

SCENES FROM SUNNY CATTERICK

WE salute below the staff of H.Q. Training Brigade who have paused momentarily from their labours to pose for the camera, and we welcome into the Corps the young Officers who have just completed 56 "Q" Course and are now about to join their first Regular units (less two veterans in the front row who have already put in a little service).



Back Row: Mr. Wallis, Mr. Bettley, Signalman Goddard, Sergeant McKay, Miss Williams, Corporal Burgin, Sergeant Brooks, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Redfern, Mr. Gegg
Second Row: Mrs. Moffatt, Mrs. Bilbrough, Mrs. Woodall, Mrs. Critchley, W.O.I E. Byrne, B.E.M., W.O.I (F of S) N. F. Webb, Mrs. King, Mrs. Miners, Miss Jackman, Mrs. Cunningham
Front Row: Major K. C. Coutts, Major R. H. Blizard, Major F T. C. Williams, Major C. Mitchell, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., Colonel D. G. Jones, Major L. W. Prescot, Captain J. Telfer, Major (Retd.) G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E.



Back Row (left to right): Second Lieutenants R. M. G. Orde, C. W. Collier, R. B. H. Cox, D. G. D. Gray, M. A. Thorne, C. R. Urquhart, J. H. Gallon
Centre Row (left to right): Second Lieutenants R. W. Hanbury, R. N. Haysom, M. J. Macklin, A. J. R. Jackman, D. G. Mc H. Overton, W. H. Backhouse, A. Burtt, C. G. A. Whitehead.
Front Row (left to right): Second Lieutenants J. H. Roberts, H. Grenville-Jones, H. A. Culley, Lieutenants T. B. Scarff, R. A. C. Siderfin, Second Lieutenants J. D. Daglish M. H. King, R. F. Daly

By Lieutenant W. J. P. Robins, Royal Signals

Test of Skills and Endurance on Europe's largest Icecap



An Icecap Camp

"Norped" is an annual expedition to Norway, sponsored by the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth and is for the benefit of officer cadets and young officers of the three fighting Services.

This year, the expedition lasted from 8th August to 5th September, and explored the Jostedal Ice Cap in Southern Norway, which is the largest ice cap in Europe, covering an area of 480 square miles. The main ice cap lies at about 6,500 feet and is believed to be over 1,000 feet thick. Glaciers flow from the ice cap down deep, steep sided valleys, and it was at the junction of two of these valleys, the Austerdal and the Langedal, that the expedition made its base camp.

The leader of the expedition was Captain R. J. Harris, R.A., who, at the time was an instructor at the Army Outward Bound School. Royal Signals people involved were Lieutenant K. P. Burke, who went along for the fun, and Lieutenant W. J. P. Robins, who handled the field administration and was an assistant leader. The other assistant leaders were a Sapper Lieutenant, and a Pilot Officer from the R.A.F. Technical College at Henlow. The rest of the expedition consisted of three Dartmouth Cadets, a Midshipman, a Naval Sub-Lieutenant, four Sandhurst Cadets, one Henlow Cadet, a Royal Marine Lieutenant and a Surgeon Lieutenant, R.N., who is now a doctor with the Combined Services South Georgia Expedition. Lieutenant A. Swan, Cameronians, another A.O.B.S. instructor, also went along for the fun.

The trip out was a very quick but impressive affair. We left London by air at 03.00 on the Saturday morning and were actually unpacking stores in the base camp by 19.30 hours that night, after a breathtaking day, travelling by coach, boat and ferry through the magnificent fjordland country.

Ice and Snow Avalanches Roar Down

The base camp established, the expedition sorted itself into four groups, each under an assistant leader, and spent the Sunday, in perfect weather, learning safety rules and simple techniques on the local glacier tongue. This was our introduction to the two magnificent icefalls, Odin and Thor, which feed the glacier, each 4,000 feet of jumbled, creaking, broken, bright blue ice. Every so often, Thor (the Thunderer in Norsk mythology) would let out a roar as vast amounts of ice and snow would avalanche down.

The next few days were spent in finding routes up on to the ice cap, and, as a result of this, two main routes were chosen, one on the east, up to a small lake, and the other on the west, called the left-hand route. Roy Dearman (the R.A.F. officer) took his group a good way up the icefall Odin as well, but was stopped by a sheer ice wall about 200 feet from the top.

Robins' group then spent three days moving round on crampons and skis from the top of one access route to the other, going very delicately through some crevassed areas beyond the crests of the icefalls already mentioned. Carrying heavy loads (70 or 80lb.) on the icecap was an arduous business, especially in soft snow, until some ski sleges were made, a bit later on in the expedition. Ice cap travel was also very hazardous in bad weather or if the visibility was reduced at all, but on this first trip, the weather was extremely kind.

Burke, who was working with Harris, took part in a mammoth carry to the top of the very steep left-hand route and established a stores camp there, meeting Robins' group returning from their icecap trek, on his way up.

After any amount of time on the ice cap, the return to base camp was a happy one. The food seemed unlimited, the temperature was more human and even the bleakness of the Austerdal provided a welcome change from limitless snow and ice. The local Norwegians were very friendly (being largely a female population) and our special favourite was the old lady who kept a tourist hut open for us a few hundred yards up the hill, where we could taste the unimaginable luxuries of bread, eggs, cheese, fresh milk and lager, whenever we were in base camp. The existence of this tourist hut made base a difficult place to go away from for long. Valley living was the height of bliss, compared with the cramped and smelly proximity of three to a tent on the ice cap.

The second week was a flurry of activity in very bad weather, which effectively changed Richard Harris's plans. The original plan was to get everybody up Lodelskaupen, a very worthwhile mountain on the other side of the ice cap, which would have been impossible to keep to in bad weather. The plan was therefore changed to get everyone to the ice cap's highest point, safely. This was done, in the midst of blizzards, mists, wind and snow, the only two failing to get there being Burke and Robins, both living it up in base camp, injured.

All talk had to be in whispers

The third and part of the fourth weeks were spent in various minor expeditions. Some (Richard Harris and Alan Cowie leading) crossed the ice cap and climbed a peak with an unpronounceable name. Burke joined a nearly disastrous attempt to climb a caving icefall (all talk had to be in whispers in case they set the thing in motion), and Robins took an augmented team to the next valley west and climbed Suphellnipa and two other pleasant peaks, in quick succession and changeable weather, taking five days and hitting a fierce blizzard over the pass on the way back and bringing a stray goat back with it on the way. A final few days provided perfect weather again, and all final packing was done in shorts, basking in the hot sun.

What had we to show for all this? Well, firstly, a certain amount of climbing experience had been gained by everyone, and everyone's fitness had improved. As well as that, a knowledge of what made the other Services tick had been acquired in the long days spent lying in tents with the wind and snow howling outside, and nothing to do but talk or play bridge.



Pause for refreshment—Icefall Thor in background

Direct to You

Something of Interest to Technicians

ONCE again, this month we offer an item of particular interest to technician tradesmen.

CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON EXAMINATIONS

Corps Memorandum No. 21, paragraph 22, specifies the exemptions granted to technician tradesmen who qualify in the City and Guilds of London No. 49 Telecommunication Technicians Course. As a result of recent negotiations, the Institute have agreed to extend their recognition of Royal Signals qualifications as shown in the schedule below. These exemptions are identical with those granted to R.E.M.E. Electronic Group tradesmen.

Serial No. (a)	*Trade* (b)	*Where training conducted* (c)	*Trade Standard* (d)	*Provides exemption from* (e)	*Provides direct entry to* (f)
1.	All Royal Signals Technicians	8th Signal Regiment Army Apprentice School, Harrogate. School of Signals (For Radio Tech. Heavy, Class I)	Class II	First year C. & G. 49 Telecommunication	Intermediate examination 2nd year C. & G. 49 Telecommunication
			Class I	Third year C. & G. 49 Telecommunication	Final examination 4th year C. & G. 49 Telecommunication
2.	Foreman of Signals	School of Signals	F. of Signals	Fourth year C. & G. 49, but see below	C. & G. 300 Supplementary Studies

Candidates exercising the right of direct entry to Second and Fouth year examination will be awarded the appropriate Intermediate or Final Telecommunication Technicians Certificate if successful in the examination.

Success in the subject 300 examination at serial 2 (f) above, will result in award of the respective single subject certificate only. The full Technological Certificate in Telecommunications will only be awarded to candidates who have passed the Institute's own examination at T4 level for the Telecommunica-Technician Certificate and who have the requisite passes in Subject 300.

The Institute very much regret that they are unable to award a Full Technological Certificate to qualified Foremen of Signals. In explanation of this they state their insistance upon a pass in their own examination before the Full Technological Certificate can be granted: a rule applied rigorously, with no exceptions whatsoever.

It should be particularly noted that these exemptions only apply to technicians who qualify at a trade test conducted by 8th Signal Regiment, A.A.S., Harrogate, and School of Signals. Soldiers gaining their Class II qualifications on a unit trade board are not eligible for these privileges.

Technicians wishing to take advantage of the recognition of Royal Signals trades standards must produce a statement signed by their Commanding Officer certifying that they have successfully completed an approved course at 8th Signal Regiment, A.A.S., Harrogate, or School of Signals, as appropriate. This certificate must be forwarded to the City and Guilds of London Institute by the local examination secretary when the candidate applies for entry to an examination.

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Starting dates of courses scheduled to be held in the Training Brigade in June, 1965, are as follows:

Electronic Technician	Class II - I	20th July
Radio Operator	Class II - I	13th July
Driver, Royal Signals	Class II - I	20th July
Radio Technician (Light) ...	Class III - II	6th July
Staff Operator	Class III - II	13th July
Communication Cen. Operator ...	Class III - II	*6th July
Radio Operator	Class III - II	13th July

* Two courses

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A leisure picture of the Royal Signals Display Team Relaxing at Bondi Beach, Sydney, Australia. Another aspect of life with the Display Team as shown on the adjoining page

Royal Signals Display Team

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Guts and Determination

to perform:

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The Brick Wall (4)
The Kart Jump (6)

You Must Have...

Balance

to perform:

The Tableau (2)
The Six-Bike Fan (3)
The Penny Farthing (5)











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Personal Column

New Signal Officer-in-Chief

As we go to press it has been officially announced that Brigadier P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., is to succeed Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., as Signal Officer-in-Chief with effect from 1st February, 1965.

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. A. Coates to be Maj., 5th Nov., 1964.
Lt. (Q.M.) L. J. Taylor, M.B.E., to be Capt. (Q.M.), 5th Nov., 1964.
Lt. A. C. M. Prince to be Capt., 14th Nov., 1964.
Maj. I. McAnsh retires 19th Oct., 1964.
Capt. D. F. B. Anthonisz to be Maj., 15th Nov., 1964.
Maj. (Q.M.) L. J. Bosher is placed on retired pay, 15th Nov., 1964.
Capt (Q.M.) D. A. L. Murray to be Maj. (Q.M.), 15th Nov., 1964.
Lt.-Col. T. G. Chambers, M.C., is appointed to the Special List, 1st Sept., 1964.
Maj. (Tfc. Offr.) A. B. Roderick is placed on retired pay, 19th Nov., 1964.
Lt. W. A. C. Griffiths to be Capt., 23rd Nov., 1964.
Maj. P. P. H. Morton retires, 30th Nov. 1964.
2/Lt. J. A. F. Juniper resigns his comm., 1st Dec., 1964.
2/Lt. D. G. D. Gray, B.A. (Univ. Cand.) from Gen. List T.A., to be 2/Lt., 20th July, 1964.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

W.O.I T. W. Jackson to be Lt. (Q.M.), 15th Oct., 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Maj. R. K. W. Glover, D.F.C., T.D., to be Lt.-Col., 8th Aug., 1964.
Maj. P. B. H Stobart to be Lt.-Col., 10th Oct., 1964.

Deaths

GRIFFITHS.—Corporal A. S. Griffith (on Y1 List U.K.) on 26th November, at Kingham, Oxon, while proceeding home on sick leave from Royal Herbert Hospital.

SLATER.—Corporal G. Slater, of 254 Squadron, killed in bomb accident in Aden, on 28th November.

BASTOW.—Sergeant K. W. Bastow, of 261 Squadron, died in Cyprus, on 25th November, from natural causes.

COPELAND.—Lieutenant-Colonel Alick Joseph Copeland ,on 8th November, 1964, at Rondebosch, Cape Province, aged 77. Commanded Signal Training Battalion, Jubbulpore, 1930-1934, and Commandant S.T.C. (I) 1934-35. A fuller notice will appear in the Journal.

LLOYD OWEN.—On 16th November, 1964, suddenly, at Langstone House, Sinah Lane, Hayling Island, Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Lloyd Owen, O.B.E., M.C., Royal Signals (Retd.), aged 80 years. Greatly mourned.

O'NEILL.—Corporal W. M. O'Neill, of 19th Regiment, on the 15th December, 1964, at the General Hospital, Singapore, as a result of a traffic accident on 26th November.

NICHOLSON.—Ex-Signalman E. Nicholson, on the 19th November, aged 51. Signalman Nicholson enlisted in Royal Signals (T.A.) in 1939 and was released in February, 1946. He was an annual member of the Association. He leaves a widow whose home address is: 89, Dinting Vale, Glossop.

NAYLOR.—Ex-Driver Sidney James Naylor, of 284, Gypsy Road, Bexley, Kent, suddenly, on 16th December, at the age of 59. He formerly served, from 1941 to 1942, with R.A.S.C., but joined Royal Signals immediately afterwards, and served until February, 1946. He was an annual member of the Royal Signals Association.

Marriages

PORCHER—PATON.—On 26th September, at Blackpool, Corporal K. Porcher, of 222 Squadron, to Miss Doreen Paton.

HARLOW—CHAPPELS.—At Christ Church, Aden, on 14th November, Lance-Corporal J. Harlow to Miss Audrey Chappels.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

January 1965

W.O.I (Y. of S.) P. F. Byers ... To 15th Regiment
W.O.I D. W. Stanley ... ... ,, Life Guards Signal Troop
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. Lund ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) P. Devanney ... ,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II A. J. Pearce ... ... ,, 207 Squadron
W.O.II J. R. Woodvine ... ... ,, 52nd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II R. W. Simmons ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
W.O.II W. E. Higgs ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II R. F. Pearsall ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
W.O.II F. P. Simpson ... ... ,, 205 Squadron
W.O.II A. G. Maxwell ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
W.O.II R. Cockcroft ... ... ,, 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment
W.O.II A. E. Pugh ... ... ,, 48th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II A. G. Lloyd ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
W.O.II V. F. M. Thom ... ... ,, 18th Regiment

Staff Sergeant R. J. Judge ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. B. Scott ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. K. Jones ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant V. J. Gambell ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. H. Williams ... ... ,, 234 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. V. Purkis ... ... ,, School of Signals
A/Staff Sergeant B. T. Shears ... ,, 240 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. P. Edgar ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Shakespeare ... ,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. B. Millington ... ,, 207 Squadron
Staff Sergeant N. H. R. Leach ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. E. Curtis ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant C. Morton ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant J. V. Bridgeman ... ,, 213 Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. N. Brookes ... ,, H.Q., 6 Inf. Brigade Group & Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant E. M. Short ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Wagstaff ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. N. Howie ... ... ,, 246 Squadron
Staff Sergeant T. A. M. Downie ... ,, 1 R.H.A. Signal Troop

Sergeant W. L. Benson ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant A. D. F. Falconer ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. Gardner ... ... ,, 257 Squadron
Sergeant C. W. Kitchen ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. P. S. McInally ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant D. J. Finighan ... ... ,, Royal Scots Greys Signal Troop
Sergeant J. N. Clark ... ... ,, 39th Missile Regt., R.A., Sig. Tp.
Sergeant M. W. Slater ... ... ,, R.H.G Signal Troop
Sergeant M. A. H. Taylor ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant E. J. Adams ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant M. J. Bayliss ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant P. H. J. Hillier ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant C. M. Smith ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant T. K. Armitage ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant R. J. Pegg ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant K. A. Brooks ... ... ,, H.Q., UNFICYP
Sergeant B. J. Hayward ... ... ,, H.Q., NORTHAG
Sergeant A. G. L. Kennard ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant G. Thompson ... ... ,, 233 Troop
Sergeant W. Eastham ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Moore ... ... ,, 45th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant A. Roberts ... ... ,, 245 Squadron
Sergeant R. Mawson ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant J. H. Storey ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant A. F. Christie ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
Sergeant D. H. Owen ... ... ,, Oxford University O.T.C.
Sergeant P. J. Harris ... ... ,, 204 Squadron
Sergeant A. R. Cole ... ... ,, Army Air Corps Centre
Sergeant T. J. Hendron ... ... ,, 607 Troop
Sergeant J. W. Birkwood ... ... ,, 5th R.T.R. Signal Troop
Sergeant K. J. Driscoll ... ... ,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant J. D. Anderson ... ... ,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant W. E. Currums ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant L. J. Kelly ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant G. H. Young ... ... ,, 42nd Regt., R.A. Signal Troop
Sergeant E. J. Brooks ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant G. Coatsworth ... ... ,, Jun. Tradesmen's Regt., Rhyl
Sergeant D. E. Brooking ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant P. G. Blakelock ... ... ,, 640 Troop
Seregant J. E. C. Barton ... ... ,, 13th/18th Hussars Signal Troop
Sergeant G. V. Brooke ... ... ,, 58th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant J. J. McElvogue ... ... ,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant A. W. Kyles ... ... ,, 211 Squadron
Sergeant R. Ridley ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant P. J. Smith ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant R. G. Sizeland ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant R. Clothier ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant C. F. Smith ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
A/Sergeant M. F. Denniss ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
A/Sergeant R. S. Groves ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
A/Sergeant D. H. Elliott ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
A/Sergeant K. C. Stewart ... ... ,, 208 Squadron
A/Sergeant P. O. McGloin ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
A/Sergeant M. L. Roberts ... ... ,, 249 Squadron

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Promotions

November, 1964

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To W.O.I	21128237	A/W.O.II	Laing, J. D.	3070	290

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To W.O.I	14759394	A/W.O.I	Bees, D.	270	140

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To S Sgt.	22563519	Sgt.	Copland, R.	1040	1740 (Ad)

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISORS ROSTER

To W.O.II	22296166	S Sgt.	Palmer, K.	1470	780
	22800565	S Sgt.	Ankers, J. W.	1480	940
	22563782	S Sgt.	Kreckeler, K. R.	1490	980

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To W.O.II	2549532	S Sgt.	Hunt, A. A. E.	700	590
To Sgt.	23055013	Cpl.	Crosby, K.	4635	1790
	23674273	Cpl.	Hague, G. R.	4770	8210
	23605863	Cpl.	Kay, T.	4810	8360
	23697268	Cpl.	Jepson, B.	4840	8407

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	2278179	Cpl.	Smith. B.	2780	245

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	23697843	Cpl.	Powell, G.	11640	19480
	22306620	A/Sgt.	Boxall, D.	10870	1030
	22547431	A/Sgt.	Windle, J.	11400	17270
	23390591	Cpl.	Manning, E. B.	11590	15230
	22522605	Cpl.	Cockerill, T.	11690	904
	22549157	A/Sgt.	Wyatt, F. J. P.	11700	1150
	22569329	A/Sgt.	Brindle, E.	11720	3150
	22569259	A/Sgt.	McGonagle, J.	11730	3640

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	22296785	Cpl.	Jury, S. J.	11740	5170
	22212291	Cpl.	Hemstock, A. A. F.	11750	5410
	22771312	Cpl.	Anderson, N. N.	11760	5500
	22569506	A/Sgt.	Brandon, O. A.	11770	5760
	23244373	Cpl.	Roche, B. J.	11780	5860
	22805544	Cpl.	Barrow, D. E.	11790	6136
	22845373	A/Sgt.	Couperthwaite, W. R. D.	11800	6870
	22958522	A/Sgt.	Bennett, J. B.	11810	7040
	22569373	Cpl.	Reid, A. S.	11820	7060
	22967489	A/Sgt.	Cudlip, A. W.	11830	7524
	22885585	A/Sgt.	Patterson, A.	11840	8944
	22776097	A/Sgt.	French, G. E. W.	11850	9020
	22983581	Cpl.	Llewellyn, D. T.	11860	10890
	23329322	Cpl.	Brown, L. A.	11870	12170
	22550239	A/Sgt.	Docherty, H. A.	11880	13030

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22515815	Cpl.	Wisher, G. W.	3860	1540

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	140	30			
W.O.II	80	110	590		
S Sgt.	300	660	670	1320	2540

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	100

TECHNICAL ROSTER

Sgt.	3530

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	9790

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Free Lift to Freemantle

By Sergeant M. J. Millichip

The writer of this article is Sergeant M. J. Millichip, serving with the 18th Regiment, Singapore. Recently, as part of his leave, he travelled to Freemantle in South Western Australia in H.M.S. "Victorious." His experiences aboard and the friendship and comradeship he enjoyed from the Navy certainly helped to make this, as he says, "The time of my life." Sergeant Millichip's initiative is to be commended.—*Editor.*

I have recently had the good fortune of travelling to Freemantle in South Western Australia in H.M.S. *Victorious*. An experience I consider as the "Time of my life" and should any "Pongo" be at a loss as how to spend his leave then I recommend a sea voyage aboard one of Her Majesty's ships.

The whole idea started over a pint when a friend of mine in the Fleet Air Arm suggested that if I had the leave why didn't I accompany them to Australia? Well, strange as it may seem, in the cold light of day this suggestion looked pretty good to me. So, after numerous telephone calls round H.M.S. *Terror*, the Naval Dockyard and ceaseless enquiries, friends I had in the Fleet Air Arm located and introduced me to Major Tyack, O.C. Carrier Borne Liaison Group. It was by his kindly efforts that I received permission from the Commanding Officer, Captain P. M. Compston, R.N., to join the ship and accompany them to Australia. I was, however, given to understand that the Royal Navy would in no way guarantee a return ticket. Having previously made a number of friends I did not myself feel quite a stranger when I joined 15 Mess.

A Rum Old Naval Custom!

I boarded the ship at 08.00 hours on 26th August; she sailed around 12.00 hours. This part is rather vague as I was introduced to the "Tot"! I later discovered that a tot is one-eighth of a pint of rum of which the alcoholic content is rather high to say the least. Among the Junior Ratings on the lower deck, a tot of rum is diluted with two parts of water. It has to be consumed immediately by persons drawing a rum issue. Senior Ratings may drink theirs neat or save their issue to be consumed when they so wished. 15 Mess compromised; as there were thirty-six members, thirty-six tots were diluted with two tots of water! A tot can also be used by the individuals for bribes to procure benefits for the Mess or to pass round "visitors" who for services rendered in the past or future qualify them for "Sippers." I was on board a total of twenty-seven days and found I had acquired a taste for it. I think the bugle call sounding "Up Spirits" was the first recognised.

I Direct a Rating to the Captain's Cabin

Apart from seven days in Freemantle I spent all my time getting round as many departments as I could which covered a wide range including the galley, bakery, engine and boiler rooms, radar plotting and operations room, hangar, wireless rooms and "Goofers" gallery where one could watch aircraft land and take off. I was given to understand that highly successful S.S.B. radio communication trials took place with 249 Squadron all the way to Australia. I did not travel far around the ship for the first few days as the geographical layout of a warship is somewhat confusing. Compasses don't work and balls of string are virtually unobtainable. I shall never forget the exhilaration I felt when I directed a rating to the Captain's office. I wonder if he is still searching? It was not long before it was generally considered that I had seen more of the ship than most of the ship's company who had commissioned her in 1963.

I was very much impressed by the calm efficiency that prevailed throughout every department I visited. This is understandable though, seeing that should a fault develop, there is nobody to repair it but "Jack" himself. Then there was the spirit of comradeship and humour not forgetting the patience and tolerance that was extended to me and my questions such as "Where is that golden rivet you keep mentioning?" No explanation was too much trouble and no person I approached was too busy to show me around.

A Rather Tense Passage Through the Lombok Straits

Much has been said and written about the voyage of H.M.S. *Victorious*, the fuel ship *Tidespring* and the escort destroyers H.M.S. *Cavendish* and H.M.S. *Caesar*. The outward journey through the Sunda Strait was not really as eventful as the return through the Lombok Strait. This was treated very seriously indeed. During the return voyage we detoured to rendezvous off the Cocos Islands with the escort destroyers H.M.S. *Hampshire*, H.M.S. *Berwick* and H.M.S. *Dido*. Not forgetting the supply and armament ships *Resurgent* and *Reliant*. All the ships were then replenished at sea with armaments, fuel and supplies. The *Tidespring*, *Reliant* and *Resurgent* then departed from our company and we proceeded towards the Lombok Strait. I fully expected a practical demonstration of naval devastation which would no doubt have been for President Soekarno's benefit rather than mine but nevertheless I was not really looking forward to being possibly a soldier on leave in action with the Royal Navy. Our passage through the Lombok Strait must have looked very impressive. H.M.S. *Dido* and *Berwick* led, followed by *Hampshire* then *Victorious*. Following astern were *Cavendish* and *Caesar*, all ships in line astern, all at action stations. A large clean standard flew from each ship. We were paid attention by the Indonesians in the form of British made Gannet aircraft, Russian made Badger bomber aircraft that stayed outside visual range and two Russian second world war submarines from which one hastily surfaced and signalled "Indonesian Navy—Bon Voyage." The Gannet aircraft are radar equipped aircraft and the two Indonesian ones caused a certain amount of consternation because what could have happened had one developed engine trouble and crashed, they flew very low and close the whole length of the convoy. At one time the Captain commented that had we not had our own aircraft on deck ready to go and our ground crews not playing deck hockey, one looked as if he might land as it was equipped with an arrester hook!

Beer—the Best and Strongest in the World

A brief word about South Western Australia. Freemantle is the port and Perth a city about eleven miles inland, both are modern cities and very clean indeed. Most of the population are of British origin, very hospitable and interested to hear about life back in Blighty. As I am in the Far East I appreciated the ability to order fish and chips without having to simplify my English! I was told (by an Australian) that the beer was the strongest and the finest in the world. I didn't agree as I could not buy a pint but instead their measures are midies, glasses, schooners and pots. It is served ice cold and even the glasses are stored in a refrigerator. South Western Australia breeds mainly cattle and produces wine from huge vineyards. Our welcome was typically British, it rained for the first one and a half days!

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ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

The annual Administrative Inspection was carried out by the G.O.C., Yorkshire District, Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., on 19th November. He is a fairly frequent visitor to the School and always appears to enjoy his visits. He spent a great deal of time talking to individual apprentices on a great variety of subjects and made a great impression on them. We hope that the apprentices made an equally good impression on him.

We also had a visit from the Chief of Staff, Northern Command, on 24th November. This visit followed much the same lines as that of the G.O.C., Yorkshire District. The Chief of Staff showed a lively interest in all the boys' activities and spent a good deal of time discussing these activities with individual apprentices.

Competition with Arborfield and Chepstow

On 14th November, we were at home to the Army Apprentices School, Arborfield, for our Winter Games, and on 28th November our School teams visited Chepstow for our Winter Games against their apprentices. Each contest was fought out with great spirit and determination, and in a few cases, with more enthusiasm than skill. We managed to split the honours with Arborfield, winning the cross-country, shooting and boxing, losing the rugger, hockey and basketball, and drawing at soccer.

At Chepstow our hosts were extremely hospitable and looked after our teams very well indeed. However, they gave no quarter during the games, and although each contest was hard fought, they proved to have the edge on us in every department. The week-end in Chepstow was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Gliding—a new activity

Gliding is now under way as a new activity for the apprentices. The numbers taking part are restricted, due to the limited training facilities. The apprentices train with the Cleveland Gliding Club at R.A.F., Leeming. The club is open to R.A.F. and Army personnel of the Yorkshire District Club. This means, unfortunately, that the small facilities which exist are stretched to the limit. We had hoped that assistance to purchase one of the less expensive gliders could have been provided from Corps Funds for the use of the Royal Signals' enthusiasts and Apprentices in the Catterick area, but unfortunately, the limited funds available for gliding had already been committed elsewhere. Nevertheless, we have six apprentices at present under training, and as soon as one becomes a solo pilot, another will fill his place. Two are very near the solo standard now. It will not be possible to train all those who wish to take up this sport, but we are very grateful to R.A.F., Leeming, for their generosity and invaluable assistance in allowing us to share their limited facilities.

Study Provides its Rewards

A lot of our apprentices are now involved in examinations for G.C.E. "O" level subjects, and City and Guilds Intermediate Certificate. More and more apprentices are reaching the required standard for these examinations, and we are glad to report the number leaving the School with good additional qualifications is on the increase.

The Prize List for next Graduation Day has just been published, and the following apprentices of 9th term are to be awarded the prizes shown:

Army Commander's Prize	A/T R.S.M. D. W. Bradley
Commandant's Prize	A/T S.S.M. R. N. Howes
Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award ...	A/T Sgt. F. J. Garrod
Colonel Commandant's Award ...	A/T Sgt. E. J. Woodthorpe
Best Radio Technician	A/T W. A. Moggach
Best Radio Relay Technician	A/T Sgt. F. J. Garrod
Best Line Technician	A/T Sgt. K. F. Sexton
Best Telegraph Technician	A/T W. G. Butler
Best Telegraph Operator	A/T J. Price

There are, of course, many other prizes, but the list is too long to include here.

Posting orders for the 9th term have recently been received, and the apprentices concerned are looking forward to postings which will take them to all parts—from B.A.O.R. to Hong Kong. The best wishes of all of us remaining at this School go with them.

Major (T.O.T.) F. R. Pedley and his family have left for Aden and W.O.II (Y. of S.) W. G. Gwynne has left for Borneo. We will miss them, and we wish them all the best for the future.



AIRBORNE APPRENTICES

A/T Waddell doing pre-flight checks with the instructor, Sergeant Bobbin, R.A.F.

H.Q., 1st DIVISION & SIGNAL REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 32

Integration of Senior Regiment

Many view the month of November as the lull before the storm of Christmas activities. Others use it to get the yearly administrative inspection behind them. Nothing so mundane has been the fate of the senior Regiment of the regular Corps. After many weeks, indeed months, of paper planning, November saw the actual movement of personnel and vehicles consequent upon the integration of the Staff of H.Q., 1st Division, H.Q. Company and 1st Signal Regiment into H.Q. 1st Division and Signal Regiment.

To those that have experienced the upheaval, to dismiss it lightly in a couple of sentences may seem an under emphasis. However, the target date for completion, 1st January, 1965, has already been met with the notable exception of a few key E.R.E. personnel and our arch enemy, "Works Services." One could wax long and strong on this subject, but it is certain that we suffer no more than others in this respect. Integration has highlighted the inadequacies of the system, if indeed they needed highlighting.

As a result of integration, we now have twenty-eight cap badges within the Regiment. The largest number of cap badges outside "Jimmy" are Royal Army Service Corps, and all comments heard, to date, have been very favourable, concerning these valuable additions to the Regiment.

Whilst it would be misleading to imply that integration had been completed without a good deal of very hard work, it is fair to say that the problems so far experienced have been of a minor nature and have been overcome by a deal of goodwill by all concerned. Our very title was arrived at after a large number of meetings and many thousands of words, but no blows were expended on the subject.

Recruit Training—Problems

In keeping with all other Royal Signals units at this time of the year, a very comprehensive training and upgrading programme is under way, not the least of which is the training of a large number of recruits as a result of the recruiting bulge. Whilst delighted that recruits are coming forward at the rate they are, the training of them in a field unit does impose problems. Yeoman of Signals Hayes and Signalman Cartwright, his right-hand man, have dealt with a large volume of work in this connection and kept the cogs oiled.



Lieutenant Colonel C. E. Page M.B.E., explains the wiring of the Operation's Complex to Brigadier J. E. Anderson C.B.E.

Visit of C.S.O., H.Q., B.A.O.R.

We were very pleased to welcome Brigadier and Mrs. J. C. Anderson on 17th November. From our point of view, the visit was all too short, but we were able to show the Brigadier something of our activities. Captain D. Burton explained the progress achieved to date in our re-equipment of radio relay. Then followed a static communication layout, which included a skeleton layout of regimental communications and the command and control of those communications. The photograph shows the Commanding Officer explaining the wiring of the operations complex to the Brigadier, watched by Captain B. F. Kavanagh, O.C. "D" Troop.

In addition to seeing much regimental routine, including the very extensive training organisation, the Brigadier visited the regimental potential skiers under training supervised by S.S.I. Barnes, A.P.T.C.

Vacancies
at Government Communications Headquarters

A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects, exist for:-

CYPHER and TELEPRINTER OPERATORS (male and female)
Training given

Write, giving details of Education, Qualifications and Experience to:

Recruitment Officer (CY.0/4) A Block, Government Communications Headquarters,
Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.



Lieutenant Colonel C. E. Page, M.B.E. presented the silver tray

Silver Wedding Anniversary Presentation

On 18th November, our Quartermaster, Major Bill Howard, and his wife, Jessie, celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary. At a party Bill and Jessie gave in "Jimmies," to mark the occasion, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Page, presented a silver tray to the happy couple on behalf of officers of the Integrated Regiment.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Fireworks and Closed Circuit T.V.

November brought the start of the individual training season, and all Squadrons were soon fully employed in running courses. The month opened with the traditional bang on Guy Fawkes night. Luckily, the local "Polizei" turned a blind eye on the firework regulations, although we were asked to ensure that fireworks should be made to fall within the field from which they started—difficult! The firework display was very good, with a most impressive display and huge bonfire. All the family found something to enjoy, even the children who did not like the fireworks, as there was a forward detachment of the cookhouse, with chips, kebabs and hot dogs. The only casualty was O.C. 3 Squadron's British Warm, which received the "fall-out" from a firework and has over 30 holes. He is now finding out whether "all risks" insurance means what it says.

The Regiment sponsored a meeting of the Royal Signals Institution on 11th November when Major J. R. T. Paterson, Royal Signals, gave a talk on the trial of Closed Circuit Television in 1 (BR) Corps. This was a most interesting meeting and provoked some lively discussion. It left most of us with questions and reservations in our heads such as 'are we going to have GSO2 (TV Productions) in Corps H.Q.? In spite of all our efforts over the years the "Hairies" seem to have more and more to do.

. . . Sparkling Discussions and Good Ideas . . .

The culmination of the month was the C.C. Royal Signals Study Period from 25th-27th November. The Regiment was host again this year and was faced with providing a lecture hall, syndicate rooms and meals for some 100 officers daily. The job was delegated to 1 Squadron with assistance from the rest, and was an obvious success. The Period began with a presentation by Planning Wing, School of Signals. The first two days were attended by Royal Signals Officers, Warrant Officers and S.N.C.O.s only and was devoted to a study of the Bruin plan. The main idea was to make the more junior officers think and talk of the problems rather than the usual band of Majors who attend all the meetings. The object was achieved with some sparkling discussions and good ideas. Besides the exercise the great value of the Study Period was the opportunity it gave for extra-mural discussions between officers from all units and H.Q. both in U.K. and B.A.O.R. These discussions went on at every pause in the official programme—at the excellent Cocktail Party at 4th H.Q. and Signal Regiment—and far into the night at the "Green Bottle" and similar locations.

(Continued on page 17)

The morning of the third day was devoted to a presentation by the School of Signals Planning Wing of the Bruin plan to Commanders and Staff of 1 (B.R.) Corps. This was attended by the G.O C., General Sir Richard Goodwin, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and all the Divisional and many of the Brigade Commanders of the Corps. This was followed by lunch in the Officers' Mess for well over a hundred and twenty. An exceptionally high standard of catering over the three days was achieved by our ACC staff, assisted by W.O.1 Pierce, ACC, an old friend and former chief cook of the Regiment, who to our regret is to leave the Army shortly.

Calling All Pistol Clubs

A new sport has started in the Regiment, that of .22 Pistol Shooting. W.O.I (F. of S.) Sharpe at a dinner some time ago made the tactical error of saying that he was very interested in guns; in a short time he was founding a new club. Two Walther Match Pistols have been bought and now 25 members are trying to become proficient enough so that a team can be formed. The club would be glad to hear of any other Pistol Clubs in the area. At present they are entering for postal competitions only.

The Wives' Club had a most successful "Bring and Buy" Sale on 30th November. The wives of 4 H.Q. and Signal Regiment were guests and helped to contribute to raising just over £100. This will be distributed between various charities.

3rd HEADQUARTERS & SIGNAL REGIMENT, BULFORD CAMP

"A HARD DAY'S NIGHT"

1964 has drawn to a close and, as usual at this time, one tends to reminisce over the triumphs (and sometimes the disasters) that have gone before. Clearly, our most valuable experience came this year in our hurried move to Cyprus at the start of the emergency in February. Apart from the value of moving quickly by air, varied types of communications, and the somewhat active service conditions that prevailed, we were able to make good friends with the Corps' permanent representatives on the island, and to upgrade several soldiers, both in trade, education, and military proficiency, and enjoy some sport and leisure.

The move of the Regiment to Carter Barracks has surely been one of the major events of the year, and although a collection of wooden huts, it is by far a better home than that previously occupied.

After very much research and painstaking care, the history of the Regiment since 1903 has finally been printed and published, in it's first edition. Inevitably, there are bound to follow several observations as to errors and omissions, and after such, it is intended to reprint a second edition in 1966.

Our major exercise this year was spent in North Africa with the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. Communications were most successful, and living conditions were made most comfortable by the Royal Air Force Station concerned. Even Guy Fawkes night was celebrated in due form, in the desert, with the additional help of a variety of flares.

Odling Committee investigates future role of Corps Technicians

The future of the Corps' technicians came into the limelight in the middle of November, when the structure was examined by the Odling Committee. The combined efforts of 30th Regiment, the School of Signals and our own Regiment, produced a fine demonstration for the committee at Crookham Camp on 7th December, and Major-General Odling left feeling (we hope) contented with the Corps as it now stands. The committee's recommendations are expected shortly, but if such bears resemblance to the success of the demonstration, the future of the Corps seems well cared for for many years to come.

Sport in Retrospect

Sport has played a prominent part in our activities, reaching the finals of the Divisional Basketball and Cricket Championships—only to be defeated, but nonetheless runners-up. The present season holds good promise for the rugby, soccer and hockey teams, and the success of four or five individual champions in the boxing next month seems assured from the



"Lance-Corporal J. H. Clayforth, B.E.M., during a recent operation" It will be recalled that this young N.C.O. was awarded the B.E.M. for keeping a vital wireless link through against considerable odds by his personal efforts in the middle of a hurricane in the Caribbean

training that is taking place. Captain Carr, our newly-arrived Adjutant, is already planning the shooting team's accommodation at Bisley for next year, so it seems that the Corps Shoot is very justified in Bulford next year, because the winners will not have far to travel! But somehow we are looking forward—and not as we were, 'reminiscing.'

And so Christmas is almost upon us. The Wives' Club have already started the busy programme ahead with their annual dinner and party on 10th December. After a traditional turkey and plum pudding dinner, the party continued with a most entertaining set of answers given by a highly-qualified panel for a version of the B.B.C. show, "What the Team Thinks." After a comedy version of a series of current television shows, the wives dispersed to the start of a busy period ahead.

To all our readers, ex-members of the Regiment, Editor and staff of "The Wire," and the printers themselves, we would wish a happy and prosperous 1965.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

General. Highlights of the month were the luncheon party, given by all Royal Signals officers on the island to mark the imminent departure of the G.O.C., General Young, the G.O.C.'s fleeting visit of farewell; numerous sporting victories (and some defeats); and a highly-successful car rally, sponsored and run by the Regiment.

Rugby. I.A.N. writes.—The team has lived up to its early promise of success, and although the first match, against the R.A.F. Eagles, ended in rather an embarrassing defeat for us, the same mistakes have not been repeated. There have been many closely-fought matches. Against Episkopi, a try in the last minute wrested victory from our grasp, while against the 1st Gloucesters, ten minutes of extra fitness just turned the tide in their favour.

The enthusiasm has continued from the start, and we have found many first-rate players—Colin Bain, at 2nd row, who is partnered by Sergeant Ken Dav, have added skill and weight to our pack. Corporal Paddy Carson and Lance-Corporal Trev Holland have proved a brilliant combination in the front row, while Signalmen Garrett and Burton have proved regular stalwarts of the team. Our three-quarters have been quite outstanding so far. Lance-Corporal Barry Houldin has once again proved to be a quicksilver out half, while his two centres, Taff Evans and Jim Squires have supported him strongly. Scrum-half Corporal Pete Mountford has provided a good service from the base of the scrum. Perhaps the most heartening feature of the pack, and indeed the team, has been the way Corporal Dave Scott has led the pack. His unflagging enthusiasm has persuaded many a forward to exert that extra ounce of "rugby energy"!

With the introduction of the new rules, the team has gained the reputation of playing open and exciting rugby, which is perhaps why we have so much support on the touchline, both male and female! Injuries have plagued us throughout, and we have missed the services of a large number of players. Our captain, Second-Lieutenant Nicol, is certain that the spirit which now prevails in the team will continue throughout the season.

We are playing good rugby and open rugby—what more can one wish from the game?

Our record, so far, is as follows: Played 8, won 4, lost 4, points for 138, against 71.

Soccer. G.G.C. writes.—The Regimental soccer team is doing very well at the moment, having won five out of six matches in the island major unit league, usually by wide margins. In the minor units league, all three Squadrons compete; 2 Squadron lying second, having won 4, drawn 1 and lost nil.

Signalman Newham (1 Squadron), Corporal Cooke and Signalman Burr (2 Squadron) went to Malta in October, where they played for Cyprus Combined Services against R.A.F. Malta and Combined Services, Malta.

On 22nd October, Brigadier Wilson, from UNFICYP H.Q., came to Ayios Nikolaos Cantonment to train potential Army footballers. 2nd Royal Anglians played 9th Regiment, under his direction, and some very good football resulted. (Note to Regimental football officers: if you want to see your team really run round on the field, get a Brigadier to shout at them!).

Hockey. G.M.B. writes.—This year, for the first time, the Regiment is competing in both the major and minor units league. The teams are playing extremely well and the standard of hockey is high.

Earlier in the season, Sergeant Hamilton was selected to play for the Combined Services team visiting Malta, and he, Captain Bowder and Corporal Cooper have been asked to play for the Army Wanderers, a Dhekelia Garrison side.

The C.S.O.'s Cup competition is under way, and there are great hopes for keeping the cup in the Regiment.

The Major and Minor Units Army Cup matches are due to commence early in the New Year, and we look forward to doing well in both competitions. League results, to date, for the Regiment's two teams are as follows: "A" Team, played 9, won 7, lost 2; "B" Team, played 7, won 5, drawn 1, lost 1.

Motoring. E.G. writes.—A most successful car rally/treasure hunt was held on Sunday, 6th December. The event was limited to 40 entries, and a large number of would-be competitors had to be turned away. The first car left the unit lines at 11.00, and thereafter, cars set off on the rally part of the course at one minute intervals. Though the total distance to be covered was only 44 miles, and the check-points easily indentifiable, a number of crews failed to find them or to arrive on time. No car collected less than 90 penalty points on this section.

On return to Mercury Barracks, drivers and their crews had half-an-hour or so to rest before taking part in the driving tests on the square. During this time, and, in fact, during the whole of the afternoon, the buffet, under Staff Sergeant Frank Morgan and his wife, and the bar, under Sergeant Phil Winton, did good business.

While competitors were taking part in the six driving tests, spectators had an opportunity of looking around the new models of various makes of motor cars provided by the local agents. (I understand that 14 firm orders were placed during the afternoon). Many of the agents also donated prizes for the rally.

The overall results were: Saloon car class: 1st, S.A.C. and Mrs. Maskell, R.A.F. (Lancia Appia); 2nd, A. Tricomites (Triumph Herald). Land Rover class: 1st, Private Brocklebank/Corporal Fisher, 2nd Royal Anglian Regiment; 2nd, Driver Roddy/Lieutenant Durry, Air Supply Platoon. Ladies' prize: Mrs. P. Chandler and Mrs. C. Boyd, 9th Signal Regiment, B.M.W.

The event, in aid of the Wireless for the Blind Fund, raised the sum of £100, and reflected great credit on the organisers and all those who assisted as marshals.

Footnote. And that is it for another year. 1965 will bring you another Regimental sub-editor (or dogsbody), charged to ensure that The Ninth remains in the news. Meanwhile, we wish all readers of these notes a happy and prosperous New Year.

10th REGIMENT (EASTERN COMMAND)
CIVILIAN SUPERVISORS MEETING



Back row: G. Richardson (Guildford), C. Bloomfield (Shoeburyness), F. Mansley (Canterbury), H. Osborne (Dover), P. Hallam (Ashford), J. Fenton (Kings Buildings), A. Walker (West Tofts), D. Thompson (Chatham). *Centre row:* A. Underwood (Brighton), P. Egan (Shorncliffe), S. Raper (Shorncliffe), D. Hall (Pirbright), L. Finnemore (Colchester), P. Alexander (Hounslow), J. Harrison (Colchester), A. Clarke (Bury St. Edmonds). *Front row:* E. Turner (Woolwich), Captain W. Farmery (O.C. London District Signal Troop), J. Dunlop (Chelsea), E. Dillon (C.A.O. 10 Signal Regiment), Lieutenant Colonel J. R. Ellis (C.O. 10 Signal Regiment), Major A. Sawyer (O.C. 2 Squadron 10 Signal Regiment), L. Nicholson (London District), Lieutenant Colonel J. Scott (O.C. Eastern Command Signal Troop), B. Homes (Mill Hill)

10th Regiment, Hounslow

R.H.Q. For the Royal Signals officers' annual buffet supper, held on 27th November, at the Duke of York, our officers achieved a 100 per cent turnout and thoroughly enjoyed meeting their old friends, whether serving or retired. Colonel Ellis insisted on competing with London Transport, and some eight officers were bundled into his vast American car and driven home safely.

Signal Centre Supervisors' Meeting. For the first time ever in Eastern Command, a Signal Centre Supervisors' meeting was held at Hounslow. The meeting was under the chairmanship of O.C. 2 Squadron, Major A. Sawyer, and was attended by the Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, Brigadier M. D. Price. The meeting was extremely valuable and a wide range of subjects were discussed. The captions under the photograph indicate the extent of the supervising area which comes under the responsibility of the Regiment.

1 Squadron. The few, but experienced, linemen of the Squadron, have been employed on a very worthwhile and interesting project at Crowborough—the complete re-routing of underground cables and aerial routes in the camp so that all training rooms, offices, etc., as well as the civil outlets, will come up on the main N Type 300-line CB switchboard. This switchboard was previously only used for training. The G.P.O. board can now be removed, and in future we will be able to move installations as and when required without obtaining G.P.O. assistance.

The assistance of the Regiment was called upon for providing the not-so-exciting—but nevertheless the V.I.P.—telephone line from the Officers' Mess, the Women's Royal Army Corps Depot, Guildford, to the car park during Her Majesty The Queen's visit to the barracks. This was ably carried out by Corporal Johnson.

The Comcen Operators' Course, being run by Major Norman Robinson to assist the "bulge" from 11th Regiment, is providing a number of good hockey and soccer players for the Regiment, and we are delighted to have a few more Royal Signals cap badges in Eastern Command.

Obituary Notice. It is with regret that we report the death of the following two civilian employees of 10th Regiment (Eastern Command): Mr. Thomas Henry Johnston, ME (Tele.), Signal Troop (Works) Shoeburyness, and Mr. Frederick Charles Thomas Mortimer, telephonist, H.Q., 44th Division/District (H.C.) Shorncliffe.

Both have served the Corps loyally for over ten years, and our deepest sympathy goes to their widows.



"Law and Order"—The Regimental Provost Staff
(Back row) Left to right: Corporal Doidge, Lance Corporal Stannard, Lance Corporal Guyatt, Lance Corporal Heron, Lance Corporal Murfin, Corporal Brackston. *(Front row) Left to right:* Lance Corporal Dingley, The R.S.M., Sergeant Hassett, Lance Corporal Silcock

11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

The oft-maligned Catterick winter is steadily establishing its remorseless grip on the denizens of Helles and Bourlon Barracks. This is the time of the year, of course, when members of the animal kingdom either fly towards the sunshine or crawl into their holes in the ground and hibernate. Unfortunately, no such escape, with impunity, is available to we mere mortals, with the exception of those lucky transitees flying off to such places as Borneo, Aden and Bahrein. One trusts that they will spare a thought for their less fortunate brethren they leave behind to enjoy the "white" Christmas forecast by the long-range weather boys. Adventure training now takes on a different aspect when the greater part of one's efforts and energies are directed towards keeping warm—no easy task on the frozen, wind-harried wastes of Feldom Moor. Despite prevailing weather conditions, normal Regimental activities continue. The square still echoes with the raucous word of command and the albeit muffled reply from the rubber-sole booted squads. Recruits, clad for P.T., can be seen, if one is quick, moving, just under the speed of light, towards the comparative warmth of the gym.

Officers' Mess Notes

The Cellar Club in the Mess continues to flourish. It is due shortly to come under the managership of Captain Giller, who has recently returned from a successful attempt at the selection examination for the Arm Air Corps. He claims that his selection was in no way influenced by the fact that he just happened to be the only candidate wearing uniform which displayed his "wing" for aircrew service with the R.A.F. He must have been reasonably confident, however, because he didn't even bother to grow a moustache. His selection has confirmed in the mind of many Mess members that they will, in future travel by land and sea only, there being enough hazards to air travel already.

On 27th November, the Mess dined out Captain Bill Brooks, who many members of the Corps will know, both for his efforts in the Secretaryship of Corps Soccer, and his guidance of many thousands of recruits in their trades over the last ten years as Personal Selection Officer. He is going to the School shortly, so we will be seeing both he and his wife as honorary members of the Mess at future functions from time to time.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Notes

November in the Mess has been the month of the lull before the Christmas storm. The usual monthly social events have taken place with ever-increasing popularity, building up, we hope, to a crescendo for the Christmas functions.

It may be of interest to potential transit members, or even to aspiring cadre, that a washing machine has been installed, fully automatic, of course, even to the extent of flooding the Mess. One more amenity to ease the burden of being in transit.

We close, wishing all members of messes throughout the Corps a happy New Year.



THE CAKE MAKERS
Left to right: Mr. James, Mr. Kighary, Mr. Donovan, Sergeant Bedson, Corporal Walton, Mr. Brown, Lance Corporal Marshall

Christmas Cake

Each year since 1962, we have presented a Christmas cake as part of a display organised by AIO Finchley. The presentation took place at 11 a.m. on 14th December, when our cake, together with those from other units, was received on behalf of the old folks' homes and local hospitals by the Mayor of Finchley.

Best Recruits

The best recruit of the intake passing off on 27th November was Signalman William Anthony Peter Weale, whose home is in Cardiganshire. He enlisted on 11th September, 1964, at Shrewsbury, with the intention of learning a trade and for the adventure which the Army offers. He has had previous technical experience as a radio and television engineer in civilian life. He enjoys rugger, in which he played for his school, and he also, on occasions, represented the Regiment at wing-forward. His ambition is to work his way up through the ranks as far as possible in the 22 years he intends to stay in the Army. He has been allotted to the trade of Special Operator.



Signalman William Anthony Peter Weale



Signalman Brian Anthony Robjohn

No. 8 Troop produced the best recruit for the pass-off parade, held on Bourlon Square on 13th November. Signalman Brian Anthony Robjohn, from Eden Cardiff has had connections with Service life before he joined the Army. His father served in the Royal Navy and he himself served with Royal Signals in the Army Cadet Force. He always intended to join the Army for a career, and shows particular interest in shooting, which he has experienced both in the Cadets and, of course during his training here. His ambition is to be a Yeoman of Signals.

NOTES from MID-EAST

C.S.O. (M.E.L.F.) BRANCH

With the cool (energetic) season restricted to a few winter months, all the normal annual events tend to be compressed in Middle East.

The annual Royal Engineers/Royal Signals guest night took place on 1st December. We were guests of the Sappers this year, and some 90 officers had a splendid evening. The Engineer-in-Chief was visiting Aden and strengthened the Sapper representation.

C.R. Signals (M.E.L.F.) has disappeared, and the H.Q. staff and regimental functions separated. In H.Q., Mideast, we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Hallett, from Shrivenham, as the first C.S.O. (M.E.L.F.). 15th Regiment is being formed from 254 and 255 Squadrons and 603 Troop by Lieutenant Colonel J. W. Rayner.

Royal Engineers v. Royal Signals (Mideast)

Rugby

Royal Signals 14 points; Royal Engineers 11 points

Rugby football, in spite of the "cool season" heat and the gravel type pitches, is a thriving sport in Aden, and the annual Sappers/Signals fixture is played with all the keenness and determination that rugger fans expect from such an inter-Corps game.

One of the major headaches for both team secretaries is getting the players they need in Aden on the day, because both Royal Engineers and Royal Signals are widely dispersed in the Federation. However, two fifteens joined battle at 16.15 hours at R.A.F., Steamer Point, on 30th November, and from the start of play Signals were on the attack throughout the first half, scoring two tries, one of which was converted, and two penalty goals; the Sappers' score was one penalty goal.

After half-time, and probably inspired by the arrival of the Engineer-in-Chief (visiting Aden) the Sappers rallied and, using their heavier and taller forwards, scored two tries, converting one of them. At ten minutes from time the score was 14—11, and during this time the Signals' defence was under pressure, but stood firm. Outstanding for Signals were Captain Tony Willcox, Signalman O'Laughlin, who hooked extremely well against a heavier pack, Signalman Hall at scrum-half, and Corporal Shields, who was a tower of strength at full-back.

15th Regiment, B.F.P.O. 69

The Corps welcomes back into the family a well known Regiment disbanded and now re-forming

XV

On 22nd January, the formation parade of the 15th Signal Regiment will take place in Aden. The Regiment is based on Aden and has 3 Squadron permanently detached in Bahrain.

At this time a brief history seems in order.

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 redesignated 15th Signal Regiment (Cyprus). On 30th September, 1960, the Regiment amalgamated with 29th Signal Regiment and became responsible for all military communications in Cyprus.

On the run-down of Cyprus, the Regiment disbanded and is now re-forming in Aden.

(Continued at foot of next column)



Gurkha Signals

17th REGIMENT, SEREMBAN, MALAYSIA

Demonstration Trials with the SR A13

A more than usually interesting job came the way of the Regiment recently when it was selected to provide the team leader and operators for the Far East proving and familiarisation trials of the new infantry manpack radio—the A13. The Regiment provided five Gurkha operators for the team and to these were added an Infantry Signal Officer, a Foreman of Signals and a Radio Technician from U.K., a Royal Marine Sergeant and a Corporal from the Royal Australian Signals. In charge of maintenance was Major W. Meadows, M.B.E., R.E.M.E., from S.R.D.E., and Sergeant Jones, R.E.M.E., completed the team.

A short period to learn about the equipment was spent in Seremban and the team then set off to sell their wares to The 1/10th Gurkha Rifles in Malaya. The salesmen were soon given an opportunity to demonstrate that their sales talk was not just so much hot air because within four days of their arrival the Battalion was on operations in the Labis area of Malaya complete with A13s and operators. It took Major Andrews, the team leader, several days to extract his scattered sets and team from the clutches of the Battalion. The set had, however, proved its worth and continued to do so throughout the rest of the trials which lasted some eight weeks.

Strenuous Testing in Borneo

A move was made to Borneo and three other Battalions were given the 'full treatment' during a month's spell in Sabah, Brunei and Sarawak. The sets were taken into the jungle on patrols, into an ambush and were worked from the ground, underground and from the air.

Despite a slight language difficulty the team managed to work as a team and thoroughly enjoyed the circus-like existence of packing, unpacking, giving shows and moving on.

The Gurkhas found it hard to understand the accents of the Royal Ulster Rifles and found it harder still to understand why the rest of the team were a bit halting in translation!

In all, the team travelled some 2,000 miles, gave nine presentations of the equipment and convinced the audiences that the A13 is an outstandingly good equipment.

Because of lack of space an excellent first-hand account of the journeys and experiences of the Demonstration Team by Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) S. H. Lawrence has been withheld for the February Wire.

We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner and Major E. C. Collins, the C.O. and Second-in-Command respectively; the C.O. knows us well, having been the last C.R. Signals at H.Q. Mideast for the past year.

(It is hoped to publish, in the near future, a full account of the ceremonies in connection with the re-forming of the 15th Regiment.—Editor).

18th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Farewell to the Commanding Officer. After commanding the 18th Regiment for two and a half years, Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Cock handed over the Regiment to his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Millo, on the 12th November and left with his family, by air, for U.K. The handover was preceded by a very brisk week of tours of inspection with the new Commanding Officer, visits to Headquarters, introductions and the like. During this time several "goodbye" functions were arranged.

Previously the Warrant Officers and Sergeants had entertained both Lieutenant-Colonels Cock and Millo to dinner in their Mess.

A Speech by Corporal Butterworth. The next day the staff of Regimental Headquarters held a lunchtime drinks party. During this party Corporal E. Butterworth made an excellent speech and, on behalf of all the Headquarters staff, presented the Colonel with a framed photograph of them. (*The Colonel was most intrigued as to how this had been taken outside his office without his knowing. As well he might be!—a lot of planning went into that operation!*)

Later, a Dinner Night was held in Princess Mary Officers' Mess which was extremely well attended. Royal Signals officers from Malaya, Hong Kong, Borneo and the United Kingdom who were in Singapore for the Chief Signal Officer's Study Period were able to say goodbye to Colonel Cock.

The next day the officers of the 18th Regiment and the attached Squadrons, and their ladies, assembled in Princess Mary Officers' Mess and finally said goodbye to him and Mrs. Cock.

Annie Get Your Gun! We must certainly not forget Mrs. Hilda Cock in this farewell article and we pay tribute to her for all her regimental activities. She was a most energetic President of the Wives' Club and spent much time in organising meetings, outings and entertainments. She organised the Wives' Club .22 Shooting Team and was a crack shot, and encouraged many others to try to become one. She was also concerned with welfare work, including the Malayan Kampong Tulloch Clinic, and met the demands of Flag Days, Fun Fairs and like occasions with cheerfulness and fortitude.

The esteem in which Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Cock are held was amply shown by the number of people who turned up at Paya Lebar Airport to see them off and wish them Godspeed. Among them were Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Hencher (of the 19th Regiment), all the officers of the 18th Regiment who could get away from duty, the R.S.M. and the Malay R.S.M. There were also some wives, including a most attractive trio in colourful national dress. These ladies were Mrs. Yahya, Mrs. Low Loh Bah and Mrs. Frederick who wore Malay, Chinese and Indian costume respectively.

As on all these occasions, this one was tinged with sadness on the departure of good friends. In bidding them farewell, we all hope they will have had a comfortable and enjoyable journey home and wish them well in their next posting in Paris.

And now we extend a hearty welcome to the Regiment to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. R. W. Millo, who come to us from 64th Regiment (T.A.) and we are sure that their stay with the Regiment will be a truly happy one.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess (by R.S.M. J. L. Irving). Exactly what it is that distinguishes one Regimental Dinner from another is not always apparent, but many in such a gathering will, because of good food, wine or robust entertainment, try to make distinct comparisons with the last "do."

Where, some may ask, is the difference, as most Regimental Dinners tend to follow the same pattern? This may be so, but the Dinner Night held by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants on Tuesday, 10th November, was distinctly different from any other I have attended through sheer weight of numbers from the Regiment and its attached Squadrons. Let me spell the figure out—one hundred and forty, no less!

There had been many who had voiced the opinion that such a large attendance was impossible, if only by reason of space, furniture and table necessities, and not taking into consideration the question of getting members off duty and ensuring no previous engagements could lure them away. All, however, *was* arranged, and this has gone down in the regimental history as the R.S.M.'s Mammoth Achievement.

WINNERS OF THE PARKER CUP



(Standing) Left to right: Staff Sergeant Hehir (19th Regiment), Sergeant Burtman (HQ Squadron), Corporal Robertson (19th Regiment), Lieutenant (Q.M.), M. Ham (O.I.C. Corps Soccer), Lance Corporal Butler (237 Squadron), Lance Corporal McGibbon (1 Squadron), Lance Corporal Young (249 Squadron), Staff Sergeant Peake, B.E.M. (Coach)

(Kneeling) Left to right: Corporal Othman (1 Squadron), Signalman Hashim (19th Regiment), Lance Corporal Elcox (237 Squadron), Lance Corporal Bourgoise (19th Regiment), (Captain), Lance Corporal Lowrie (19th Regiment), Lance Corporal Hassan (19th Regiment), Lance Corporal Noor Yahya (1 Squadron)

On this occasion, an invitation was extended to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Cock, to whom we were bidding farewell, and to Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Millo, his successor, to whom we wished to give the assurance of our undivided support and loyalty which had always been the lot of the departing Commanding Officer.

After dinner and the toasts had been drunk there came the speeches. The R.S.M. expressed the Mess's good wishes to both Colonels, whilst saying goodbye to the one and welcoming the other. Lieutenant-Colonel Cock in his speech of farewell gave a typically clear, concise and complete account of the happenings within, and the facts and figures of the Regiment during the period of his command. To condense all that history into a ten minutes speech could have been no easy task, but he made characteristic easy going of such a problem.

The evening concluded with a series of games which inspired the more physically capable members, but compelled the weaker and disinclined ones to assume the inactive role of mere spectators.

Now—a special word to those who may be joining this Mess in the future. Our Regiment and its attached Squadrons probably make up an establishment twice as big or more than any normal Regiment, but it would be a singularly grave error to think that it must be a giant "slippery" type of organisation. Indeed its most remarkable characteristic is its unity and cohesion, and as the function which has just been described—no matter how big the job is—we get on with it . . . . and get it done!

The Parker Cup Final—A Great Win. The most coveted soccer cup in Singapore is back again with the Corps. The Parker Cup is a "Cap Badge" competition and was last won by Royal Signals in 1958.

Our opponents in the final were the Royal Engineers, who, with six current Army players, were favourites for the trophy. The only people who thought we would win were our three loyal officials.

On Friday, 25th September, at the R.A.S.C. Padang the teams were presented to Brigadier R. F. B. Hensman, O.B.E., Commander Singapore Base Area.

Within a minute the Corps were a goal up. This inspired the Engineers and they stormed back with attack upon attack. Only superb goalkeeping by Butler and steady play by Hassan kept them at bay. In the twenty-seventh minute their efforts were rewarded by a good goal. Now it was our turn to fight back and again, minutes later, Bourgoise slammed in an unstoppable shot.

After the interval—the squash must have been good!—it was all Royal Signals. We dominated the play.

With only twenty seconds of the game left (less stoppages), the Engineers were awarded a penalty. Sudess, the R.E. star, took the kick and amid great tension scored.

Extra Time and Replay, Page 22

Extra time saw no addition to the score.

The replay did not come up to the standard of the first match, considered by the experts to have been the best Cup Final in the Far East for years.

After fifteen minutes the Corps were awarded a penalty and Hashim was chosen to take it. Amid silence, he shot straight at the 'keeper, who, fortunately for us, could only palm out the ball to Hashim who made no mistake with this second chance.

With a goal up we hung on grimly, and went on to win. Everyone agreed that it was one of the hardest battles ever for a trophy, but over the two games we deserved our unexpected victory.

263 SQUADRON

As happens in all Service establishments, the time of change in command has come around to this Squadron. This month we say farewell to our O.C., Major John Denton, and although one expects to read nice things about an O.C. when he hands over, it is with genuine regret that both British and Malayan ranks say farewell to Major Denton who has completed his tour in FARELF and is departing for the Ministry of Defence. No doubt in months to come we will be able to read in THE WIRE all about the "Ministry of Defence Yachting Club," for sailing is the Major's number one hobby.

Farewell Parties to a Popular O.C. The senior ranks of 263 have already said farewell officially with a dinner followed by that wonderful custom of paying our respect to the Patron Saint of Denmark by drinking our fair share (or more) of Carlsberg. After the Dinner, Major Denton was presented with a silver anchor mounted on a plinth and inscribed "To Major Denton from the C.P.O.s and P.O.s of 263 Signal Squadron."

On Saturday, 28th November, the Malayan ranks held a party for Major Denton and his wife. Both of them were presented with Malay dress and a silver condiment set by the Malayan soldiers of the Squadron. A very fitting indication of the high reward which our Malays have for both of them.

Our new O.C. to be, Major M. Allen, was suddenly admitted to hospital whilst in the process of taking over. We understand it is nothing really serious and that he will be able to take over the Squadron in three or four weeks' time. In the meantime Major (T.O.T.) J. Harwood is assuming command and to him we extend a big welcome to the Squadron and although his tenure of office is not likely to be a long one we hope that it will be a pleasant one.

We train Comcen Operators from U.K. Work in the Squadron is going at full tempo particularly on the operating side where all the Instructors are fully extended in keeping pace with our intake of potential Comcen Operators from U.K. It will be of interest to other Regiments who are carrying out the same type of training to know that our basic trainees receive eight weeks training and then go down to the Comcentre at H.Q. FARELF on shift work (under supervision) for four weeks and then come back and do four more weeks in the lecture room before taking their Class III. Although we have not had enough experience yet to say that this is an excellent system, first impressions are that it is going to pay dividends because they see things on the ground and work live traffic which helps them absorb their theoretical knowledge.

19th REGIMENT, CHANGI
c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

To all members of the Regiment, past, present and future, to all their families and to all our friends everywhere—*a very happy and successful New Year.*

The old year left our remarkably thin red line a little battered and breathless, but holding on like grim death to a well-earned reputation with all three Services both for good communicating and good sportsmanship.

Indonesians and communist agitators have kept everyone operationally busy since September, and therefore there is little material to interest our discerning readers. Should there be a breathing space and half-a-chance, the new 2 Squadron has plans for some exciting adventure training, which must lead to a thrilling article for the Editor. Until then we must make do with a diary of the highlights during the last four months of 1964.

September

Curfews and crises in rapid succession, causing a spate of operational emergency work, seven-day working and slit trench digging every evening. Two more airfields added to the Regiment's total of eight, and detachments of Operations Troop rushed off to install 10+50s and the usual semi-permanent circuitry at each. Overnight decision to reorganise the Regiment to meet new commitments. Two men lost for 24 hours but finally found beneath a chichak's droppings on the Second-in-Command's talc staff table.

October

Three changes of operational posture which left us in a more comfortable position and therefore able to catch up on some of the administrative events.

Three important and most welcome visitors: the Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Jolly, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.; the Area Commander, Brigadier R. F. B. Hensman, O.B.E.; and the Deputy Paymaster-in-Chief, Brigadier H. R. Beauchamp, O.B.E.

The highly-successful outing, organised by R.Q.M.S. Garland, gave the 19 Club membesr and their wives a day at Jason's Bay and at the Kota Tinggi Falls.

The annual "Cracked Cup" cricket match was played off out of season and won by the officers for the second time. There was a little talk of rules and regulations, but in the end the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were able to field 13 men too!

Captain Wall's hockey team won the Base Area six-a-side championship for the seventh successive year. The "B" team was knocked out in the semi-finals, but next year there is determination to make it an 'all-19' final.

The soccer team, under Captain McCarthy, had a convincing win in the Base Area Junior League, which gave them the double for 1964.

November

Deepavali celebration was a great success, due to a very generous invitation from the 18th to join them for their annual party. A good time was had by all.

To show proper appreciation, the hockey team knocked out 18th in the second round of the Army Cup. Bad luck, 18, and see you again in January for the Base Area knockout match.

Captain and Mrs. Higham said farewell en route for 22nd Regiment, and Captain and Mrs. Seekings are warmly welcomed.

December

An auspicious beginning was given to the month by the M.G.A., Major-General G. R. Turner Cain, C.B.E., D.S.O., who paid us a visit on the first day.

The 7th to 11th was devoted to essential work only and range classification, under the well-planned control of O.C., 1 Squadron. Perhaps it's the thought of invasion that has given rise to a much-improved standard this year.

The Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., honoured the Regiment and four recipients by presenting medals at a parade held on the station parade ground. It is not certain that the C.O. deliberately chose the morning after the Temple Hill Ball, but it is certain that some of the officers found the parade ground unstable, and muttered unprintable words about the Royal Naval Buccaneers landing and taking off that morning.

Congratulations to Captain (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall, W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) E. A. Beasley and Sergeant W. J. Hills on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and to Staff Sergeant M. Foy on the award of the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

The children's Christmas party at Telok Paku was a great success, thanks to sterling efforts by Captain Lindley, Mr. Mountford and the Wives' Club.

This year's all ranks' dance was voted the best for many years and there's a talk of holding them once a quarter, when Telok Paku is reopened after the "face-lift."

Corporal Davidson and his ever-busy detachment at Tawau (Borneo) showed ingenuity and once again proved the very close liaison between the R.A.F. and the Regiment by having a 15-pair plastic cable laid across a 30-foot deep snake and ant-filled ravine—by helicopter!







The WIRE *looks in on* The Cheerful 19th







1. *Left to right:* **The C.O., the Chief Signal Officer, the Army Commander and the R.S.M. 2. Major-General G. R. Turner Cain, C.B.E., D.S.O., inspects the Quarter Guard. 3.** *Left to Right:* **O.C. H.Q. Squadron, the Chief Signal Officer, the Army Commander, the C.O., Sergeant Mohd Zain (A.C.C.). 4. Discussing the plans for Telok Paku.** *Left to right:* **The Manager (Mr. Mountford), The M.G.A., O.C. H.Q. Squadron, Colonel Potter, M.B.E., T.D., and the C.O. 5. Arrival of the M.G.A.** *Back to camera:* **Colonel W. R. Potter, M.B.E., T.D., The Station Commander (Group Captain B. C. Bennett, A.F.C., R.A.F.), the C.O., and Major General G. R. Turner Cain, C.B.E., D.S.O. 6. The Regimental Football Team.** *Sitting Left to right:* **Craftsman Casey, Lance Corporal Hassan, Signalman Freeman, the C.O., Lance Corporals Brourgoise and Lowes, Staff Sergeant Hehir (Coach and trainer).** *Standing Left to right:* **Signalmen Ismail, Hashim, Abdullah, Captain J. McCarthy (O.I.C. Football), Corporals Lowry and Lee, Lance Corporal McClean**

28th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

All at Sea

In preparation for an active 1965 sailing season, two parties went to the British Kiel Yacht Club for a week of deep-sea sailing Captain (Ulysses?) Cloughley has written an interesting account of his experiences on the second of these expeditions:

"It was my own fault for saying that I had enjoyed crewing on a Firefly on a couple of occasions off Singapore. So without paying sufficient attention to what I was offering my services for (I fondly believed I was going off for the day), I found myself on the way to Kiel with a crew, for a 50 square metre boat *Petasus,* owned by Royal Signals. On arrival, we sorted ourselves out, and made preparations for the first day's trip to Sonderborg, in Denmark. This took about seven hours, and our crew, consisting of myself, Sergeants Mellor and Donnithorne, Lance-Corporal Heard and Lance-Corporal Hornby, had a very pleasant first day.

I had to return to the Regiment when satisfied that all was well, and rather than bring *Petasus* all the way back to Kiel, I accepted the offer of a "lift" from the R.A.F. crew of a 30 metre boat which was returning next day. The weather by now was becoming rather lively, and I was looking forward to a fast run home. We left Sonderborg shortly after 10 a.m. and ran into a stiff breeze outside the harbour. Very soon after leaving, the wind increased to such an extent that a storm sail had to replace the jib.

Throughout the day the weather got steadily worse, with a force 9 gale whipping up what seemed to me, on my first trip, huge waves. In fact it was almost a case of "up periscope" to see where we were, and the crew by now began to show their anxiety.

The day seemed interminably long, with the weather so appalling; we couldn't have anything to eat or drink, except an occasional tot of brandy. The boat was now taking an awful beating, and by 11 p.m., we were just about all-in, with only two-thirds of our journey complete. The only choice left to us was to find shelter, as the storm was very bad, and visibility practically nil.

A Tot of Port on Starboard

We turned into Eckenfjord and made for the small town of Eckeford at its head. When we reached the end of the fjord extreme difficulty was experienced in locating the harbour, due to the tremendous downpour which had started. Eventually we found the red and green lights, steered between them and missed a pile of wreckage by a couple of feet.

The harbour afforded us very little shelter, until at last we got under the lee of the huge concrete harbour wall. We were too tired to notice its newness, and after drying everything as best we could, collapsed into our sleeping bags. Next morning sounds of activity woke us up, and after putting some water on the stove for coffee, I looked out into a brand new harbour which held a collection of German naval craft; the crews were very surprised to see us, just as we were rather taken aback to find where we were.

As I hadn't time to sail on to Kiel, I was collected by car, and after calling in at the Yacht Club to tell the story, went off on the 350-mile road journey home, vowing never to go to sea again. I hope Lieutenant Perry Bruce and Major John Denton read this. Sailing in Singapore? POOH ! ! !"

The Autumn Handicap

The Regiment was ably represented in the B.A.O.R. and Royal Signals Autumn Golf Meetings. These were played on the R.A.F., Bruggen, course, with, as Major Andrews writes, 'its narrow fairways and numerous hazards that the novice so dislikes. There were no James Bond and 'Goldfinger' episodes, even though the handicap of one member was 007. But the words "frustration" and "pathetic" were occasionally heard on the lips of even the low handicap chaps, who found themselves taking four strokes in a 6ft. put. Unlike previous years, prizes were not silver tankards; I hear that the players who seem to win every time prefer something different! Instead, there were useful gifts, such as silver saucers, plates, a gay assortment of table lighters, etc., which none of us really wanted, anway! We now look forward to next year's Spring Meeting, when it is hoped that a few more golfers will have joined the Regiment to give us a better chance of retaining the Regimental Foursomes Cup, having just lost the Autumn Cup by a hair's breadth. Good winter swinging."

Among the "glittering prizes" to be had, Major Andrews and C.S.M.I. Issitt won the B.A.O.R. 18-hole Foursome Stableford, and C.S.M.I. Issitt was runner-up in the B.A.O.R. 36-hole Medal. In the Royal Signals meeting, Lance-Corporal Keys won the 36-hole Stableford, and C.S.M.I. Issitt was third to Major Clifton-Moore (attached 3 J.S.C.) in the 18-hole Bogey. Although just failing to win the 18-hole Regimental Foursomes, we put in some very creditable performances: Major Everard and Clifton-Moore (2nd); Major Andrews and C.S.M.I. Issitt (3rd); Major Parker and Lance-Corporal Keys (4th). Congratulations to all our golfers.

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

Visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh

The event of the month at Laarbruch has been the visit to the station of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. The programme for the visit did not permit H.R.H. to see the Regiment at work but officers, senior N.C.O.s and their wives had the opportunity to meet H.R.H. informally in the Mess. Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. A. Horner and R.S.M. and Mrs. P. Chilvers were formally introduced to H.R.H., who asked some searching questions about the role of the Regiment and our day to day work on the airfields.

R.S.M. and Mrs. Chilvers made a quick dash for the boat immediately after the Royal visit to start a life of leisure with the T.A. We count ourselves fortunate to have had them with us, and we hope their next tour will be a pleasant one. For his last fling before leaving, R.S.M. Chilvers saw to it that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves at a unit dance. Colonel and Mrs. Hayles and a good number of men and families from the out Squadrons made the long trip to Laarbruch, and with the local residents, made a very successful night of it.

"L" Troop again second! They were beaten in the final of the Inter-Troop Hockey by "D" Troop, who scored the only goal during the closing minutes of the game. They were again "pipped" by "H" Troop in the Inter-Troop .22 Shooting. With their previous near misses, they are nearly home as "champion runners-up."

2 Squadron—a revised version of "Ole King Cole" sums up the situation.

The Squadron said farewell to Major E. C. Collins, who is wished every success as Second-in-Command of 15th Regiment.

It is difficult to tell you what the Squadron has done recently.

Everything has been attempted, but it isn't clear yet what has and hasn't been done!

Breaking into doggerel, based on "Ole King Cole":

> Ole Oh See was a merry ole soul, and a merry ole soul was he. He called for his subalterns, his subalterns four, but none could he see. "I'm on skis," said the first subaltern. "So am I," said the second subaltern. "I'm on leave," said the third subaltern. "Die-rect entree," claimed the fourth subaltern. "Oh, merry, merry officers are we," sang the subalterns, etc.
>
> Ole Oh See was a not so merry soul, a not so merry soul was he. He called for his sergeants, his sergeants six, but not one could he see. "I'm in Borneo," said the first sergeant. "So am I," said the second sergeant. "Im on a drill course," said the third sergeant. "I'm in Norway," said the fourth sergeant. "I'm in another Regiment," said the fifth sergeant. "Full time educated," said the sixth sergeant. "Oh merry, merry sergeants are we," sang the sergeants, etc.
>
> (Ole Oh See's trembling hand wavers between the nominal roll and the paper knife).

Squadron sub-editor's note.—It is regretted that "Ole Oh See" had to be taken away, still slashing at the nominal roll and himself.

I consider that his doggerel, bad as it is, should be published, for there is a real lesson to be learned. All those posted into the Regiment who wish to lead a full and varied life should answer "I want to go to 2 Squadron" to all questions they are asked (prior to being posted into 2 Squadron).

Squadron sub-sub-editor's note.—What a rotten way to fool the chaps into doing nothing else but digging! Jolly good luck to all those of the Squadron who have escaped to other parts of the world . . . hope you aren't still digging holes for cables!

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Demonstration for Odling Committee

On Sunday the 8th November a Service of Remembrance was held in the Swan Social Centre. The service was attended by the U.S. Consul, Mr. William A. Mucoi, the Mayor and Mayoress of Blandford, representatives from the 7505 U.S. Hospital and contingents from Weymouth and the Royal Naval Old Comrades' Association. Following the service there was a march past by 30th Regiment at which the salute was taken by Admiral Sir Desmond McCarthy, K.C.B., D.S.O.

This was the conventional start to the month of November and with the season of inspections fast approaching there were the first signs of preparation for our arms and vehicle inspections. Alas all was not to be quite so easy!

The Regiment with 3 Headquarters and Signal Regiment were given the task of producing a Royal Signals Demonstration for the Odling Committee. As a result the Regiment, mainly Headquarters and 1 Squadrons, dissolved into feverish activity to reach the deadline. It is hoped that a full report with photographs will be produced in next month's WIRE issue.

Now that the Demonstration is behind us the Regiment is quickly getting back to normal and tackling the all-important job of preparing for the Christmas functions. To this end the old AKS Cinema has been resurrected, a new home found for the boats, and a face lift to make the Cinema into the new Swan Social Centre.

The Demonstration Team are still away in Manchester for the 'Teens and Twenties' Exhibition, and 3 Squadron are still away on exercise. We do, however, have some news of 640 Troop . . .

640 TROOP

A Sad Loss

It is with regret that we report this month the tragic death of 23470994 Corporal A. S. Griffiths at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, on 27th November, 1964.

Corporal Griffiths, who joined the troop in April, 1963, has for the past year been our man in British Guiana. On 6th September, 1964, he was involved in a car accident and was flown home for an operation by the Queen's Surgeon. He was progressing well, and hoped to be home for Christmas, when a sudden relapse took his life.

The Troop provided a Guard of Honour, and Corporal Griffiths was buried with full military honours at his home town of Worcester on 2nd December. Always bright and cheerful, he was a popular member of the Troop, and to show our appreciation of his unfailing loyalty and support we intend in the near future to place a marker on his grave.

Two New Battalion Signal Troops Formed

At Blandford we have been busy in the past month on the administrative chores which always present a problem when men are constantly away on operations. Now that we are almost all back in England we are holding a series of Military Proficiency courses, Range Classification courses, Physical Education tests, Educations courses, whilst a number of the Troop are at Catterick taking their trade upgrading courses.

Amidst all this our function in life has not been forgotten, and two Battalion Signal Troops are being formed, one each for FARELF and British Guiana. Sergeant MacMillan is taking 536 Troop to Borneo in January and Sergeant Dick takes his Troop to British Guiana immediately after Christmas.

Our men in Cyprus, Borneo, Aden, Kenya and British Guiana have been greatly reduced in numbers with the recent return of 39 Infantry Brigade Group from Aden, and the run down of Troops in Kenya, but we are still flying the Troop flag in most of the world's trouble spots.

222 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

Squadron H.Q. and Technical Troop

People who are acquainted with the location of Squadron H.Q., usually refer to us as the Signal Squadron by the power house. The reason for this is that when the power house is working at full pressure you have to shout to hold a normal conversation. It is now rumoured that next year jet blowers are being installed in the power house. Oh for those air-conditioners we have been promised—we shall certainly need them now.

Our T.O.T., Captain Vic Impey, has now settled in the chair vacated by Captain Peter Foakes. May we wish them both success in their new appointments.

We are delighted to hear that our new establishment has been approved. Our difficulty at the moment is trying to sell the idea to everyone else that we are entitled to the vehicles and stores that we are requesting. It can get awkward when no one has a copy of it.

The turn-over of personnel of the Squadron has been so great that by Christmas it will be virtually a new Squadron. It is therefore impossible to list our new arrivals, with the possible exception of Staff Sergeant "Pip" Piper, who is taking over the duties of S.Q.M.S.

"B" Airfield Troop, Bahrain

Once again winter spreads its "icy grip" over Muharraq. The temperature is down to 65°F. in the early hours, when the road are covered in condensation—three times worse than frost.

However, this is known as the busy season, when we are deluged with visitors. Starting at the top, there was an official visit of the Ruler of Bahrain. The Troop did not take part in the proceedings, except for the O.C., Lieutenant Ian Kerr, who opened one of the official car doors to find it contained most of the Ruler's bodyguard, armed with hawks!

There have also been visits by the A.O.C., G.O.C., and C.-in-C.—all in one week. We are now taking a rest, preparatory to the Christmas festivities and the annual inspection season.

A year ago, I believe an Air Formation unit in the Far East used a mouse to thread cord through a right-angled duct in order that a cable could be pulled through. We have one problem—or maybe a sequel. How to get rid of the mice. They use our cable entry and ducts, refuse to be evicted, and seem to thrive on lead, although one has passed over, I suppose due to over-indulgence.

"K" Airfield Troop, Khormaksar



Congratulations from the O.C. (Major Beaumont) to Signalman Paddy Fitzsimmons and wife

In the last month there have been quite a few changes in Troop personnel. With regrets, goodbyes were said to, amongst others, Corporal John Garmoury, Signalman "Scouse" Lees, and welcomes have been extended to Sergeant Tony McMullen, Corporal "Chil" Chillery, and Lance-Corporal John Baldwin.

Three more members of the Troop have become addicted to the "Marriage Game," for which the members of the Troop seem to have a particular leaning.

Otherwise the Troop proceeds on its peaceful and fault-correcting way, except when persons unknown decide that we have an excess of 150 yards or so of cable in a particular route, and proceed to remove it.

Work on the new exchange proceeds, and the day does not seem so far off when instead of the familiar "number please," we shall have the automatic monster churning out its tones.

Sporting Activities

Basketball. At the time of writing, it has been a long time since the trumpet of this Squadron has been blown in THE WIRE, and certain past members will certainly believe that since they left, an air of apathy has settled over us. This is



A well earned refresher in the "Gentlemans Rest" (note—lemonade)



A line out in the trial rugby match held at Labuan on Saturday 21st November, 1964. This is one of the first games recorded on the island in recent times and caused much local interest.

certainly not so, as our overworked T.O.T. and team of technicians would soon tell you. However, I have been assured by one of our technical sergeants, Bill Port, that I have neither the technical know-how nor ability to boast about our technical achievements and that I should write about my own department. But what can one say about the "Q" stores? It is a working concern that is trying desperately hard to operate as a "Q" Stores.

The only other subject to be able to brag about would be sport, and in this field I think I am fully justified to a bit of trumpet-blowing. With a successful swimming season behind us, in which our swimmers did exceptionally well in both the Army and R.A.F. League, all eyes are turned to the cool season sports. In particular, football and basketball, with (I think I can safetly say this without upsetting F. of S. Ken Duffey) the onus on basketball. The basketball team, under the captaincy of Lance-Corporal Sid Evans and general management of Staff Sergeant Ken Taylor, have started the season very well. The record, to date, being played six, won six, points for 359, against 143. The victims so far are Army Camp Comdt. 44—20; 254 Signal Squadron 48—27; R.A.F. Hospital 68—16; 52 Command Workshops 67—27; 16/5 Lancers 55—32, and once again Army Camp Comdt. 77—21. We have our eyes firmly fixed on the Army League Cup, and if we manage it, we will set the precedent of being the first "R.A.F." unit to win an Army Cup.

Looking forward to bigger things, three of our players are almost certainly to be on the short list for the Army team. These being Lance-Corporal Jim Harlow, Lance-Corporal Sid Evans and Corporal "Chill" Chillery. The latter two should even make the grade for the Combined Services. Furthermore, if our M.E.C. Corps Basketball Representative cared to get a Royal Signals team together (and there is a lot of potential in this field), no doubt that the basketball team could join the list of privileged sports to do a tour of East Africa. How about it? Whatever our hockey and cricket teams can do, we can do just as well—if not better.

Football. An unusual set-up in Aden this season is the forming of two second divisions, one for Little Aden and the other for Aden proper. We are in the Aden second division, and our record reads, at the moment, played four, won two, lost two, goals for thirteen, goals against eight. People going R.H.E., weddings, basketball, and players required for Combined Services, etc., all take their toll. The team stalwarts (in case they are posted to you) are Corporal "Chil" Chillery, Corporal "Brum" Cornish, Signalman George Hill, Signalman "Blackie" Blackmore, Corporal Andy Neilson, Lance-Corporals Taff Butler, Mick Thorne, John Harvey (team captain), Corporal Taff Evans (vice-captain) and Lance-Corporal Jim Harlow.

A recent league match against the Aden Civil Police provided one of the most exciting games (even though we lost 3—2) to be seen in Aden. As the match took place near the Squadron Football Representative's Hiring (Staff Sergeant F. of S. Ken Duffey), the whole team, supporters, including the O.C., Major Beaumont, and the referee reported in for light (ale) refreshments. A very wet ending to a first class game.

Though we were knocked out of the Willis Cup by the 10th Royal Hussars we look forward to a good fight for the top of the table honours. More news later in the season.

266 SQUADRON (BORNEO)

The monsoon is still with us in Borneo, trying its best to dampen the spirits—and the communications—but, to date, we are winning handsomely, and the progress reported in previous notes to THE WIRE is still very much in evidence. We have moved on to a four-watch manning system in the Communications Centre and the Tape Relay Centre, and shortly we will be moving into our new Transmitter Hall. This will greatly help all the transmitter operators who have been hopping from vehicle to vehicle for the past six months.

We have recently said farewell to the emergency reinforcements who flew to Borneo in June. We thank them for their very hard work and hope the experience they have gained in having to provide dependable communications will be of benefit not only to themselves, but to their parent unit as well. Flight-Lieutenant W. J. Bryan, our Chief Duty Signal Officer, is also returning to cooler climes. He, more than anyone, has been responsible for the efficient organisation of the Communications Centre. We wish him well in his new appointment.

The Corps Revives Rugby in Borneo

In true Corps tradition, the Squadron has been instrumental in starting rugby football on Labuan. On 21st November, we felled four 40ft. bamboo trees and lashed them to the football posts on the Victoria Padang. Then, after a short introductory talk for newcomers by Lieutenant R. D. K. Thompson, and a quick summary of the new laws (what were the old ones?) by W.O.II Lloyd, 30 members of the Squadron thoroughly enjoyed the first game of rugby played on Labuan. Considering the state of fitness, the lack of match practise and a shade temperature of 85°, the game was an unqualified success. Even the local population were impressed, for many have since indicated their wish to learn the game with us. In the future we hope to have two training sessions a week with a game each Saturday. A seven-a-side competition is projected for mid-December and we are trying to get a team from Jesselton, the capital of Sabah, to play us.

266 also make their mark on the dartboard

The highlight of the darts competition this month was the Tiger Breweries' 100,001 Postal Competition. The Squadron entered a team of eight which completed this mammoth total at an average of 15.83 points per dart. During the competition, Signalman Croyne, who was our most consistent player, scored the maximum of 180 with three darts. A word of thanks is given to Major C. F. Lewis, Captain B. A. R. Driskell and W.O.II (S.S.M.) Lloyd who, unerringly, performed the 6,320 subtractions.

Remembrance Day Observed

On 8th November the Squadron attended the Remembrance Day service at the Labuan War Cemetery. A short, but moving ceremony was concluded with the laying of wreaths by the Commanders of the Naval, Army and Air Forces in Borneo. This simple act of remembrance amongst the two thousand graves of British, Australian and Commonwealth Servicemen of the Second World War will be an experience never to be forgotten by the many who attended.

Join 601 Troop, and Integrate with the Royal Navy

Reorganised so as to be more flexible

On the 7th September we welomed Captain J. M. Gray as our new O.C., and said farewell to Lieutenant R. Dorrell, who departed bound for Aden. Farewells also, since then, to Lance-Corporal Dear, and to the oldest soldiers of them all Corporal Wooley and Signalman Langley. We would like to wish them all the very best in their new units, and a happy New Year from us all on the sunny beaches of Bahrein.

The Troop has recently undergone a slight change in organisation and deployment; we are now able to call ourselves a flexible *mobile* fighting unit. We have actually acquired three more Land Rovers, and so can fulfil our role (as indeed any self-respecting radio troop, Royal Signals, should be able to) with FFR mobile radio stations.

The organisation of the Troop now looks like this:

H.M.S. *Meon*—O.C., plus three operators; on land, Yeoman of Signals, plus Technician, plus Driver; four times three man mobile radio detachments.

This new look helps us a great deal with regard to training; whilst *Meon* is alongside, the Rovers can disperse almost anywhere on the island (except the Ruler's beach) and undergo some rather more realistic type of training.

What we do—for the uninitiated

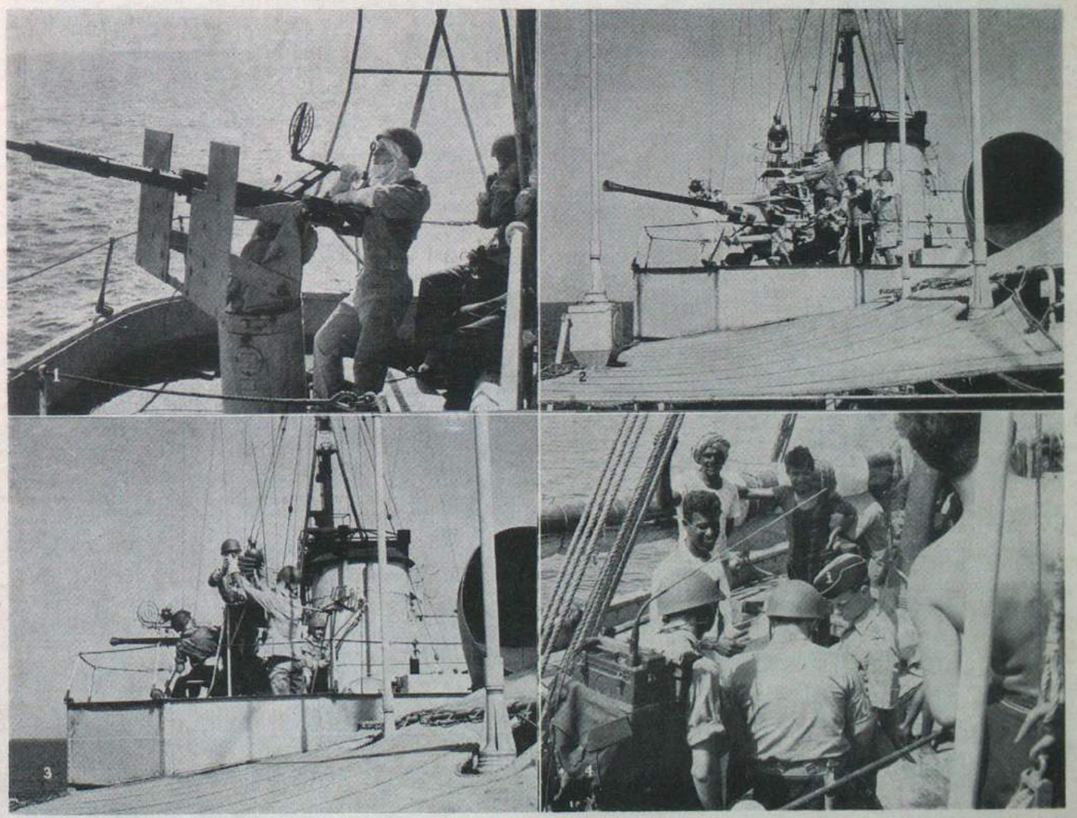
For those not very familiar with 601 Troop (Ship), here is a very brief outline of what we do. We are a small Royal Signals Unit (O.C., plus eighteen) attached to, and providing communications for, the Amphibious Warfare Squadron of the Royal Navy. We provide a ship-to-shore radio net from H.M.S. *Meon* (a converted river class frigate) which is the headquarters ship of the Squadron, to various Army units on the beach. Aboard *Meon* we use an HF Royal Navy set TCS/B40, which works to our C11/R210 stations ashore. We are usually on exercise for about ten days in every month, and for the remainder of the time we are training or playing games where we live, ashore, in Bahrein.

During the past few months we have had a small crew aboard *Meon*, rather more often than usual. Apart from exercises, one of the highlights has been a liaison visit to Sharjah and Dubai, followed by a dhow patrol. The liaison visit went well, we saw a little more of the Persian Gulf, and had a few interesting "sessions" with the Trucial Oman Scouts and R.A.F., Sharjah (jointery is the cry). The dhow patrol was very good value. A dhow, in case you don't know, is the Arab type of boat which may vary in size from about 20ft. to about 150ft. long. Periodically, one of H.M. ships is sent on a patrol to stop, board, and search the dhows for weapons and ammunition, narcotics, suspect rebel passengers, etc. On this patrol 601 were allowed to join in, and three or four of the Troop made up the boarding party on several occasions. What we really hoped to find, of course, was beautiful white slave-girls in need of rescue, but no such luck, unfortunately.

Meon has recently sailed to Karachi for a short visit, she has a small detachment from 601 on board, and we have been in radio contact with Corporal Tracey who will be writing a short account of the trip for a future issue of THE WIRE. (*Thank you, Corporal Tracey.—Editor*).

Meanwhile . . . come signalmen gallant! If you are fit, and young at heart, and adventurous, and don't mind very, very warm weather, and are a very good operator, and can swim, and enjoy a spot of sea fishing, and would like to work with the Royal Navy, and don't mind painting a few ships (all these wonderful things and many more besides) and don't get seasick too easily, then—

"COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN, VOLUNTEER FOR SIX-O-ONE."



1. Lance Corporal Muir mans a 20 mm. Oerlikan during an exercise. 2. A gun crew which includes Royal Signals personnel. 3. A gun detachment. Signalman Home handling ammunition. 4. Captain J. M. Gray (O.C. 601 Troop) in charge of a boarding party checks a dhow

"To Make New Friends and Enjoy the Local Wine ... You must go Harvesting"

Says Corporal A. G. Parker of the 4th. Regiment

Recently Corporal A. G. Parker of the 4th Regiment with a party of men from the Regiment set off to spend two hard-working weeks—working too with German families—to help with the gathering of the grape harvest. That, of course, in simple terms was the intention but they found that there were things other than grapes to distract the mind. For instance . . . but the following article written by Corporal Parker explains everything.

Recently, a party of thirteen men set off from the 4th Regiment to spend two weeks working with German families, helping with the grape harvest. We were taken down to Herford Station to start the first leg of a six hour train journey. Much to our amazement everyone was present when we reached Bernkastel, the place where we parted company with the railway. On the way down we had to make three or four changes but luckily enough there wasn't much waiting between trains.

Guaranteed a Good Fortnight



We were all in good spirits as we walked out of the station. After all, from what we had heard from a couple of the lads who had been two years previous, we were guaranteed a good fortnight. Then of all the sights to meet our eyes as we walked out into the fresh air—two three-ton Army lorries packed with blokes in uniform. Well, that put a damper on things straight away! We immediately visualised about two hundred soldiers walking about the streets of Bernkastel at night time. Our fears were soon put to rest though, as we were shepherded on to a mini-bus and told that we were going to a village a few kilometres away called Leiwen. That was the last we saw of the two lorries and their loads.

It took us a good three-quarters of an hour to reach the village and more than one of the party were surprised that we got there at all! The driver was one of those people who seem to bear a charmed life. For the whole of the journey he was talking with the three A.A.C. lads and as the journey progressed he became more and more excited, laughing and waving his hands about. Every three or four minutes he would turn around and talk to them, only to return his eyes to the road as we were about to hit the wall bordering the road. Then he would give a quick pull on the wheel and off he would go again.

A Speech of Welcome and We're Part of the Family

The village of Leiwen is set on the banks of the Mosel and we found out later was a lovely picturesque spot. The first time we drove through the place we didn't feel very enthusiastic about it at all. The rain was pouring down and the streets were deserted. We didn't even spot a café. Eventually we stopped, alighted and trooped in to a place that looked more or less like a small barn. We later learned that this was where the grapes were pressed and the juice was drawn off for the wine. When we were all inside one of the villagers made a speech of welcome and said that he hoped we would enjoy our stay. Then he began to sort out who we would be staying with. Each one of us was to stay with a German family and work for them for the duration of our visit. When I arrived at my 'new home' I was introduced to the family. This consisted of Herr and Frau Rosch, the son Walter, and another chap who was related to the family and was spending a working holiday with them. Luckily, he spoke good English and although he was leaving a few days later, he was a great help until I had settled in. I had just sat down when there was a clatter of feet on the stairs and a girl appeared in the doorway. This, I was told was Liesel, their seventeen-year-old daughter. Things were certainly looking up. Out came a bottle of wine and we sat talking over a few glasses.

When we had finished eating I was taken to a house about two minutes' walk away where another of the lads was staying. It is a custom that whenever anyone pays a visit, out comes the bottle of wine and everyone has a glass or two. So after, dutifully, downing our quota, the three of us set out for the nearest café where we had a couple of beers each. That night we turned in early so as to be ready to start work next morning.

Sunday Best in the Back of a Trailer

I was wakened at 7.30 the next morning by a knock on my bedroom door and after a wash and shave presented myself for breakfast. I then found out that apart from the son who stayed behind to operate the wine press, the whole family worked out in the vineyards picking the grapes. Every family in the village had their own vineyards, wine press, wine cellar, and tractor. In fact I've never seen so many tractors in one place in my life. It was a common sight to see girls driving them about the streets. One thing I'll never forget was on the first Sunday I was there. Two of the women must have been going to the nearest town for the day as they were dressed in their Sunday best. New coats, hats and so on. What struck me as being funny was the fact that they were sitting in the back of a trailer being pulled along by a tractor. Chatting away just as if they were sitting on a bus together.

The work itself was not strenuous. All you had to do was snip the bunches of grapes off the vines and drop them into a bucket. When your bucket was full it was emptied into a sort of bin that was carried on your back, supported by two shoulder straps; when this was full it was taken down to the trailer and emptied into one of the big vats. Most of us did the carrying of these as sometimes it was a bit too much for the older men.

Lunch consisted of sandwiches and wine, eaten out in the vineyards. In fact just about every meal we had included wine. When the vats on the trailer were full we set off for the house where the men shovelled the grapes into the wine press while the women started work on the tea and got on with the housework. Starting and finishing times depended on the individual families and we usually finished work about five.

Down in the Wine Cellars

Each night when the work was completed Herr Rosch would take me down to the cellar for a few glasses and also to taste the different barrels. In his cellar he had forty thousand litres of wine. On the second night, we three got together again and set off to find another café at the other side of the village which we had been told about. It seems that the rest of the lads had been informed about it as well as all of them turned up. Of course we got together to exchange news and to say how we were getting on. The first, and to us, one of the most important things we discovered was that the boys in the village were outnumbered by the girls. When we looked round, this seemed to be true enough judging from the number of girls present in the cafe. From that night onwards we made that café our nightly meeting place.

We worked for six days a week and then had the Sunday off. On the second Saturday there was a visit arranged for us at the biggest wine firm in the village. Before we went there we all went into the winehouse across the road and were told all about the history of the village and of the wine making. Then over to the wine cellar where we had a very interesting tour round the place. Through an interpreter we were told all about the processing and bottling. The wine itself was stored in several huge tanks totalling two million litres. When the visit came to an end we all had champagne and as a parting gift were given a bottle of champagne and a bottle of wine each.

(*continued on page* 29)

On the Sunday there was a dance arranged to celebrate the wine harvest and that's when the local talent turned out in force. It was quite a good night except for the fact that most of us are not familiar with the German dances. Anyway we made the best of it and the night went off quite well.

Farewell and we hope to return

A week later and the end of our stay. One of the families wanted us to stay and there were a good few tears from the girls as their boys left. We all came back with bottles of wine and we have been invited down to Leiwen for Christmas. We are looking forward to a few days with the folks again so if all goes well we should be back again in a few weeks.

We eventually arrived back to camp where we were given a big treat. A haircut and a place on the Admin. Parade!

614 TROOP (PARK) B.F.P.O. 40

Due to the size of our unit, and in order to keep the name of 614 Troop "on the map," the O.C., Major R. H. A. Salisbury, produced pen and paper to the duly nominated "Scribe of the Quarter" and off we go with the current epistle.

A Flourishing Club

The club room has now returned to its indoor location, where we continue to show the M.P.C. courses from 13th Regiment "the way home" at the games evenings, and they seem to be quite convinced that we would have won a gold at Tokyo in the boat race. Social evenings continue to be both profitable and enjoyable and our recent Tramps' and Witches' nights were a great success. Club funds produced the dining-out night at Park-Haus Hotel, which coincided with the O.C.'s 30th wedding anniversary; moths flew for the occasion, and we bought Major and Mrs. Salisbury a carving set, which was intended to be used in January to "carve the path into 'Civvy Street.'"

Personal Notes

Sergeant Sammut trekked home to Malta the hard way—across land—and is now convinced that to board a train in Italy is as difficult as the tubes of London at rush hour.

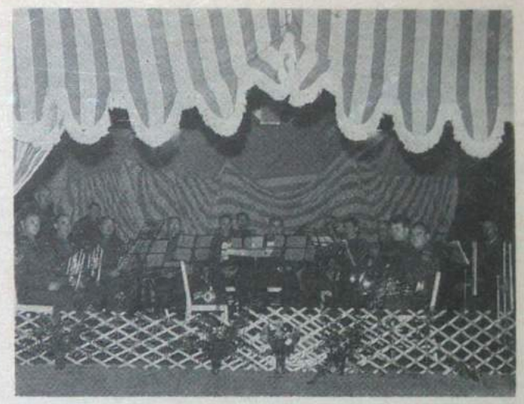
Matrimony seems to be popular with the Troop: Lance-Corporal Wormald is now "hooked," while Lance-Corporal Streetly and Signalman Dean still have time to change their minds at the time of going to print.

Corporal Pete Roberts' wife produced his much-wanted daughter, Lynn, in July; unfortuntely we had to say goodbye to mother and daughter in November.

Lance-Corporal Teasdale is cursing all sportsmen who break legs, as he is at present relieving one in Belgium, on temporary detachment. Just to confuse the issue here, Corporal Roberts (brother of Corporal Pete Roberts) has arrived, as has Corporal Ulett—we hope their stay will be enjoyable.



Some of the tramps and witches of 614 Troop



The recently formed Band of the 44th (H.C.) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A. pose for the camera during a concert

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

A Successful Rally

On the weekend 18th/19th October, a team of three Austin Champs entered by 44 (H.C.) Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A. took part in the Civilian Britvic Car Rally 1964. The team left the Hospital Hill T.A. Centre, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, on the Saturday afternoon and travelled approximately 180 miles to the starting point at Mundford in Norfolk. Many professional rally enthusiasts from all over the country were competing.

The Rally, an all-night event to which the B.A.M.A. had been invited, was split into three sections, each involving approximately 30 grid references and covering in all 240 miles, most of which was cross-country and forest lanes. The dense fog which persisted throughout the night made the course more gruelling than expected and it was almost impossible to adhere to the strict time schedule given.

The three vehicles entered by the Regiment were specially equipped for the Rally with interior lighting facilities, map boards, pencils, etc., making the job of the navigator easier.

The majority of vehicles were crewed by three people, e.g. driver, co-driver and navigator, whereas the vehicles entered by the Regiment were manned by just a driver and navigator as follows: Sergeant Hambrook and Corporal Johnson, Sergeant Peel and Corporal O'Callaghan, Private Hibbs and Private Pooley (W.R.A.C.), the latter being the only W.R.A.C. crew taking part in a military vehicle in this Rally.

The actual circuit finished at Mundford (the starting point) where stop watches issued at the beginning of the course and check point cards collected on route were returned. From there, tired but cheerful competitors made their way to the Britvic Factory at Chelmsford in Essex, where a well deserved breakfast awaited them.

All military vehicles entered by the Regiment completed the circuit without any damage and although the team did not secure a position, a vast amount of experience was gained and every member agreed that, should the opportunity arise, they would like to enter other Rallies of this kind.

(*Picture page* 30)

Royal Signal Band Records

are still available from H.Q.

Price 30/- by post, 27/- counter sale.



Rally Competitors 44th. Regiment T.A.

(*See page 29*)

45th REGIMENT (T.A.) LOOK BACK AT A MEMORABLE YEAR

As fog closes in and the cold damp air of winter blankets the land, do your remember those lazy, hazy days last summer?

Memories of summer 1964 with this Regiment are associated with lush forest glades and the few stout oaks remaining in that part of Sherwood Forest surrounding Proteus Camp, Nottinghamshire. The 1,200-year-old Major Oak still stands majestically, but with concreted base and lead-protected branches, only three miles away. Proteus has been modernised and—provided the weather is on your side—it is an attractive area for outdoor training, as Robin Hood noted only too well. The fact that an excellent assault course was only two arrow flights away was taken into account—usually before breakfast! The squad of six enthusiastic Officer Cadets moved about on their many and varied activities most of the time at the double and always under the keen eye of the Training Major. Having since been commissioned, Second-Lieutenants M. A. Lamb, R. L. R. Mallard and N. P. O'Farrell now recall those days with little regret. The extensive sports fields were the scene of many tests of skill and trials of gamesmanship. A form of nuclear warfare training was cunningly incorporated during a serious soccer match. The Sergeants' Mess team was determined to beat the experts of the Officers' Mess and in desperation resorted to a smoke screen worthy of a flotilla of destroyers.

Visit of G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command

The G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command, flew into three locations to check on communications during the regimental exercise. While the Scout chopper was waiting to take General McLeod aboard it seems that Staff Sergeant M. A. Cull used the period to good purpose. He recently passed all the tests for helicopter pilot training and is to attend a course at Middle Wallop in February, 1965.

The Colonel of the Regiment, now Brigadier H. B. Jolly, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., made several presentations during a parade in his honour. Major (Q.M.) T. W. Grigg received the clasp to his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, W.O.II W. A. J. Gostling, A/A.Q.M.S. R. A. Hardy, R.E.M.E., T.A., and Staff Sergeant D. Fox received the T.A. Efficiency Medal and Staff Sergeant H. W. Doze the first clasp to the T.A. Efficiency Medal and a Meritorious Service Certificate. The last named N.C.O. met his Troop Commander of 26 years ago while at Proteus. It is with much pleasure that the Regiment is able to report to WIRE readers everywhere that Brigadier (the Reverend) Charles Nettleship, O.B.E., is fit and well. He was able to leave his parish near Rugby to attend the Officers' Mess Guest Night. After dinner, as on many similiar occasions in the past, the Brigadier had the assembled officers in hysterics listening to his 'unclassified' jokes and monologues. Unfortunately he was obliged to leave before the serious Mess games were under way in order to be back in his parish in time to toll the church bell for reveille.

Altogether, they are pleasant memories of Annual Camp in the Midlands . . . It seems likely that Proteus will see the Signal Regiment from Essex again next year. Why not call in to see us if you are near Ollerton during August? Of course you will be equally welcome should you be in the area of any of our T.A. Centres at other times.

Quarter of a Million Pound T.A. Centre

No. 1 Squadron of this Regiment is based at Reed Hall Camp. In 1965 the Squadron will move into a new T.A. Centre, now under construction, costing a quarter of a million pounds. Fourteen T.A. units will share the building and cap badges representing each unit were lodged in cement when the foundation stone was laid.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Colchester are special friends of the Regiment and recently mentioned the pleasure they derive from having the large military population in their town.

During September our sailing enthusiasts with the Troop based at Clacton-on-Sea provided radio communications, afloat and ashore, for the 1964 East Coast Area Enterprise Championships regatta, which was sponsored by the Clacton-on-Sea Sailing Club. The programme had to be curtailed owing to a force 8 gale which also caused Radio Caroline, anchored three miles off shore, to screetch more than usual.

Tough Training Competition

A recruiting drive for the T.A., in Essex, took place one week-end in October, near Colchester. Seventeen teams from different units competed in a Tough Training Competition. Each team consisted of an officer and eleven men, and all wore full battle order. There were separate phases for range firing, a forced march (seven miles against a bogey time) a night compass march, overnight bivouac and river crossing by assault boat. Captain R. G. S. Green and Lieutenant K. R. J. Harvey and their respective teams did extremely well, and the high standard of general military efficiency in the Corps was well upheld.

There are several open ranges in the county, including Purfleet, Rainham and Vange. By steady practise, a good standard of marksmanship and range administration has been achieved. This was helpful at the time of the annual Eastern Command Royal Signals T.A. Rifle and S.M.G. Meeting at Pirbright, which this Regiment was proud to organise this year. Sergeant R. W. Dennis won the Individual Rifle Match and Sergeant G. Bryne was sixth. This N.C.O. was also second in the S.M.G. Match. W.O.II D. Greenbrook and Corporal R. S. Campbell were runners-up in the Rifle and S.M.G. events respectively. It was an excellent day and the presence of several distinguished senior officers was welcome. The C.S.O., Eastern Command, kindly presented the prizes after the meeting, before a large gathering.

Keen motor cyclists may be interested to learn that the Army's ever-faithful B.S.A.s helped Staff Sergeant D. Fox, Sergeant N. C. O'Neill and Lance-Corporal N. S. Jackson to finish second, out of eight, in the team event at the London District Motor Cycle Trials in the summer.

Training of all kinds goes on steadily, in parallel with certain reorganisation within the unit, but, as the year draws to a close, social functions appropriate at this time of year begin to crowd in on the diary of events. It is very evident at the time of these functions, what a happy, lasting comradeship is to be found among all ranks of a T.A. unit.

Perhaps some of the following names of T.A. officers, serving in the Regiment, may help you to recall friendships from the past:

Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D., Commanding Officer; Majors W. Hill, T.D., K. Draper. E. A. Richardson, P. J. Hart. C. H. Ferrans, T.D., Captains D. E. M. Bennett, T.D., J. A. Clarkson, G. W. Dyer, T.D., (Rev.) J. M. F. Ducker, K. C. Eastman, T.D., C. M. G. Francis, M. T. Froud, R. G. S. Green, F. D. H. Jones, W. G. Melrose, T. C. Charlesworth, J. E. Mackay, D. S. B. Naylor, J. R. Wilkins, A. P. Woodhouse, Lieutenants C. E. J. Cox, J. Y. Dyer, E. Phillips, D. J. Thorpe, G. H. Walker, D. Morriss. Second-Lieutenants A. V. Bearnshaw, K. R. J. Harvey, M. J. Lamb, R. L. R. Mallard, N. P. O'Farrell.

They, and all other members of 45th (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.), wish to send you the very best greetings for 1965.

VARIETY—THE SPICE OF UNIT LIFE — AT 45th REGIMENT (T.A.)


1


2


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5


6

1. Part of the contingent outside St. Mary's Church, Wanstead, for the Anniversary Parade of the Granting of the Freedom of the Borough.
2. Officer Cadet R. Mallard, Sergeant G. Byrne, W.O.I (R.S.M.) N. Crossley, Sergeant R. G. Brown, with sports tophies presented at Camp.
3. Brigadier H. B. Jolly, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., presenting W.O.II W. A. J. Gostling with the T.A. Efficiency Medal.
4. The Commanding Officer with his team before the famous soccer match.
5. The Sergeant's Mess team complete with 100% reserves.
6. Brigadier (The Reverend) Charles Nettleship, O.B.E., examining a photograph taken in 1938 of his troop. Maior E. R. Hardy W.O.I (R.S.M.) N. Crossley and Staff Sergeant H. Doze are looking on.

47th REGIMENT
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

From the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., and the Regiment to our readers, and thanks to all those friends of the Regiment, in and outside the Corps, who have contributed to the success of our 1964 development programme—and what a success it was too, in all three aspects of operational efficiency—technical, administrative and manpower.

But there are bigger things planned for 1965. Watch this column for news, views and regular reports of progress.

66th REGIMENT (T.A.)

Cups of Tea, Exercises and a Fire Alarm

We omitted in our last notes to mention a little incident which occurred during camp. Three of our girls endeavoured to obtain three cups of tea in Sandes Home; they ordered "two with and one without," and were handed two cups of tea and an empty cup.—This we feel is quite "Irish."

Since camp we have indulged in a Regimental exercise, aptly named "Mouseplay," as our C.O. was away attending a nuclear course. We established perfect teleprinter and speech circuits over our rather antiquated 1+4's fed into a B70 radio relay chain. Traffic moved swiftly and efficiently at each signal centre and the C11 and D11 boys were kept on their toes at all times. The C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Congdon, was hard to convince that we had no hidden wires and that he really was speaking and printing over a radio relay link.

Two exciting experiences at our T.A. Centre. Firstly, the erection, by Captain Douglas, with the assistance of 146 Engineer Regiment (T.A.) of a robust 40ft. antenna mast. This formerly served a local farmer as a wind charger mast, and now, with its CUBICAL QUAD antenna, looks remarkably like a windmill.

The second excitement happened during an inadvertent fire alarm on a Sunday. The subsequent roll call provided O.C. H.Q. Squadron with the thrill of his life—for once he saw his entire Squadron on parade, including one Lance-Corporal complete with beard.

Recreation Abounds

Instituted within the Regiment recently has been a recreational evening, and organised are such things as car maintenance, table tennis, badminton, darts, bingo, judo, rifle range and ballroom dancing.

Sergeant Selwyn's wife has kindly given her services as the instructor of the dancing classes. However, after her first session, she felt that, judging by the efforts of her pupils, the only difference between her class and the judo was the music.

Corps Sports Results

Rugby

Royal Signals 9 points; Royal Artillery 37 points. At Bramcote on 10th November.

Royal Signals 14 points; Royal Engineers 14 points. At Chatham on 12th November.

Royal Signals 18 points; R.E.M.E. 9 points. At Aborfield on 14th November.

Royal Signals 15 points; Cambridge LX Club 36 points. At Cambridge on 31st November.

Hockey

Royal Signals 0; Royal Engineers 3. At home on 12th November.

Royal Signals 1; Royal Artillery 1. At Woolwich on 14th November.



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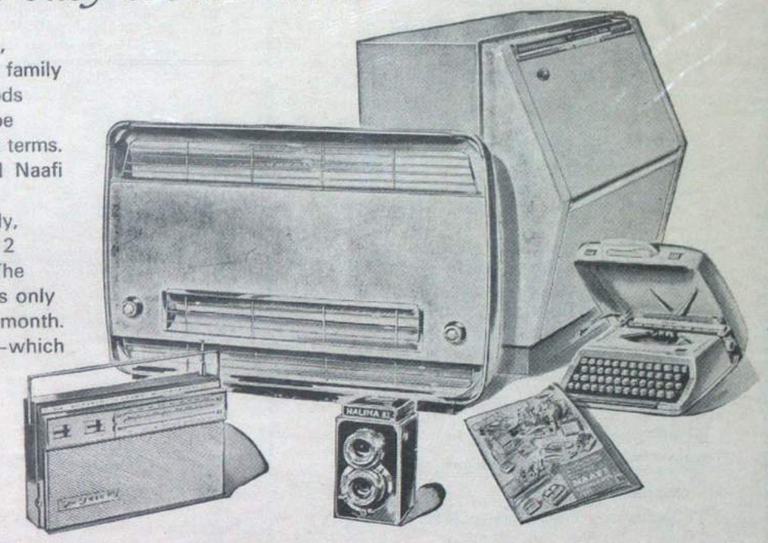
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Corps Soccer

Royal Signals in fine form

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY 3; *ROYAL SIGNALS* 4.

This game was played at Sheffield on Saturday, 14th November, and resulted in a win for the Corps XI by 4 goals to 3. Gordon, with 3 goals, and Tyler, both of 24th Regiment, scored for Royal Signals.

This was an interesting and well-balanced game, marred only by blustery weather, which often spoiled the development of good moves by both teams. At half-time Signals were one up, through a penalty goal scored by Gordon.

The University were quickly on the attack in the second half and notched two goals within the first ten minutes. Signals drew level through Gordon; the University went ahead again. The equalising goal came from Tyler afer a very good solo effort and a superb shot from outside the penalty box. Gordon, always a live wire, settled the issue in favour of Royal Signals about three minutes from time.

Two newcomers to Corps Soccer, Signalman Bonnett an ex-Junior Leader, and Signalman Hannah, a recruit, were played in this game, both giving a creditable performance. Bonnett, in goal, showed good positional play and a safe pair of hands; Hannah was played on the right wing—his natural position is either left wing or centre-forward—and showed an ability in ball control with a good sense of distribution.

ROYAL SIGNALS 9; *R.E.M.E.* 1.

Played at Catterick on Wednesday, 25th November, 1964, and resulted in a win for the Corps XI by 9 goals to 1.

An ideal day for the game, Signals were quickly in the lead through a well-taken goal by Clark, and from that moment the Corps team were the masters of the game. R.E.M.E.'s only goal came from a penalty early in the first half.

Clarke, the regular centre-forward last season, celebrated his return to the Corps XI by notching four goals; other goals came from Gordon (2), Tyler (2) and Forrester.

Under the captaincy of Lance-Corporal Forrester, the Corps XI have settled down to playing a high standard of soccer. Both he and Gordon are now regularly selected for the Army XI.

OTHER RESULTS:

Royal Signals 6; Hull University 0. At Catterick on December 5th.

Royal Signals 1; Newcastle University 1. At Catterick on December 12th.

Association

Catterick and District Branch. It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death of Mr. Syd Snaith in the Catterick Military Hospital on 28th November. Mr. Snaith—ex-S.Q.M.S., Royal Signals—was a keen and energetic member of the Corps for 22 years, seeing service in many lands, Singapore, Africa, Middle East, Dunkirk, Germany, etc., until 1960, when he was Regimental Branch Secretary of the 24th Regiment. He was a Life Member of the Association and of Catterick Branch.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during November, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
H.Q. Training Brigade, Royal Signals	1	0	0
11th Regiment	20	12	2
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	0	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	12	0
3rd Regiment (27 Unit Branch—proceeds of Tombola)	17	10	0
Royal Signals attached 46 Squadron R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.)		10	0
Signal Training Wing R.M.		5	0
205 Squadron	7	7	0
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	2	11	0
209 Squadron (Fête)	13	11	0
58th Regiment T.A. (Regimental 'At Home')	10	0	0
59th Regiment T.A.	1	1	0
2nd Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	1	3
7th Regiment	71	18	0
14th Regiment R.A. Signal Troop	2	10	0
21st Regiment (Proceeds of collection box)	12	0	0
21st Regiment (R.A.F. Laarbruch Fête)	50	0	0
225 Squadron (COMCAN),—Wives' Club	1	10	0
254 Squadron	25	11	0
H.Q. Allied Forces Northern Europe	1	8	0
Loughborough Branch	25	0	0
Colchester Community Fund (Carnival and Military Tattoo)	5	0	0
R.A. Range, Hebrides (Wives' Club)	36	17	6
12 Lt AD Regiment R.A., Malaya	2	10	4
Various individual donations	10	9	4
Receipts	£324	1	6
Expenditure during November, 1964 (Includes:—Rent and Rates, Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£485	11	4

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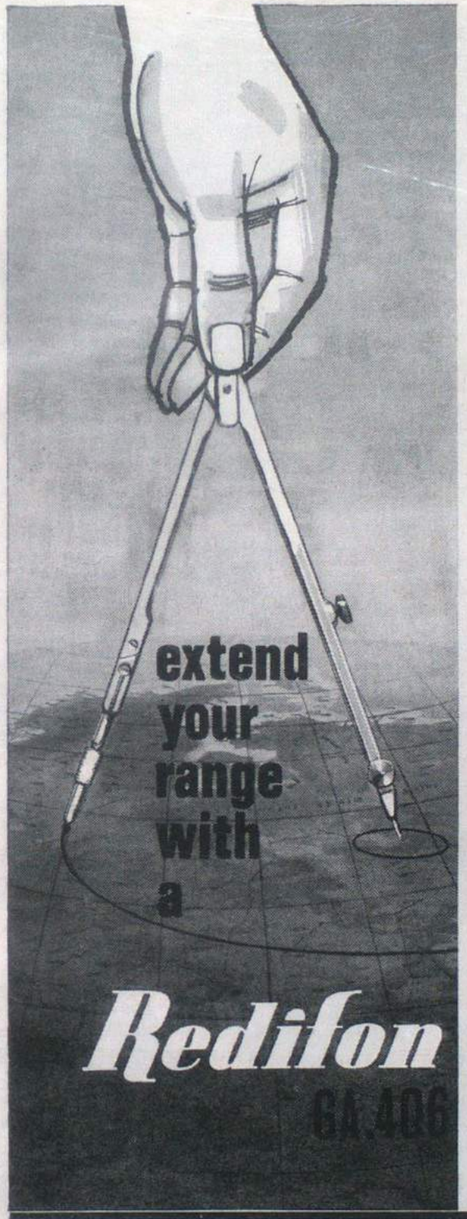
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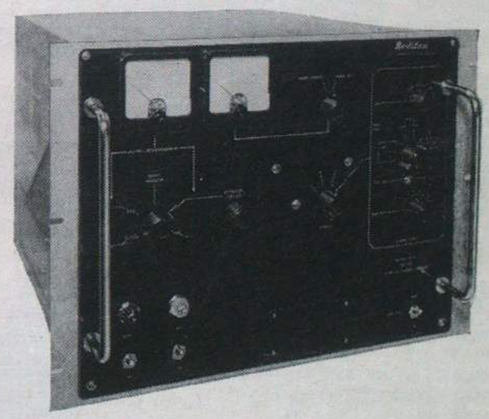
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

FEBRUARY-MARCH • 1965

Vol. 19 *(New Series)* **No. 2/3**

Editorial

It will be noted that the outer cover of this "Wire" shows the month as 'February/March 1965.'

This is in order to make an easy transition into designating next month's "Wire" as the 'April' "Wire." The reason for this change is as follows:—

At present "Wires" published and dispatched as unfortunately they have to be, in the middle of the month, bear the name of that month on the outer cover. This, it is felt, causes "The Wire" to suffer from a built-in illusion of staleness, by being designated with the name of a month of which several weeks will have elapsed before it even leaves the printers. This effect is accentuated by the time "The Wire" takes to reach its very many overseas readers. Therefore, from March 1965 onwards, "The Wire" will be designated with the name of the month after the one in which it is printed and distributed.

All will have heard with regret that Major-General F. J. Swainson has retired from his appointment as S.O.-in-C. Our best wishes go to him and Mrs. Swainson, and we hope that we shall frequently see both of them at various Corps functions. A tribute to Major-General Swainson appears on page 40 of this WIRE.

Major-General P. E. M. Bradley now takes up the duties of S.O.-in-C. He is the son of that well-known and popular pre-war officer, the late Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., and it will give pleasure to many to see the son following in his father's footsteps. General Bradley has had a distinguished Army career. Although very much a regimental soldier, he has nevertheless held a number of important staff appointments, and much of his service in recent years has been outside the Corps. Because of this, amongst other assets, he will undoubtedly bring to his duties an ability to see Corps problems in perspective and from the all arms user's point of view. We wish him every success in his important new duties.

* * *

The New Year's Honours List, extracts from which were published in the January WIRE, gave much pleasure, because of the number of senior N.C.O.s of the Corps who had been awarded the B.E.M.

It could be that this is indicative that the Warrant Officer and Sergeant is once again attaining that position of importance and influence which was so much a feature of the pre-war regular Corps. In recent years, a conscious effort has been made throughout the Corps to restore to the Warrant Officer and Sergeant the stature that his rank so fully merits. This stature, for a variety of reasons had tended to diminish in the post-war years. One pleasing and very worthwhile feature of this effort is the now well-established R.S.M.s' Convention, held annually under the auspices of the Training Brigade at Catterick, and taking place, this year, on the 1st/2nd March.

Should anyone doubt the importance of the pre-war senior N.C.O., let him read on page 41 the fine tribute paid by Major-General R. F. B. Naylor to Mr. G. Tibble. He was an outstanding example of a first-class Warrant Officer.

It is with pleasure, also, that we would direct our readers' attention to page 57, 21st Regiment notes. Here, we can read of the excellent qualities of Sergeant F. G. Holmonroyd, which won him such a well-deserved B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours.

The steady disappearance of large areas formally marked in red on the maps of the world, as more and more Commonwealth nations obtain independence, would suggest that the choice of overseas postings is being steadily restricted. Happily, at the present time, this would appear to be far from the case and long may it so continue. If anything, the Corps is more widely deployed now than ever before. Who would have thought some years ago, that in the 1960s we should find ourselves actively soldiering in the mountains of Southern Arabia, the jungles of Borneo or in the steamy heat of British Guiana, to mention but a few overseas postings.

Indicative of our widely spread Corps are the letters we receive from many parts of the world. For instance, it was interesting to hear from Major Keith Watts that he was commanding a Malaysian Signal Squadron at the "sharp end" of the confrontation in North Borneo. He speaks highly of the GR 410 which is used on his Brigade net and gives very good service under local conditions, as also does the A 41 which is most useful in the local river complex and from ship to shore. But perhaps one of the best letters we received was from Corporal P. J. Cadman of 633 Signal Troop in British Honduras. We are not quite sure whether Corporal Cadman is the senior Corps representative there but he ordered a number of copies of THE WIRE on behalf of his detachment, and requested that they be dispatched by airmail. When told that this would cost each recipient an extra 3s. 6d. per WIRE he was quick to reply that the Corps in British Honduras wanted their WIRES as fast as possible, and there would be no trouble over any extra airmail charge. Obviously, there is no lack of Corps spirit in British Honduras!

Lieutenant-Colonel B. J. Walker

Joe Walker's sudden death, on 19th December, at the age of 52, will come as a tragic shock to many, both in and outside the Corps.

Joe was commissioned from "the Shop" in 1932, and began his service in the Western Desert with Tank Brigade Signals, the forerunners of the famous Desert Rats. He continued his association with Armoured Signals on his return to U.K. in 1940, when he joined 2nd Armoured Divisional Signals, eventually returning to the Western Desert with 23 Army Tank Brigade, in 1942.

After a spell in the Alamein Line, Joe left the desert for a spell of duty in Syria, where he eventually commanded 31st Indian Armoured Divisional Signals. Later, his three years in command of a T.A. unit brought him many friends in the Reserve Army and undoubtedly gave him the great understanding which he showed in dealing with T.A. problems during his final appointment as a retired officer with H.Q., London District.

He will be missed by many, most of all, perhaps, by those in the metropolis, where he spent the last seven years of his life. His indomitable spirit and persistent cheerfulness has left an indellible memory with his innumerable friends.

The sympathy of the whole Corps goes out to his widow at his sudden and tragic passing.

Captain (T.M.O.) S. A. Bygrave

Many will be sad to hear of the death, after a short illness, of Captain Stanley Bygrave, on 7th January, 1964, aged 62 years. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1919, and transfered to the Corps on its formation. He served in India for 12 years prior to the Second World War, and during the war he was present at Dunkirk and the fall of Singapore. He spent nearly four years in Japanese hands. He retired in 1947.

Stan Bygrave was a much loved member of the Corps and was particularly well-known by the many who served in India. He was a stalwart character, and a great supporter of the Corps, to which he was utterly devoted. As well as being a Life Member of the Association, he was a regular attender at the Catterick reunion. His son, Captain Mike Bygrave, is currently serving as a regular officer in the Corps, and to him and to his mother, the sincere condolences of the very many friends of the Bygrave family will go.

Sir Winston Churchill

K.G., O.M., C.H.

For all that he was and did, the Corps is truly grateful. He has an especial memory for us.

* * *

GEORGE R.I.

WHEREAS WE deem it expedient to authorise the formation of a Corps to be entitled "Corps of Signals";

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE IS that the Corps of Signals shall be deemed to be a Corps for the purpose of the Army Act, and that the words "Corps of Signals" shall be inserted in Our Warrant of 7th July, 1916, defining the expression "Corps."

OUR FURTHER WILL AND PLEASURE IS that the rates of pay for officers, warrant officers, non commissioned officers and men of the Corps of Signals shall be as provided in the Schedule attached to this our Warrant.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, this 28th day of June, 1920, in the 11th year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

* * *

Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandent, 1965, writes:

"Our Royal Corps was privileged to have its representatives stand watch at the Lying-in-State in Westminster Hall, and I went to pay homage to that Great Man on behalf of those of you who were unable to do so. Normally one like's to keep one's thoughts very much to oneself on such occasions, but this was one in which we should rightly all share.

Most impressive to my wife and myself was the beautiful simplicity of such a magnificent scene. The vast, well-proportioned, but cold Hall of Westminster seemed almost empty, with the simple, colourful, catafalque in the centre, guarded by four motionless officers of Royal Signals resting on their swords reversed, one at each corner of the dais, heads bowed. Our thoughts of Sir Winston, in all his roles, of all that he had done and achieved, and of all that we owed him, filled our minds and eyes. There was no sound to be heard.

We walked slowly down the steps from the private entrance in the Great Hall, filed past the flag-draped coffin and out into the snow. It was only later that we realised that two long, never-ending lines of people were paying their respects in the same way; that we were among a multitude of people being carefully, silently, controlled and guided by smart policemen and policewomen, who yet never seemed to move or speak; that the Signals Officers on guard were impeccable in their scarlet sashes on blue uniforms, silver sword scabbards hanging from gold and black slings, downpointed swords catching the light.

We felt privileged and impressed, but very humble. Although tears came to my eyes, I did not feel sad, but a strong emotion which made we thank God."

Editor's Note.—The officers who represented Royal Signals were: Major P. F. W. Gahan, Major W. G. A. Cathcart, Captain J. H. T. Nealon, Major F. P. Stewart, M.B.E., Major D. A. Polley, Major P. A. Wing.

Important

The Corps "At Home" and Old Comrades' Reunion will take place at Catterick Camp on 26th/27th June.

The A.G.M. of the Royal Signals Association will be held at 12.00 hours on 27th June.

The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

Memorial Service to Major-General Sir W. Ronald Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Friday, 15th January, 1965.

SCENE of previous memorial services to our Colonels Commandant, the Savoy Chapel was filled, and some fifty heard the service indirectly in the annexe. For obvious reasons, those grown old in service to the Corps were in the majority; there was, however, a leaven of those still in uniform. As so well said, previously, his friends were of all ranks from Signalmen upwards. It is not suitable in THE WIRE to attempt to list all those who came to pay their last duty to a very great Signal Officer. A fuller list will appear in the next issue of the Journal.

Her Royal Highness, our Colonel-in-Chief, was represented by the Master of Signals, who was accompanied by Lady Scott.

Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was represented by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E. (Representative Colonel Commandant).

Field-Marshal The Earl Alexander of Tunis was represented by Mr. R. C. Wolverson, Irish Guards.

Lieutenant-General Lord Norrie (S.S.A.F.A., Berkshire); Major-General Sir Maurice Dowse (Officers' Families Fund); Sir Clive Loehnis (G.C.H.Q.); Captain R. F. T. Stannard (L.C.S.A.); Major-General H. J. Mogg (R.M.A.S.); Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Dalrymple (Army Rugby Union); Mrs. Seary-Mercer (S.S.A.F.A. Council), and Major F. T. Huskisson (Duke of Wellington's Regiment) were among those representing his many interests outside the Corps.

His heart was always with his Corps and the Association. Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson headed a number of Headquarters' staff. Colonel F. E. B. Jones represented the Birmingham Branch; Captain D. T. Hunneyball and Brigadier H. R. Firth the Croydon Branch; Colonel T. W. Vigers, the London Branch, as did Colonel G. H. Shrimpton.

The service, conducted by the Rev. R. L. Roberts, M.A., was traditional. THE WIRE is privileged to reprint therefrom:

"Let us thank God for the life and work of his servant, WILLIAM RONALD CAMPBELL PENNEY, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Holder of the Military Cross.

For his devotion to the service of his Sovereign and his Country.

For his work for the Royal Corps of Signals and for Service Charities.

For the many blessings which his life has brought to all who have come into contact with him.

For his constant example in inspiring the best in his fellow men.

For this we thank God."

A Fine Family Record

SERGEANT J. McC. MAY, who is serving in the Corps, has three sons also serving in the Corps. A fourth son hopes to transfer from the Infantry into the Corps. The fifth is still too young to sign on but he plans to join his father and brothers at the end of 1965.

Can any family beat this?

YEOMAN J. ATKINS

Yeoman Joe Atkins, of H.M. The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard has been appointed Divisional Sergeant-Major, with effect from 1st January, 1965. He has been in the Queen's Bodyguard for 18 years.



VALE

Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E.
Signal Officer-in-Chief, 1962-65

FREDERICK Joseph Swainson (Eric) born in 1910, the son of A. Swainson, Esq., of Wallasey, Cheshire, was educated at Oldershaw Grammar School. He enlisted in Royal Signals in 1932 and was a Sergeant when war broke out in 1939.

Commissioned in 1941, his ability was quickly put to the test by his appointment, the same year, as Adjutant, 5 Command Signals. His promotion to Major, in 1943, came with his posting to 16 Air Formation Signals, with which unit he served in France and Germany. On conclusion of hostilities in Europe he joined 6th Indian Air Formation Signals in Burma, and late in 1945 he became an acting Lieutenant-Colonel, first in command of 19 Air Formation Signals and latterly as GSO1 to CAFSO Air Command South East Asia.

After attending the Staff College at Camberley, he joined the Staff and was, in turn, GSO 2 Signals, Hanover District, and DAAG, Hamburg District.

He returned to regimental duty as second-in-command of 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment in Germany in 1950. By this time his outstanding personality began to tell, and in 1951 he was selected to command 5 Corps Signals as a temporary Lieutenant-Colonel. In 1954 he was accelerated to substantive rank and assumed command of 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment in Egypt, commanding this regiment through the Suez operations.

He returned to England in 1957 to become Commandant of the Signal Wing, School of Infantry. He was promoted out of this appointment after a year and joined the M.I. directorate as a Colonel.

In 1960 he was appointed C.S.O., FARELF, with the rank of Brigadier, and in 1962 he became Signal Officer-in-Chief, thus reaching Major-General in 21 years' commissioned service.

As a commanding officer, Eric gave the impression of a four-square, honest, forthright and energetic leader. From his subordinates he accepted only the highest standards and the maximum of effort. In return he gave leadership, support, understanding and unstinted self devotion. Off duty he relaxed, and his cheerful personality produced the happiest relationships, both within the regiment and with the staff who came to know and value their C.R. Signals. Plainly, he knew what had to be achieved and how it could be achieved, and clearly he intended to see it carried through to a successful conclusion.

During his tenure as Signal Officer-in-Chief, he has seen the image of the Corps improve in the eyes of the Army and, in fact, the three Services. This is due to his insistence on high standards of communicating, good planning to make it possible for Signals needs to be met world-wide, despite shortages of men. His understanding of the human element has led to high morale, which has been reflected by the high esteem in which the Corps is now held, with the resultant attraction of good young officers, and sufficient recruits to bring us up to strength. The adjustment of the manpower by trades is progressing well.

The plans he has laid will take some years to come to fruition, but his contribution will benefit the Corps for a long time to come.

His standards are high, and he is sometimes hard to please. Despite these forthright characteristics, he has been well loved by his subordinates who, as always react to fairness, complete honesty and sincerity.

In 1938, he married Agnes, daughter of T. F. R. K. Hendrie, Esq., of Maybole, Ayrshire. "Pip," as she is called is a grand partner for Eric, and their retirement from active service is sincerely regretted by the hundreds who regard them as great friends. One good thing—their son, Richard, after doing well at Sandhurst, has now joined the Corps.

All ranks will wish General and Mrs. Swainson a long and happy retirement.

No. 372 Mr. George Tibble, B.E.M., D.C.M.

Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., writes:—

"Having had the privilege of serving with the late George Tibble from 1913 to 1915, when I was a junior subaltern and he the C.S.M. of 5 Div. Signal Company R.E., I feel I must enlarge on the tribute paid to him in the December issue of THE WIRE.

George Tibble enlisted as a boy into the Royal Engineers in 1896. From 1899 to 1902 he served with the Telegraph Division R.E. in the Boer War, receiving the Queen's Medal with five Bars and the King's Medal.

From 1902 to 1912 he served with various Telegraph Companies, and in 1912 was posted, on its formation, to the 5th Divisional Signal Company R.E. which was shortly to be established at Carlow, in Ireland. This unit was composed of a mixture of Royal Engineers and Infantry men, and its welding into a homogeneous and happy unit depended much on the quality of its C.O. and C.S.M.

When I joined it as a Lieutenant of the South Staffordshire Regiment in 1912, I was at first detached from its H.Q. as O.C. 15th Infantry Brigade Signal Section at Belfast, but after a few months moved to Carlow to join the H.Q. of the unit.

Tibble was the ideal man to be C.S.M. at the birth of such a mixed unit. Although he was a strict disciplinarian, he had just the touch required to achieve his ends by tact and leadership. He expected the high standard which he himself displayed; and when the unit mobilized and proceeded to France in August 1914, it was in splendid shape. During the testing days of Mons, Le Cateau, the retreat and subsequent advance, Tibble proved himself to be as good in war as he had been in peace.

By then I was commanding the Cable Section at Divisional H.Q., and I well remember his calmness under all circumstances, and the splendid example he gave at all times by his bearing and imperturbability. For his services during this period he was Mentioned in Despatches, and awarded the French Medaille Militaire.

When fighting stabilized on the Aisne, and during the battles of Le Bassee and First Ypres, the strain and stresses arising from warfare and the mud of Flanders called for much improvisation and placed a heavy demand on the discipline and efficiency of the unit. Again, Tibble never faltered in his handling of the many problems that confronted him, and continued to be an absolute outstanding and much beloved C.S.M.

In August 1915, I left the unit to take over command of the newly raised 24 Divisional Signal Company, about to take part in its first engagement at the Battle of Loos; and I took with me a very good idea of what I wanted of my new C.S.M.

Tibble was the first to be asked if he wished his name sending in for a Commission, but he decided he would sooner carry on as a W.O.

After I left the unit, he was posted to 4 Corps Signal Company as R.S.M. Subsequently I fancy he served as R.S.M. with one of the Army H.Q. In 1916 he was awarded the D.C.M., and in 1917 the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

In 1923 he was discharged with the rank of R.S.M., and in July joined Southern Command Signal Company as a civilian. In 1939 he re-enlisted at the age of 59 with the Corps, and served throughout the war in the S.E. Command and in Aldershot till 1949, when he finally retired.

For his services during the war he was awarded the S.E. Command Certificate for services rendered, and in 1946 the British Empire Medal. He served either as a soldier or civilian with R.E. Signals and the Corps for a total of 53 years. A splendid record, which can surely not have been surpassed in the annals of the Corps. Our sympathy must go to his devoted widow, to whom he had been married for nearly 60 years.

Royal Signals List

It is of interest to note that, as well as officers, the names of all serving W.O.s I will be included in the Royal Corps of Signals' List with effect from February, 1965.

This list is published in February, June and October annually, and ean be ordered from the Royal Signals Association, price 7/- a copy, or 18/- per annum.

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Radio Relay Technician	Class II to I	17th Aug., 1965
Radio Relay Man	Class II to I	31st Aug., 1965
Lineman	Class II to I	10th Aug., 1965
Cipher Operator	Class II to I	24th Aug., 1965
Telegraph Technician	Class III to II	17th Aug., 1965
Radio Relay Technician	Class III to II	24th Aug., 1965
Electrician Driver	Class III to II	17th Aug., 1965

The Radio Technicians (Light) Upgrading Course, Class II to I, scheduled for the 11th May has been cancelled.

Vacancies
at Government Communications Headquarters

A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects, exist for:-

CYPHER and TELEPRINTER OPERATORS (male and female)
Training given

Write, giving details of Education, Qualifications and Experience to:

Recruitment Officer (CY.0/4) A Block, Government Communications Headquarters,
Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.



3rd and 30th Signal Regiments

Communication Centres Built! Easy Terms! Demonstrations Arranged!

The Job

IT was Thursday, 19th November, when the Officers Commanding 3rd and 30th Regiments were summoned to that famous Whitehall building. The one burnt by the African sun, the other, paler, fiercely remembering the leave in Italy he had just missed. It was an amicable meeting. Directed forcefully by D Tels, the jobs fell like ripe plums into the laps of those around the table.

O.C. 30th Regiment, assisted by 3rd Regiment, the School of Signals and anyone else he cared to name was:

(a) To build a Bruin-type Divisional Comcen.

(b) To train technicians to run it.

(c) To build four outstations with enough equipment to represent a Corps Comcen, a Divisional H.Q. and two Brigade H.Q.s.

This in itself seemed not too difficult a job, after all, everyone knows that 30th Regiment, or at least 1 Squadron, is geared to do this sort of thing. But when told that the whole boiling had to be presented as a going concern and demonstrated, on foreign ground, to the Oddling Committee in precisely SEVENTEEN days' time, O.C. 30th Regiment went a little paler. This period of seventeen days included three week-ends.

Organisation and Method

The radio relay troop of 3rd Regiment (until a few weeks before the radio relay troop 640 Troop, 30th Regiment) and the much discussed Creed Tape Relay Vehicle, with crew, from the School of Signals, assembled at Blandford some 48 hours after the alarm had been sounded. Thereafter it was simply a matter of getting the prototype Bruin V.F. vehicle, complete with its TTVF 4/12s, from Park Royal, acquiring one of those much disccused but never seen 40/160 manual switchboards from G.E.C. at Coventry, a 20 + 5 Bruin Brigade-type auto exchange from A.T. & E. at Liverpool, and high-jacking on the high seas half-a-dozen Lorenz converters en route from 7th Regiment. A certain officer, who shall be nameless, was heard to remark that he had not expected to see these d—n things quite so soon again.

While all this was going on the first vehicle had been completed. System control, equipped with TJFs, 4 by 1 + 4 No. 3 (I have forgotten for the moment where these came from), Test sets Line No. 1 and all internal cabling, not to mention miles of angle iron welded as only L.A.D. can do it—all from an unfitted 3 ton signals to a tailor made job in five days flat!

Now you do not, of course, work at this speed without improvisation and tremendous outside help. Donnington came into its fair share of "can you let us have two of this and three of that" and how well they responded. As I said before, in this seventeen days there were three weekends, and as everybody knows official telephones are not answered at weekends in Depots. But if there is a Squadron Commander at your end who is a 'ham' and an obliging Q.M. at the other who also listens out, it's amazing, in an emergency, what you can organise on Sunday for collection at 09.00 hours on Monday.

Fortunately, in some ways, as most of the equipment could not be collected until the second week the M.T.O. was able with his most efficient spray gun team to turn old vehicles into new overnight, and that is a literal statement.

The Bombshell

While life was hectic at Blandford, things were going at a quieter pace in Bulford. That is until the bombshell dropped some seven days before the demonstration, when O.C. 3rd Regiment was told to produce as an adjunct to a working communication system, a full Divisional M tp, first 1965 pattern, second 1967 pattern, complete with equipment and the correct trades. If you think this simple, you try finding E Techs in a hurry. Equipment is not too difficult, if you know what it is supposed to be, because once it has been located you can collect it—"E Techs is more difficult."

Minor Problems

There was some minor technical problems, naturally. I think the experts talk of compatibility of equipment. I can assure you the emphasis is on Incompatibility. The School of Signals TRV uses Creed equipment, double current signalling in other words. The TTVF 4/12 uses no current at all, it simply requires dry contacts to open and close. It has its own signalling voltage generator locked deep inside. This as you can see is a simple equipment, since you cannot make a mistake over A and B legs—all wires are A legs!

There was no real problem in making these two equipments work together. Modified Lorenz converters, mounted alongside the TTVFs, were used as an interface.

Greater problems arise when you wish to use a TDMS No. 2, to test in each direction. T.O.T.s, F. of S.s, and 'aspiring' technicians are invited to send their solutions to 30th Regiment. No prizes, but it's an interesting exercise. By this time you will realise that the telegraph side was 'arranged' to work. This however was mere child's play. The real problem was not revealed until we tried making a four-wire TTVF operate into a three-wire 1 + 4 No. 3. This is incompatibility of the highest order and our solution is not for publication. We did make them work, in the end.

The Demonstration

On Monday the 7th December on an Aldershot heath, miles from home, the presentation and demonstration was made to the Oddling Committee. It was successful. Need I say more.

DEMONSTRATION FOR ODDLING COMMITTEE HELD AT BLANDFORD

Latest Equipment on Display

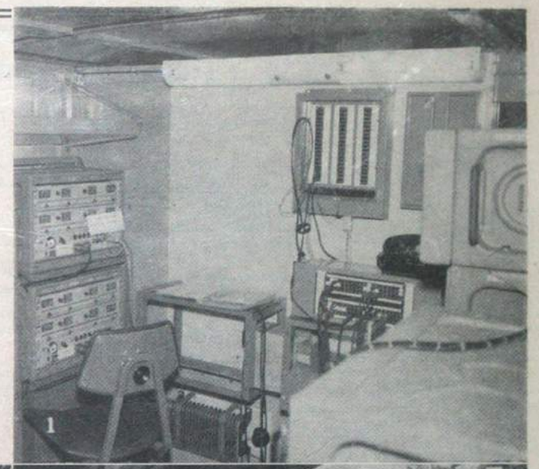
1. The technician's end of the Bruin V.F. vehicle. T.T.V. 4/12 on view.

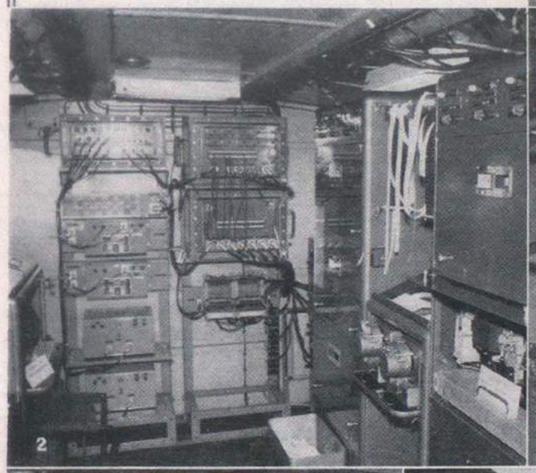
2. The shape of things to come for operators The interior T.R.V.

3. The innards of a 20+5 Auto Exchange. It all goes into a one ton vehicle.

4. The 40/160 Manual Switchboard in a one ton vehicle.

5. The system controller—hard at it.


1


2


3


4


5

Personal Column

London Gazette

REGULAR

Lt. D. J. Walden from Short Serv. Comm. to be 2/Lt., 24th Sept., 1964.
2/Lt. S. Cowan from Short Serv. Comm. to be 2/Lt., 24th Sept., 1964.
Lt. (T.O.T.) H. Stevenson to be Capt. (T.O.T.) 10th Dec., 1964.
Maj. L. J. Brunnen retires 15th Dec., 1964.
Maj. B. E. Sykes retires 8th Dec., 1964.
Capt. J. W. Walmsley resigns his comm., 30th Nov., 1964.
Maj. (Q.M.) E. W. G. Cole retires 5th Dec., 1964.
Maj. A. W. Fisk is placed on retired pay, 1st Jan., 1965.
Capt. (Tfc. Offr.) A. F. Hounson to be Maj. (Tfc. Offr.) 19th Dec., 1964.
Lt. A. S. Cheal to be Capt., 26th Dec., 1964.
Capt. C. S. Tyson to be Maj., 6th Jan., 1965.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

2/Lt. G. D. Rates to be Lt., 7th Dec., 1964.
W.O.I W. R. S. Kennedy to be Lt. (Tfc. Offr.), 16th Nov., 1964.
Capt. E. P. Bullard relinquishes his comm. on completion of service, 16th Dec., 1964.
O/Cdt. W. J. Hodson to be 2/Lt., 17th Oct., 1964.
O/Cdt. B. H. Rowe to be 2/Lt., 17th Oct., 1964.
Maj. (Q.M.) Hodgson relinquishes his comm., 1st Jan. 1965.
W.O.I A. V. K. Ward to be Lt. (Q.M.) 1st Dec., 1964.
Capt. F. E. G. Barlow relinquishes his comm., 6th Jan., 1965.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt.-Col. S. Rata, E.R.D., to be Bt. Col., 6th Dec., 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Maj. K. D. Adcock, T.D., to be Lt.-Col., 1st Oct., 1964.
Lt.-Col. & Bt. Col. E. W. Milner, O.B.E., T.D., is granted the acting rank of Col., 1st May, 1964.

Births

ASHWORTH.—To Lance-Corporal Ashworth, of 2nd Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment and Mrs. Ashworth, on 21st December, 1964, a son.

GRATTON.—To Corporal Gratton, of 2nd Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment, and Mrs. Gratton, on 27th November, 1964, a son.

Marriages

PATMORE—KUHNERT.—Lance-Corporal Patmore, of 2nd Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment, on 3rd November, to Ursula Dorothea Kuhnert.

SCULLY—FLINN.—Signalman Scully, of 2nd Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment, on 19th December, to Caroline Ann Flinn.

Deaths

KINGDON.—Ex-W.O.II W. J. Kingdon, on 31st December. He served with the Corps from 1932-1949 and was a Life Member of the Association. He leaves a widow and one daughter, to whom great sympathy is expressed.

CRAIG.—Ex-Lt. (Q.M.) Craig, on 2nd October, one of Her Majesty's Yeomen of the Guard, a Yeoman of the Queen's Bodyguard. He was a Life Member of the Association. No. 134.

BUTTLE.—On 7th January, 1965, Major W. H. Buttle M.M., Royal Signals, 1910 to 1954. Sincere condolences to Mrs. Buttle, 3, Heathfield Close, West Worthing.

HOUSE.—On 23rd January, Major H. J. House, 1921-1946. P.A. to S.O.s-in-C., India.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

February, 1965

W.O.I D. G. Newton ... ... To 63rd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.I W. J. M. Gahan ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II R. G. Wood ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
W.O.II L. A. Devine-Jones ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
W.O.II J. Packwood ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II A. Burns ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
W.O.II J. E. Snell ... ... ,, 208 Squadron
W.O.II D. A. Jones ... ... ,, 48th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II A. J. Simpson ... ... ,, 229 Squadron
W.O.II I. P. Windebank ... ... ,, 206 Squadron
W.O.II L. F. C. Curtis ... ... ,, H.Q. Northag
W.O.II D. J. Lane ... ... ,, Fed. Armed Force of Malaysia
W.O.II R. Staniford ... ... ,, Fed. Armed Force of Malaysia
Staff Sergeant K. C. Howard ... ... ,, 4th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. M. Sanderson ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. Dunne ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Hehir ... ... ,, 604 Troop
Staff Sergeant A. A. Murray ... ... ,, All Arms Jun. Leaders Regt.
Staff Sergeant W. K. L. Bell ... ,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Duffy ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. Moran ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. Gill ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. A. Cull ... ... ,, Army Air Corps Centre
Sergeant M. J. Millichip ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant K. Maidment ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant D. T. Meeson ... ... ,, Brit. Gurkhas L. of C. India and Nepal
Sergeant T. J. Everett ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant D. G. Goodwin ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant R. C. Kelly ... ... ,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant D. Sugden ... ... ,, Det., 19th Regiment
Sergeant D. G. Layton ... ... ,, 3 R. Tank Regt., Sig. Tp
Sergeant R. H. Foster ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
A/Sergeant G. M. Rose ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant R. K. Millar ... ... ,, 244 Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Short ... ... ,, RHG Sig. Troop
Sergeant R. McGrath ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant J. Steele ... ... ,, 607 Troop
A/Sergeant A. K. Boothroyd ... ... ,, 44th Regiment (T.A.)
A/Sergeant R. Newton ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant G. F. Hutton ... ... ,, 224 Squadron
Sergeant K. Hornblower ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant H. D. Needs ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant J. C. Bree ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant I. R. Holmes ... ... ,, AAS Harrogate
Sergeant A. D. Bermingham ... ... ,, Mons OCS
Sergeant P. J. Freeston ... ... ,, Jun. Tradesmen's Regt., Troon
Sergeant C. A. Coultish ... ... ,, 259 Squadron
Sergeant S. Saunders ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant P. M. Sneddon ... ... ,, 205 Squadron
A/Sergeant R. Watson ... ... ,, 244 Squadron
Sergeant C. V. Forth ... ... ,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant H. Jennings ... ... ,, 30 Missile Regt. R.A., Sig. Tp
Sergeant K. Sloane ... ... ,, H.Q. 11 Infantry Brigade Group and Sig. Squadron
Sergeant A. J. Carroll ... ... ,, 17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Sergeant M. A. White ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant T. Collins ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant B. R. Barnes ... ... ,, 9th Regiment

Promotions

(December, 1964)

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To W.O.I	14444658	A/W.O.I	Young, C.	630	520
	24540676	A/W.O.I	Bulloch, R. R.	640	570

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	2547752	A/W.O.I	Reid, R.	280	290
To W.O.II	22242661	S Sgt.	Souter, A. R.	1010	480
	23666171	S Sgt.	Smith, C. A.	1020	1010

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To S Sgt.	23123254	Sgt.	Manson, R. H.	1050	1620 (Ad)
	23227699	Sgt.	Stroud, J. E.	1060	1360 (Ad)

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23241373	Cpl.	Muir, D. H.	4515	2330
	23533084	Cpl.	Shrives, D.	4850	11141
	23661589	Cpl.	Keohane, A.	4855	8208
	22983645	Cpl.	Cawte, M. J.	4860	7310
	23507114	Cpl.	Maiden, P. J. B.	4870	10418
	23473167	Cpl.	Ling, R. W.	4875	8318
	23472057	Cpl.	Walker, H. D.	4880	7240
	23533424	Cpl.	Muir, G. S.	4890	11868
	22290598	Cpl.	Wills, J.	4900	8418
	23698338	Cpl.	Payne, D. W.	4920	8490
	23701239	Cpl.	Carr, W. D.	4935	9335
	22713999	Cpl.	Limb, R. M.	4940	9185

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	23471326		Messenger, I. M.	2740	3350
	23257756		Salt, H. D.	2790	1464
	23142077		Barnes, B. R.	2800	3344
	23473061		Donovan, F. T.	2810	3604

INSERTIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To S Sgt.	22309517	S Sgt.	Clark, F. J.	384	510 (Tec)

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To S Sgt.	22539162	S Sgt.	Berry, J.	260	670 (CC)

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.II 1680

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.I 390
W.O.II 1200

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

S Sgt. 670

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt. 1180

AMENDMENTS

TO PROMOTION DETAILS IN JANUARY WIRE

For "To W.O.I" in respect of 21128237 A/W.O.II Laing, J.D., read "To W.O.II."

For "Regimental Duty Roster" in respect of 14759394 A/W.O.I Bees read "Yeoman of Signals Roster."

Demonstrating the A13

By Staff Sergeant (F of S) J. H. Lawrence

STAFF Sergeant Lawrence describes an unusual job that came his way—demonstrating a new wireless set to troops on the ground. The team of which he was a member, visited the Far East operational areas, as well as Aden on the way home. Of particular interest is the very mixed composition of this team, which demonstrates how much everybody is concerned with signalling these days.

The Team forms up

The object of this tour was to demonstrate and prove the A.13 to units in the Far East under operational conditions. It was an afterthought that two members of the team returned via Aden. Royal Signals contributed two members of the team, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. H. Lawrence being "borrowed" from 243 Squadron, and Sergeant H. C. Stickley, who came from the sponsor unit, 30th Regiment. Together with Sergeant A. Jones, R.E.M.E., we were trained at S.R.D.E. and had two days at the manufacturers in Ilford. (Their lunches are recommended). The signals element was primarily trained to teach the operation of the set, whilst Bob Jones was to do any repairs necessary. It can truthfully be said that Bob had a good rest. Two days before our departure for FARELF two important things happened. At two days' notice, Captain A. P. Wright, 1st Foresters, joined the team, straight from his honeymoon, and somebody asked "Do we need passports?" And so, on 12th August, we departed from London Airport for Singapore.

Major K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E., who is Second-in-Command of 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment, took charge of the team for the two months it was in FARELF. Major (then Captain) W. R. Meadows, M.B.E., R.E.M.E., from S.R.D.E., joined the team for a month. Sergeant Stripp, Royal Marines, and Corporal Donnison, Royal Australian Signals, together with four from Gurkha Signals, Corporal Dilbahadur Ale, Lance-Corporal Purnaman Rai, Signalman Padambadadur Rai and Signalman Panchabahadur Rai, joined the team in Singapore as operators.

Odd happenings

The team gave demonstrations to headquarters staff wherever they went, and carried out a few trials, but the main task was to train regimental operators on the equipment and then let them use and report on it. This entailed travelling around Malaya, Borneo and Brunei by various means. To give a diary of events and moves would bore, but odd happenings may interest or amuse the reader. In Brunei Town, Major Meadows' promotion was celebrated in the accustomed manner; communications being poor the following morning. It was in Brunei that Captain Wright did a drop test of the equipment. It beat him down some longhouse steps; the set was all right! It was marvellous that wherever we travelled Corporal Donnison always had some friends. We thought that he was beaten when we visited the Royal Ulster Rifles, until it was discovered that they had recently been training in Australia and wished to return hospitality. They were, in fact, the only British Battalion visited. It was one of R.U.R. senior N.C.O.s who was just entering a cubicle when a neighbour called out "Watch out, there's a snake in the roof." Prompt reply: "Don't come the old soldier with me, I know there's not a . . . help!" There was!

Generally, the weather was kind, but Kuching welcomed us with a storm. The co-pilot landed the Argosy while the pilot complete with fitted parachute, stood by the door muttering 'I'm going to get the . . . out of it!" Corporal Dilbahadur looker greener than usual. Incidentally, he paid more visits than the foreman (243 please note). Needless to say, we had our "ups" and "downs." It was on this trip that Major Andrews lost his suitcase; his orderly, Signalman Khakabahadur Thapa, had a long face for days. With borrowed kit, Major Andrews carried on, one shoulder title reading "ROYAL SIGRALS."

Shot at in the Radfan

By mid-October the team had dispersed, except the Royal Signals seniors, who went on to Aden with the equipment. The monotony of the flight was broken by election results being passed around by the crew. Major Meadows flew out from U.K. to take command of the team in Aden. Corporal Baldock and Signalman Selkirk, from 254 Squadron, Corporal Bailey and Signalman Helliwell, from 603 Troop, and Corporal Allen and Marine Churchill, from 45 Commando, were the operators loaned to us for the fortnight in Aden. The work aspect was similar to that in FARELF. One member of the team was shot at by dissidents in the Radfan area, but otherwise our stay had no great incident. There is no truth in the story that the Colonial Secretary went over to apologise.

A Heetic Experience and towed in at London Airport

The whole tour was a hectic experience, consisting of packing and unpacking, it seemed. It appeared that Bob Jones had more test equipment than we had wireless sets. Three facts were brought to light. Do you know that the issue suitcase consumes ten pounds of the sixty-pound baggage allowance? Did you know that "passengers are requested not to interfere with the women on the aircraft, as this could affect the pressurisation." (A red-faced stewardess hastily corrected this to "window"). Did you know that it's very embarrassing to mis-tune your set with a Brigadier and his staff watching. (The culprit wishes to remain anonymous, and in Malaya).

We appreciate that a lot of work is required to organise this sort of job, and our thanks go to all those units who accommodated or helped us in any way. We were made most welcome in all the messes.

The return flight provided the last incident worth mentioning. On landing at Gatwick, the nosewheel wouldn't steer and we stopped on the main runway for fifteen minutes waiting for a tow. And so back to our units. Harry Stickley says he would volunteer for another job like this. Could it be because he's a bachelor or that he wants that lens for his camera? All Jim Lawrence got was a cold and tels inspection!

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CLOSE TO NATURE IN NORWAY

By W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. W. Palmer

WE were grateful to R.S.M. C. W. Palmer for his amusing and interesting description of a 10-day canoe trip down the Rhine which we featured in the September 1964 "Wire."

We are glad to be able to print below, written in his own inimitable style, an account of the adventures and ordeals he underwent during an outward bound course at the 1 (Br) Corps Outward Bound Centre in Norway.

"In sports and journeys men are known."
(Old English proverb)

A common failing of the human male is an inflated idea of his own physical prowess. Sooner or later the day arrives when the body and mind differ in their opinions, and my day arrived on the 12th September, 1963; the place—1 (BR) Corps Outward Bound Centre in Norway.



The author, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. W. Palmer, at the time of his Course

In the spring of 1963 details of courses to be held at the Centre appeared in B.A.O.R. Orders; the syllabus would cover climbing, canoeing and other aspects of Adventure training. I had made the occasional trip by canoe in the U.K. on fine sunny Sunday afternoons and I had also viewed mountains from a distance. With these experiences behind me I considered myself highly suited for this type of training, and thought that in any case three weeks lazing in the sun would make a pleasant change from the eternal round of R.Q.M.S., a world of "We haven't got any," and "Sign the attached 1680," remarks that, in spite of my own feelings, I was forced to utter daily. I asked for a vacancy, and got one in September—late summer in Germany, early winter in Norway.

. . . An impression of a chimpanzee plagued with alcoholism . . .

On arrival at the port of Kristiansand we were met by a squad of tough looking individuals dressed in coloured sweaters. They ordered us into a bright blue Bedford truck which took us on the twenty-mile drive to the camp. On arrival we saw a collection of huts (not for our use it transpired), built on the shore of a chilly looking fjord; we debussed and were quickly split up into three patrols; this done, we were addressed by the Commandant. We were told that our working day would start at 06.00 hours and end at 20.00 hours, we would not be allowed to smoke. The address ended with the words that our training would start in ten minutes with tests to see if we were fit enough to carry out the course and that any soldier who failed to complete these tests would be immediately returned to his unit. The address over we were shown our accommodation, 160-lb. tents erected on a hillside at the top of 30 steps. After staggering to the top with our kit, we were soon chased down, clutching our towels and P.T. kit. We doubled to a launch and were taken fifty yards off-shore, where we were invited to jump into the fjord and swim. We all completed this test, and on shore we changed into our assorted collection of civilian garments and fell-in for our introduction to the rope assault course. We climbed, crawled and sweated for half an hour, each student giving his own impression of a chimpanzee plagued with alcoholism. Full of aches and pains, we were allowed to relax and contemplate our future in this Nordic paradise. We were then introduced to the messing arrangements, that is to say each patrol was given three days' supply of Compo and shown where to cook it. We detailed our own cooks and were able to spend the rest of the day getting organised.

. . . Very near to ruining a long and close friendship . . .

At 06.00 hours the following day our training started in earnest. We were awakened and given twenty-five minutes to wash and shave in the stream, and then dressed in our civilian wardrobes plus "cobbley-wobbley" boots. We fell-in at the bottom of the 39 steps, a brisk "Left turn, by the centre double march" saw us off at a vigorous gallop over the brow of a small mountain. Twenty minutes later we were halted and quickly introduced to the P.T. instructor's idea of a rest—"five press-ups, five squats, and five sit-ups"—these completed, we carried out an unguardsman-like right-turn and stumbled back to camp, a quick change into swimming trunks and 36 perspiring soldiery dived into the cooling waters of the fjord. Ten minutes later the same number of sullen brass monkeys crawled out, conversation impossible, due to chattering teeth and the noise of knees knocking together. Taking a firm grip on my wrist I looked at my watch and saw with a shock that it was only seven-thirty—my normal time for getting out of bed! This was to be our morning routine for the next seven days, with the length of time in the water and the length of the runs being increased daily. Breakfast followed, until eight-thirty when our elevated chalets were inspected by the Sergeant-Major; who awarded points for neatness, and such like, which were recorded and made part of the inter-patrol competition; my patrol came last every day, and C.S.M. Quinn of the Cameronians came very near to ruining a long and close friendship by allowing a little dirt to influence his judgment.

Each day at 08.45 hours we fell-in for training until 13.00 hours, had a break for lunch until 14.00 hours, and then more training until 16.30 hours. Half-an-hour for tea was followed by up to two hours on various competitions between patrols, or working on the patrol construction projects. By the end of the week I was able to classify as a Wheelbarrow Op B III and a Shovel Technician with a special aptitude for work in the dark.

A Patrol of Human Castanets

Training during the day consisted of lots of P.T. and more and more swimming; the P.T. classes were spent looking forward to the swimming, and the swimming periods saw us longing for the warmth of P.T. We did much canoeing. This was very similar to swimming except that we were given life-



The scenery was splendid but there was little time to admire it



The idyllic scene belies what is in fact a very chilly Norwegian fjord

jackets and were expected to push the canoe with one hand and carry the paddle in the other. We soon became skilled in the art of getting in and out of our canoe in deep water, and experts at capsizing on the sudden impulse of our instructors. Climbing progressed from a couple of lectures to scaling a one hundred and fifty foot rock face and back down again, everyone except the instructors being confident that they were budding "Joe Browns." The most popular training periods were First Aid and Map Reading. The former, being taken by "Geordie," the Medical Sergeant, were most amusing and did not require any physical effort. We also sat down for map reading, although we did have to double half a mile to the lecture hall. By far the most popular event in the daily training programme did not really have a mentionable name. We were required to lie in a freezing mountain stream for periods of up to fifteen minutes; these sessions made the swimming periods seem like hot baths and the result of the treatment was always the same—a patrol of human castanets crawling to the bank whispering "Golly" and "Jolly Hockey Sticks" (swearing, you see, like smoking, was banned at the Centre).

Our time of disgrace came on the trek race

Throughout the course we carried out patrol competitions. These were varied, exhausting and at times entertaining. Early in the course we had the log race, very similar to the one carried out at Aldershot for the Parachute Course, except that the Norwegian version has one or two extra refinements. After racing with our log for an Outward Bound Centre mile (between two and five British miles) we arrived at the edge of a cliff, the log was thrown over, and immediately followed by the breathless patrol mustering its last few puffs to inflate life jackets. Back in our familiar watery environment we were faced with a half mile (British) swim, with the log, to an island, where we hunted for a boat, loaded our log and raced for the camp. My patrol came second in this race and were fairly popular with the Patrol Commander. Our time of disgrace came on the Trek Race, when we marched five miles out from camp and then raced back across the mountains without compass or map. On reaching the fjord we had to abseil down a cliff and swim across a small bay fully dressed. This was a simple exercise planned to take a couple of hours at the most. My patrol, being made of sturdier stuff than the others, managed to walk for four hours and cover about twelve miles. We arrived back after dark to find our devoted commander waiting for us at the top of the abseil; his remarks were most unkind. He rudely ordered us down the rope and into the water. Eleven of the gallant twelve did exactly this and swam to the other side of the bay. The twelfth man, a Liverpudlian, did his abseil, let go the rope and with cries of help followed his "cobbley-wobblies" down to the bottom of the fjord. Our angry Commander took a dive to his rescue; when he finally got our waterlogged 'Scouse' ashore, our Troop Commander's language was such that I considered it necessary to remove my adolescent comrades from the immediate vicinity.

The first of the initiative tests saw us moving a bucket of nitroglycerine (similar to fjord water) around the rope assault course. This resulted in the whole patrol being blown up and our ghosts getting on with the next test. We bob-sleighed down a very fast mill race on an old stretcher, points being awarded for most men down in half an hour. We got all the patrol through and then, just to show how good we were, all twelve members of the band went down together to gain bonus points. The resulting cuts and bruises were well worth it when we saw the renewed adoration in our Patrol Commander's eye. In the final test we wrapped ourselves in tyres of the three-tonner type, and played Dunlop and Goodyear up and down the rope assault course. This was most hectic, although we won without much difficulty. The competition ended with my patrol in overall second place.

At the end of the first week we moved out to a mountain camp for three days; here we climbed, trekked and carried out mountain rescue exercises. The only discomfort we suffered was at the hands of mosquitoes. The camp staff denied importing these insects, but they couldn't fool us; every time we killed one we found it was wearing the familiar permanent staff sweater.

(The writer here goes on to describe in some detail a survival exercise which lasted for a number of days. Unfortunately space does not permit us to record the adventures of our hero during this arduous period of the course, suffice to say he returned to camp tired and wet with the lower end of his trousers burned off and covered with rubber solution sprayed on him from a two-pint tin which had accidently blown up.—Editor.)

We Receive our Certificates

Before we left the Commandant presented the successful students with course certificates; ASA certificates for survival, swimming and canoeing. Five of us received gradings as canoe instructors. We then said our goodbyes to the staff and left, happy in the thought that we had completed a course which had required a considerable amount of sweat and at times a fair share of 'mind-over-matter.'

The course is designed to produce unit instructors and leaders in the various aspects of Outward Bound training. The pace of instruction and physcal effort demanded is such that ideal students are men in their early and mid-twenties. To produce the best from students, considerable effort has been made in selecting the staff. The Corps was particularly well represented by Lieutenant M. A. Orwin; he had the dual role of Patrol Leader and Climbing Instructor, and was one of the leading lights in almost all the activities undertaken.

FOOTNOTE.—It is of interest to record that in 1964, the Commandant of the Outward Bound School commenced awarding the "Commandant's Award" to the most outstanding officer and other rank students of the year. Both the awards for 1964 went to 13th Signal Regiment; the most outstanding officer being Lt. A. K. Wright, and the most outstanding other rank, Lance-Corporal Busby.

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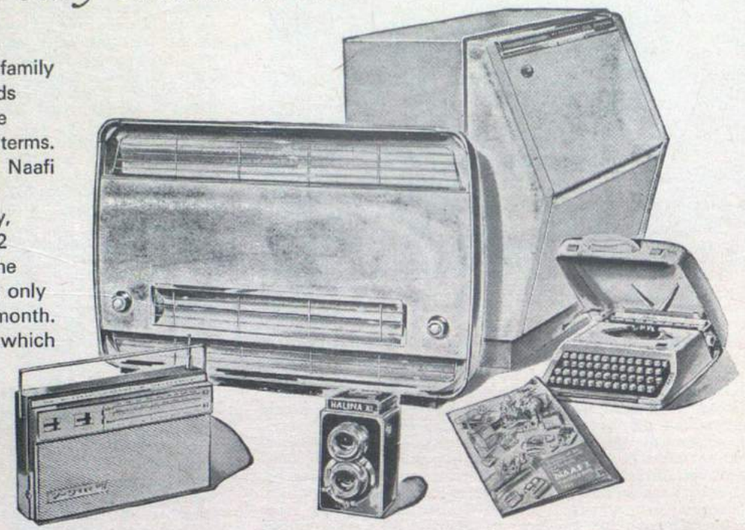
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The Royal Military College of Science Reports . . .

The Task of the College

EVERY year the College intends to publish a resumé of the activities of Corps members who are either studying or teaching here in Shrivenham. Before we disclose the misdeeds of our brother officers, however, it might be appropriate to attempt to dispel a misconception that appears to exist in the minds of many officers, concerning the type of education that is given at the R.M.C.S. This is not the breeding ground of egg-heads, of bald-headed boffins, and the like—any baldness amongst the officers can be traced to much simpler origins! Instead, the College has two main tasks, the first of which is to give selected Army officers the opportunity to read for a mechanical or electrical science degree. There is nothing particularly egg-headed about this, and it has long been Corps policy that quite a large proportion of our officers should be graduates. The second task is to train selected officers to assist in the development of military equipment. Here again, this is not a terribly technical job, and, in the main, consists of interpreting the soldiers' requirements into scientific language and translating the scientists' problems into words that the soldier can understand. One might almost call it a language course of sorts. This second requirement is met by the Technical Staff and Guided Weapons Courses. Needless to say, this is an over-simplification of the College charter, but it may help to put the work of the R.M.C.S. in true perspective. When the new system of staff training is introduced at the end of 1965, all potential staff officers will come to Shrivenham for varying periods of time; either three, twelve or fifteen months, depending on their background, before going on to Camberley.

Visit by H.M. The Queen Mother

This has been rather a special year for us in Shrivenham, for on 29th June, Her Majesty The Queen Mother visited the College to present degrees to members of 15 Degree Course. Among those receiving this honour were Captain J. E. Stevens and Captain M. J. P. Vann, Royal Signals. Unfortunately, Lieutenant R. D. K. Thompson, of the same course, could not be present. Her Majesty also presented the Davey Prize to Lieutenant K. P. Burke, Royal Signals, of 16 Degree Course, for his academic achievements.

There are now only two Royal Signals officers on the staff of the College, Brigadier J. B. Birkett, O.B.E., our Deputy Commandant and Lieutenant-Colonel R C. Walker, who is the DS (Tels.). We were very sorry to say goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Hallett, the DS (Nuclear), who has left us to assume the appointment of C.S.O., H.Q., Middle East. Let us hope that this posting does not herald the first atomic explosion in that part of the world.

15th Guided Weapons Course

It is not often that we have the pleasure of seeing a Corps officer on the G.W. Course, although Corps T.S.O.s frequently find themselves working in this field The presence of Captain M. Thorman on 15 G.W. Course is therefore most welcome.

17th Technical Staff Course

The number of Signal officers on 17th Technical Staff Course has now risen to six, Captain H. K. Hawkins, Captain J. T. Heenan and Captain C. L. Kuspira, all Royal Canadian Signals, having joined Major S. P. Morrison, Captain W. L. Wood and Captain C. A. H. Sindoo (Pakistan Signals) for Part II of the Course. They will complete their tour at Shrivenham at Easter, 1965, and are at present preparing for their final examination.

Summer this year has been particularly good, and golf has probably been the most popular sport. Captain Kuspira has played for the College, and most of the others have spent many hours on the course, helping to keep the grass down. Captain Wood is now Secretary of the Gun Club, but has disappointed us by not producing large supplies of game birds for general distribution.



Her Majesty the Queen Mother and the Commandant, Major General E. J. H. Bates, talking to Major S. S. Islam, Pakistan Signals, with Mrs. Sindhoo, wife of Captain C. A. H. Sindhoo, Pakistan Signals, on Her Majesty's right

18th Technical Staff Course

Captain M. V. Keeling, who, until now, has been the only Corps officer on 18th Technical Staff Course, was joined in November by Captain T. A. Byrne and three Royal Canadian Signals officers. When these newcomers have finished learning how to operate the large variety of machines in the College Workshop, the Course will begin the second and more interesting academic year.

17th Degree Course

The four Signals stalwarts of 17th Degree Course, with their noses firmly to the grindstone for the last leg, now look back on the halcyon days of their summer vacation.

However, not all of it, by any means, was play. Lieutenant P. Jones joined the B.B.C. in London for several weeks. Much of his period, we understand, was occupied in reaching the summit of the new G.P.O. tower, whose lift was out of action at the time.

Lieutenant A. J. Hervey assisted Edinburgh G.P.O. with such familiar tasks as cable jointing and erecting telegraph poles. It seems that the G.P.O. have not yet heard of the advantages of radio relay for short hauls!

Lieutenant M. A. Cornforth spent two-and-a-half months in Middlesbrough with the N.E. Electricity Board, practising, amongst other things, the art of tact in negotiating with farmers for permission to plant a pylon in the middle of their farmyards. Captain R. Castle-Smith, apparently undefeated by two years of technical matters, stayed on at Shrivenham to learn about the works inside a computer, and how to programme it without driving it insane. (*Scope here for some* WIRE *articles.—Editor*).

18th Degree Course

The five Corps members of 18th Degree Course have performed very well during the year, in both the academic and sporting fields. All five have successfully completed their first year and are now preparing for part II of the course with renewed vigour after the relaxations of the summer break. During the vacations, Lieutenants Webster and Stark continued to follow their interests in the field of electronics by attending a computer course and being attached to the Marconi Company respectively, whilst Lieutenant Cook did a short attachment to a regiment in Germany. Lieutenants Robins and Almonds both decided on adventure training. Lieutenant Robins went as an assistant leader to this year's NORPED Expedition to Norway, and Lieutenant Almonds worked on a foreign tramp steamer.

Throughout the year all five have been busy in the sporting and social life of the College. Lieutenant Almonds and Lieutenant Webster played rugby for the College last season, the latter playing as a regular member of the 1st XV. Lieutenant Cook has been made Secretary of the Fencing Club. Lieutenant Robins and Lieutenant Almonds ran as first and second runners

in the College cross-country team during most of the season, and for their numerous sins have been made this year's Captain and Secretary. Lieutenant Stark has played golf and busied himself with his recently-acquired TR3. Lieutenant Webster played a magnificent role as the "fast breaking wing forward" in the College Dramatic Society's production of "The Geese are Getting Fat," last Christmas. With such a record, who knows what might happen next year.

19th Degree Course

On Monday, 14th October, 1964, five slightly apprehensive subalterns reported for No. 19 Degree Course. They had all been with their units until nearly the last moment, so talk was of soldiering rather than mountaineering. They consoled themselves with the thought that they really must have been key men for their units to keep them for so long.

They were rapidly documented, photographed, issued with slide rules and text books and despatched—even more apprehensive—to various Halls of Residence.

Since then they have been grappling with the language of the engineer and trying to subdue gay memories of evenings spent in wet tents in Germany in favour of Amps and Newtons and Dynes and slugs and—and things . . .

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

56 "Q" Course in Retrospect

COMPILED BY SECOND-LIEUTENANT J. H. ROBERTS

On 30th August, 1964, twenty-six subalterns arrived at Catterick, some of them from a long summer leave, one African subaltern from a course in Canada, and two from 11th Regiment (Depot).

The first weeks were spent in finding one's way around Catterick and locating as quickly as possible any places of extra-mural entertainment. The elysian interlude was soon to end, however, for rumours of physical exercise were rife. The course was not disappointed. At 4 a.m. one Saturday morning, it was whisked off to climb the three Pennine Peaks of Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent. The course was split into small parties and dropped off at different locations, from whence they stumbled off into the darkness to climb the then invisible Whernside. Dawn soon came, bringing weather which ranged from bad to foul; occasional glimpses of the summit afforded by gaps in the mist. The higher one got, the mistier it became, wraiths of mist curled around one's feet disguising potholes and tussocks which tripped the unsuspecting. After not too much effort, the first summit was reached and parties began to run down, the mist having cleared. Unfortunately, Second-Lieutenant Shaw cracked his head on a dry-stone wall and was taken down with severe concussion, from which he has now fully recovered. The second peak was attained by all without mishap, but the third was not attempted, for a mere six hours were allotted for the task. The course was taken back to Catterick where, after a quick lunch of a cream cracker or two, it set off once more to engage in an obstacle and endurance exercise with 8th Regiment. We thanked our Course Officer (Major D. A. Polley) for organising such an interesting and exhilarating day and retired to the Rainbow Room little the worse.

Soon after this—in some cases, before—people began to find their niches in the various sports and activities in and around Catterick. A darts team was despatched to give a local team a practise and returned intoxicated with victory—or was it Vaux? Remaining for the present in the sporting field, members of the course have represented the School in most of the major sports. Second-Lieutenants Backhouse, Baly, Cox and Whitehead have played rugger regularly with Urquhart and Roberts as occasionals. During November, Backhouse represented the Corps on their tour to play the R.A., R.E. and R.E.M.E. At hockey, too, the course has been well represented, notably Second-Lieutenants Daglish, Collier and Haysom, who have played regularly for the School "A" side, and Lieutenant Siderfin oscillating between the "A" and "B" sides. Second-Lieutenant King has shown his mettle as goalkeeper for the "B" team. The first three hockey players mentioned have represented the Corps, and Collier and Haysom have played for a Scottish touring team (The Thistles) against the Corps. Not content with this, Collier has played several times for Richmond. At soccer, the course has been represented in the figures of Second-Lieutenant Makunda and Young, who play regularly for the School, the former having scored at least one hat-trick and injured not a few by his brisk play.

It came as a great surprise to many of us that we were to have the benefit of free riding lessons. Doubtless, the joys of getting up on a cold and dark morning to drive to the dark stables, there to force an ice-cold bit between the tombstone-like teeth of a recalcitrant horse will long be remembered. As indeed will the pleasures of riding across the moors and using one's nose as a disc-harrow, one foot in the stirrup, the horse at a gallop. All good things must come to an end, however, and the climax of our riding experiences was the Silver Horse Competition. This entailed Dressage and Jumping, and was very ably won by Second-Lieutenant Grenville-Jones. Lieutenant Scarff won the prize for the most improved rider.

Beagling has been popular with Lieutenant Scarff and Second-Lieutenant Turner, these two "rustics" indulging in many a pastoral mushroom hunt. In similar vein, Second-Lieutenants Gray, Culley and Thorne have all been grouse shooting at least once. Second-Lieutenants Gray and Burtt have also shot small bore, the latter having represented the School at .22.

The course is now ended, and there is little doubt we all enjoyed it.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

Royal Signals Wing

The Wing, increased to 31 by the arrival of 12 new members, has had an interesting and busy term. As well as teaching the recruits the elements of driving and operating, second and third year officer cadets have been encouraged to take a fuller part in the organisation of activities. In fact the O.C. has only been in charge of one of the term's four exercises.

Keven Diggens and Martin Milling commanded two sides in Exercise "Harvest Chase," a one-day ground-wave exercise in October. The exercise was hastily rewritten when the entire defence was rounded up in 20 minutes! We had with us nine N.C.O.s and cadets from the Signal Platoon of the Cambs and Isle of Ely ACF from Chatteris. We have been responsible for their signal training during term, and although many of them are only 14, they are keen and seem to enjoy the training.

With an eye on the competition against Oxford Signals Wing in February, George Houston took half a dozen people to lay a line for the R.A. Wing who were firing at Stanford. This was one of our few opportunities to lay line to any purpose and was an enjoyable weekend.

Within the OTC we were the customary three points from the R.E. Wing in the Revolver Competition, with the difference that this time we won! However, gifted amateurism was no substitute for fitness in the Assault Course Competition, where our potential was sapped by a run of sporting injuries.

Our style was also cramped in the Eastern Command Rally Exercise "Monte Carlo," this time by a speed limit of 20 m.p.h. Chris Gale led the officers' team to 6th place, the best OTC entry, and Dick Paden's predominantly Signals team came 7th.

Chris Gale also took a party of four to Oundle School as part of an OTC demonstration to the School CCF. About 120 cadets poured over and through two of our vehicle stations and one gentleman claims to have given 10 lectures on the C11 in two hours.

Socially the Wing has been its usual lively self. We combined with the Regular Young Officers in residence to entertain several senior officers to dinner in St. John's College, including Brigadier C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D., and Colonel Vaigncourt-Strallen, University Liaison Officer, Royal Signals, and on this occasion and at the OTC dinner in Churchill College we were glad to see old members now serving with the Regular Army: Peter Dale, back from Aden, and Martin King and David Grey who are now with their regiments in Germany. A memorable Christmas party was held on the last Wednesday of term, when the officers of the Wing showed other Wings how to stage a celebration.

On the basis of this past term, we look forward to a stimulating if not nerve-racking year, with the competition against Oxford our first obstacle. We will not be going to Camp this year, but many of us will be attached to units at home, in Germany and the Middle East, so we look forward to seeing you.

Junior Leaders' Regiment

The main event during December and before the Regiment broke up for the Christmas leave period was the end-of-term Graduation Day, which took place on Tuesday, 15th December. There were two parades—one during the morning and the other in the afternoon—and these were reviewed by Brigadier J. B. Ashworth, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., who, for the last three years has been the Inspector of Boys' Training and who, a few days after the parade, retired from the Army.

The morning parade was for the 93 Junior Leaders who were graduating to Colour Service, and their details are listed at the end of these notes. The parade after lunch was for the new Junior Leaders of the Regiment who had, by then, completed 14 weeks' training since they arrived in Denbury. The Brigadier expressed his extreme satisfaction at the high standard of both parades.

Various other activities helped to make up the day—the Commanding Officer addressed the parents and there was a display of hobbies and training equipment for all to see. Before darkness fell the Pipe Band, the Highland Dancers, the Gymnasts and the Corps of Drums provided entertainment on the main square and later that evening the Regimental Drama Club presented "Babes on the Moor," a pantomime with local flavour.

The Bishop of Maidstone officiated at the Confirmation Service in our Church on the Sunday before Graduation Day and most of the permanent staff were privileged to be addressed by him two days prior to that.

Graduation List — December, 1964

Name	Training Regiment	Pre-selected Trade	Troop
M. Dockerty	8th	Technician	Kohima
J. Guy	8th	Technician	,,
J. M. Gooseman	8th	Technician	,,
F. Cunningham	8th	Lineman	,,
M. J. Daly	8th	Lineman	,,
C. W. Peach	8th	Lineman	,,
M. J. Read	8th	Lineman	,,
D. G. Young	8th	Lineman	,,
T. D. Doyle	24th	Staff Operator	,,
J. Knox	24th	Staff Operator	,,
D. Pryor	24th	Staff Operator	,,
P. D. Nicholls	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
P. A. Budden	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
J. S. Johnstone	1st	Comcen Operator	,,
C. A. S. Wickham	7th	Comcen Operator	,,
R. S. Young	28th	Comcen Operator	,,
A. J. Fentum	8th	Technician	Lion
C. Gray	8th	Lineman	,,
M. H. Close	24th	Staff Operator	,,
V. A. Hoyle	24th	Staff Operator	,,
R. R. Burrell	1st	Comcen Operator	,,
R. W. Roberts	8th	Technician	Quadrant
A. R. Sygrove	24th	Staff Operator	,,
B. J. Stevenson	24th	Comcen Operator	,,
M. Waterworth	1st	Radio Operator	,,
F. King	3rd	Comcen Operator	,,
N. Rookes	8th	Technician	Kukri
D. Barton	8th	Technician	,,
R. Dixon	8th	Lineman	,,
R. Livesey	8th	Lineman	,,
L. C. Peters	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
G. V. Abraham	2nd	Radio Operator	,,
R. Attwood	8th	Lineman	Javelin
C. T. Blackmore	8th	Lineman	,,
F. W. Dawson	24th	Staff Operator	,,
P. S. Lewis	24th	Staff Operator	,,
J. E. Bayley	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
J. R. Chesterman	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
D. K. Gallagher	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
A. G. Stewart	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
T. G. Roberts	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
R. L. Howard	28th	Comcen Operator	,,
A. L. Bale	24th	Staff Operator	White Swan
M. J. Barstow	24th	Staff Operator	,, ,,
F. W. Caswell	1st	Comcen Operator	,, ,,
D. A. Clapson	2nd	Comcen Operator	,, ,,
D. K. Hartrey	28th	Comcen Operator	,, ,,
A. Ducie	24th	Staff Operator	Romulus
A. J. Price	24th	Staff Operator	,,
M. I. F. Henry	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
M. S. Ayers	4th	Radio Operator	,,
R. Parkin	4th	Radio Operator	,,
P. L. Green	7th	Comcen Operator	,,
C. Morley	24th	Staff Operator	Beaufighter
A. G. Wilson	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
J. W. Ridley	24th	Comcen Operator	,,
D. J. Naden	1st	Radio Operator	,,
M. Vaughan	7th	Comcen Operator	,,
J. A. Plunkett	24th	Staff Operator	White Spear
M. W. Pitfield	24th	Staff Operator	,, ,,
D. B. Hooper	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,, ,,
R. J. Mitchell	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,, ,,
D. A. B. Moore	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,, ,,
K. Kay	28th	Comcen Operator	,, ,,
A. D. Flux	24th	Electrician Driver	Iron
J. L. Craig	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
J. H. Waugh	24th	Staff Operator	,,
D. A. Taylor	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
G. Coates	1st	Radio Operator	,,
W. Norgrove	2nd	Radio Operator	,,
R. J. Underhill	24th	Staff Operator	Francisca
J. W. Well	24th	Staff Operator	,,
D. Glover	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
J. I. Neal	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
M. L. Nix	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
M. R. Stevens	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
P. Whitfield	2nd	Radio Operator	,,

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Lance-Corporal L. O. D. Hibbert slips a lead in classic style in his winning bout in the Divisional Finals

2nd DIVISION H.Q. AND SIGNAL REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 22

BOXING. High hopes for the B.A.O.R. and Army Cups. We believe that our strong and well-balanced boxing team is not being over-optimistic in its hopes of winning the B.A.O.R. Championships. With at least seven boxers of first-class regimental standard, including two already named to represent the Army this season, our tails are well up.

In the Divisional finals at Munster on 18th December, we fought the erstwhile B.A.O.R. champions, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, a formidable team with many successful seasons behind it. We approached this match with some caution, especially as our first string welterweight, Lance-Corporal R. K. Jacobs was unable to box because of a hand injury. However, after an evening of tough and high-class boxing, our team won the Divisional Boxing Championship by seven bouts to four.

The next step was to have been the B.A.O R. semi-final against Rhine Area's winning team, but this team has now unfortunately withdrawn. We therefore go straight on to the B.A.O.R. finals on 17th February, against either the 1st Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers or the 1st Royal Horse Artillery, both of them excellent and really tough teams.

Serious training began early this season and the team was beginning to develop its "cutting edge" when we had our first match against a renowned German amateur club, the Bunde - Melle - Enniglоh Box - Verein. This exciting evening ended in a draw, an excellent result in what we hope will be the first of many such matches. The contests, billed as "International," were held in the Bunde Stadtgarten before a very large crowd of civilian and military spectators. Highlights of the evening were the brilliant win of ex-Scottish International, Corporal H. Hutchison, in two rounds, and a well-judged points win by Lance-Corporal R. K. Jacobs over a Ghanaian Olympic prospect named Papaola. After the boxing trophies were presented to the boxers (Signalman F. Waters getting the presentation for the "most accomplished performance") the Commanding Officer exchanged greetings and silver trophies with the President of the German club, Herr W. A. Haltern.

The first cup match of the season was against 25 Corps Engineer Regiment and proved an easy win—ten wins and a walk-over to nil. It must be said, to the great credit of the Sappers, that their very plucky team fought with real fire to the very last bell.

This match and that against the German club were the only fights over exercise commitments would allow before the Divisional Cup fight against 15th/19th Hussars. And so, to provide more competition training, we took on "the rest of the Division" on 20th January, a substitute match for the cancelled B.O.A.R. semi-final.

(All in the Corps will wish the 2nd Regiment good luck in their boxing.—Editor).

3rd H.Q. AND SIGNAL REGIMENT BULFORD CAMP

The Nurses Were Pretty . . .



Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) John Wilkins. Happier with the nurses than with this piece of equipment

Christmas comes but once a year . . . . and if it continues in the same way as it did last year . . . all future occasions are full of good cheer.

Such a time is always busy, and we in The Third have been no exception to this rule. The programme started in the Sergeants' Mess on the 12th with a grand dance, after which all members left for home, if worse off in the pocket, but well off in heart and stomach. The records would not be complete if mention and gratitude were not made to the Matron of the Croydon General Hospital for allowing six of the loveliest nurses to quit the hostel, to attend the dance. Of course they were under the watchful eye (and arm) of Foreman Wilkins and several living-in members (not to mention a few of the married's) who seemed to be drawn away from their usual places at the bar, to be seen sitting, dancing and generally "looking after" the nurses.

. . . And the Children No Doubt — 400 of them — Vociferous

Relaxation on Sunday proved very worthwhile before the children's party on the 14th. The final total just failed to reach four hundred, and as anyone will realise, the organisation for a party of such magnitude presents many complications. None the less, as is always the case, the cooks and the Wives' Club filled their stomachs, each Squadron entertained a particular age group, and the old man with a beard found a present in his sacks for everyone, and by 6.30 the noise died away and left, and the barracks resumed its normal serenity. On Tuesday the Regiment filled to capacity the Garrison Church of St. George, for the traditional Carol Service. With the lessons being read by Private Forbes-Ritte, the R.S.M., the Adjutant and the G.O.C. 3rd Division, and some fine carols sung by all, the service went well. Mention must be made of the wonderful decorations effected by the ladies of the Regiment and Major Williams, our Paymaster.

To produce a lengthy report on the "serious" football match of the year would only cause embarrassment to the first team, and the results will surely speak for themselves:

Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' XI 2, Regimental XI 2.

The average ages of each team do not bear recording, but there were some pretty old and tired men led away off the field for some well-earned refreshments.

. . . And the All Ranks' Dance without precedent . . .

The decision to accept the offer of Messrs. Moss, Davies, Peat and Co. to organise the all ranks' dance on the 16th proved more than worthwhile. The transformation of the Garrison Gymnasium into a ballroom and restaurant was effected admirably by superb decoration, the skillful pen of Corporal Careless, the Ritz-like service from the bars of Corporals McCulloch and Conway, and the efficient attention of Corporal Rossall, Signalman Massam and their band of waiters, with the Beaton approach to the buffet of Corporal Charlton; the dance was without precedent. Three bands kept everyone on the move. The first a local group, the second a fabulous group from Cardiff, "The Wild Ones," who lifted the roof, and third the first debut of our own Regimental group "The Proud Men"—and proud they well may feel for their performance was second to none, and the hard rehearsing over

the past two months was worth the ovation they received. In all, the dance was an unqualified success, and the work of 2 Squadron will be remembered for a long time hence in making it so.

The junior ranks' club draw, thanks to the never failing sales talk of S.S.M. Clark, Corporals Lee-Cann, Barry and Signalman Blackmore, must have been a success because nearly all the prizes were self contained in the club and enjoyed by the members themselves.

The year ended with the Commanding Officer, his Officers and Sergeants, showing their gratitude to the men in traditional form at Christmas dinner on Friday 18th. Our cooks serve us well all the year, but on this day they excelled the finest traditions of their Corps, with a truly first-rate meal—and the service compared favourably with the standard of a five star hotel!

After the Commanding Officer's Christmas message, the larger part of the Regiment moved out hurriedly on their well-earned block leave for Christmas and New Year. Only the Warrant Officers and Sergeants stayed back for their Christmas draw which as always was a great success.

And so, except for those unlucky ones whose duty called them to the guard room, the barracks closed for 1964. Apart from one or two expected freeze-ups, the leave passed without incident, and unlike the last two Christmasses, we returned in early January and are still at the same strength as we were before leave started.

. . . And the future? Well it's your guess too

To crystal gaze into the future, the diary of events for 1965 heralds a busy time for all. With individual training, minor exercises, two major exercises, annual camp, visits and so on. In the world of sport, after two replays with 2 RTR our hockey team have reached the quarter-finals in the Command Section for the Army Cup, the Soccer XI undefeated in the league, and some certain individual boxing champions at the Divisional Tournament at the end of this month—something tells me we're on to something good.

Realities come before the crystal ball though, and right now our thoughts are all concentrated on the annual inspection this month, and the impending visit of the S.O.-in-C.

8th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

First-Ever Class I Technicians' Qualifying Course

Although recently infrequent contributors to THE WIRE, 8th Regiment has not been idle by any means. In the past three months, the work of imparting technical and other forms of knowledge to a wide variety of tradesmen and potential tradesmen has been pursued relentlessly. In addition, the first-ever Class I Technicians' Qualifying Test has been run on a world wide basis, and results should now be known by all candidates. **In particular, we would like to congratulate Corporal J. E. D. Evans, of 261 Squadron, on gaining outstanding marks in all parts of the test.** Because a pass in this test will be a compulsory qualification for attendance at a Class I Upgrading Course for Technicians after 1st February, 1965, we hope more and more candidates will aspire (or should it be "perspire"?) to produce results like Corporal Evans.

An Appeal to all Technicians

While on the subject of courses, can we take space to make a very necessary appeal to all technicians who are coming back to us for upgrading? In 8th Regiment we believe very strongly in the motto *"Mens Sana in Corpore Sano"*—(a healthy mind in a healthy body)—and even upgrading students join in our military exercises and training while they are here, in order to provide an antidote for the pale faces and rounded shoulders produced by long hours in classrooms, as well as helping to promote soldierly skills, which the advancing technician has to acquire just like everyone else. Students, therefore, need to bring their combat kit and all the other paraphernalia of battle, which we have difficulty in providing if they are deficient, so please *do* read the joining instructions; every unit has them, and if you can solve the complex equation relating quantities of equipment to air baggage allowance, perhaps you will save yourselves trouble—and us extra work we can do without!

"Northland" and "Southland" are at it again!

Our most recent exercise, appropriately named "Christmas Party," was held on Feldom Training Area on 4th December. We divided into two sides and conducted a spirited battle from 20.00 hours until 06.00 hours the following morning. We provided our own umpires, but not even they could prevent occasional clashes between troops of the same side, unplanned encounters with directing staff and so on! Fortunately, although cold, the night was dry, and the greatest discomfort was caused more by the desire for sleep rather than the elements. The battle ended in a draw, and honour was thus satisfied, although "Northland" still maintained "Southland" were never where they should have been, which was wilful deceit and therefore unfair!

Army Rugby Cup this Year?

We also play other kinds of games here, and as this is "Army Cup season," we are proud to say that we are still in two of them. At Association Football we beat the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, 5—1, but later succumbed to 38 Corps Engineer Regiment, Ripon, 10—1. At hockey, we beat 11th Regiment 5—0 in the only game played so far. At rugby football, the semi-finals have been reached as follows:

1st Round v. School of Signals, 27—0.
2nd Round v. 11th Signal Regiment, 31—0.
3rd Round v. 38 Corps Engineer Regiment, 22—0.
4th Round v. Queen's Dragoon Guards, 26—0.

And now, before we meet the Welsh Guards in the semi-final, Christmas and all that are upon us. Perhaps we shal have more to talk about next time we write. (*Let us hope i is good news.—Editor*).

Regretably, the news has just come through that the 8th went down fighting, to the tune of 14 points to 3. Better luck next year.—Editor.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

Rain, Rain, go to Spain

With the passing of the New Year, a pale grey peace has settled over Mercury Barracks, as the various members of the Regiment pick up the pieces of their shattered lives and get back into the swing of their jobs.

Those members of the Regiment who have been here longest began to feel in their bones, sometime around 10th December, that Christmas, 1964, was going to be something special. After all, Christmas, 1963, had been a "frost," with everyone confined to barracks, or to their homes, and there was a lot of celebrating to make up. Also, with the relaxing of tension in Cyprus, there was a lot to be thankful for.

These feelings were reinforced when the heaviest rains for eigh years (or 10 or 12, according to which local one asked) deluge the island. One particularly heavy rainstorm, which trappe the occupants of the Technical Building, just as they were finishing work, produced a brilliant improvisation of the sort for which the British Army is famed. Sergeants Topliss and Whelpton immediately invented the "Cloak, Extreme Wet Weather, Instant, Disposable," by cutting holes in paper sacks, slipping them over their heads and stepping jauntily out into the storm. Try it, it works!

Hair is let down at the year's end

The Christmas festivities proper started with the children's parties. Yes, parties. As in most Signal units, we work shifts, and this goes for children's parties too! With the number of youngsters we have on the establishment, this arrangement is necessary. We even had two Santa Clauses (Santa Cli?) in W.O.II Handley and W.O.I Gibson.

On the 20th, the annual variety show, "Heels Together," was presented in the Mercury Theatre and reached its usual high professional standard, with music (suitably cool) from the Red Manning Combo; singing, swinging, by Corporal Merrick, of 3 Squadron, and his wife; and sketches. In the two major items, Tribune (Sgt.) Kane and his Adjutant (Staff Teesdale) took C.O.'s Orders for IX Legion in a very professional manner, and Captain Crookes, with his assistant sorcerers of "M" Troop provided a tot of magic.

In order to get the maximum number possible at table together, Christmas dinner was served on the evening of the 23rd It was proceded by the solemn judging of Squadron bars, wo

(*Continued on page 54*)

The 9th Regiment know how to enjoy themselves

Our camera looks in on the annual Officers v. W.O.s and Sergeants football match; also at the 'goings-on' in the Mercury Theatre.









1. Captain Crooks, Mr. Mowry and Sergeant Keating produce Miss Margaret Chase out of a hat.
2. Players, the Commanding Officer's team.
3. Second-Lieutenant Nicol, Captain Vincent and Captain Hodges perform an Egyptian rope trick.
4. Spectators enjoying the game.

this year by 3 Squadron, with a decor suggesting a cross between a torture chamber and Dante's Inferno. Some people, especially 3 Squadron, it seems, will drink in the weirdest places.

The dinner—as we have come to expect from Staff Sergeant Morgan and his assistants—was magnificent, and was accompanied by carols from the St. Michael's Church Choir.

On Boxing Day, the Commanding Officer's team played the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' team at soccer. This game was notable in that both teams played proper football. A little light-heartedly, perhaps, and only 15 minutes each way, but nevertheless, football. The officers won 3—1, which they attribute to superior fitness and better ball control. They needed the fitness, considering the quantity of hot brandy punch that was consumed and the violent pick-me-up that was issued by their trainer at half-time.

All-in-all, it was a merry, happy Christmas, even for the harassed P.M.C., who went round for a week muttering that Scrooge was right. We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did.

10th Regiment, Hounslow

Signal Troop Works (Chatham) formerly known as the Kent and Sussex, and Thames Estuary Works Service Troops. Their roll was provision and maintenance of Fixed Fortress Communications along the Kent coast and Thames/Medway Estuaries, in addition to the general SWS commitments in 44th (Home Counties) and London District areas.

The post-war years saw a gradual breakdown of the SWS commitment and disbandment of both Ack-Ack and Coastal Defences. It was decided in 1959 to combine the two Troops under the command of one T.O.T., with the H.Q. at Chatham. Geographically, the area of responsibility remained unchanged. In order to facilitate the even distribution of work control and supervision, the two civilian Foremen of Signals were retained at Chatham and Dover respectively, and the civilian establishment of the Troop was equally divided. The term civilian is an anomally, for the total years of service, both in peace and war, served by members of the Troop in the three Services (Royal Navy/Royal Marines, Army and the Royal Air Force) would be creditable in a unit several times the size of this Troop.

Like the Troops at Bury St. Edmunds and Shoeburyness, the Chatham Troop has always been a very active member of the Signals organisation in Eastern Command, sometimes independent and sometimes part of a major unit.

The main functions of the Troop are to plan, install and maintain SWS projects and fixed signal installations; provide assistance to units operating signalling equipment; provide, install and operate the Command P.A. equipment; maintain all small arms ranges and maintain a comprehensive record of all G.P.O. circuits and equipment rented by the Ministry of Defence (Army).

Soccer. In this, our first season, we have been fortunate in being able to assemble a team imbued with enthusiasm and tempered with a little skill, and, to date, have reached the final of the London District section of the Eastern Command Minor Units Cup. In the semi-final, we beat the Home Postal Depot, R.E., 6—4, after a very thrilling and hard-fought game, which ended the Postal Unit's run of being unbeaten for the last two years. The final, a local Derby, is to be played at Hounslow

against the Headquarters, Eastern Command, which should be both entertaining and a first-class game. Corporal G. Hardman (captain), Corporal Hutchinson and Signalman Goodall deserve mention for their excellent display of technique and good play in the last match.

Those who may have known Sergeant W. C. Yates in the past may like to know that during the match against the Postal Depot, in a moment of great excitement, he wagered his magnificent moustache against a quick goal being scored from a corner; five seconds later the Regiment were a goal up—the bet was honoured that night. In the Sergeants' Mess at Christmas, Brigadier David Price presented Sergeant Yates with a fine scroll detailing his great devotion and sacrifice, and also gave him a bottle of the strongest fertiliser, in order to ensure a further luxurious growth for the final!

Boxing. On 14th December, the Regiment entered nine boxers for the London District Individual Novices' Boxing Championship.

They were all true novices and had trained in their spare time under the enthusiastic eyes of Sergeant Spiers and Corporal Hardman, later assisted by W.O.I Metcalfe. All the boxers, without exception, showed great determination and guts. Signalman Patterson (middleweight) and Signalman Rolston (light welterweight) lost very closely fought bouts. Signalman Probert (light heavyweight) though clearly leading in a semi-final, on points, had his fight stopped by the referee, due to an injured eye. Signalman Goodall (light welterweight) Signalman Stuart (middleweight) Signalman Knight (middleweight), Signalman Dixon (light welterweight) all reached the semi-finals; the latter had to shed 22lb. in training to reach the weight!

Lance-Corporal Mangan (lightweight) won a runners-up medal in his weight on points. Signalman Booth (heavyweight) exceeded all our hopes by winning his weight. He packs a tremendous natural punch and combines this with a surprising speed for a heavyweight. Unfortunately, he has just been taken to hospital with appendicitis, but the Corps have a great possibility in Booth for the future.

R.H.Q. The traditional Regimental children's Christmas party, and men's Christmas dinner were enjoyed by all, the highlight being a young up-and-coming beat group, run by Lance-Corporal Christie, A.C.C.—watch out the Dave Clark Five.

The Regiment welcomes Major W. G. Neilson from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and Major A. W. Thomas, from 262 Squadron, Cyprus.

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

Best Recruits



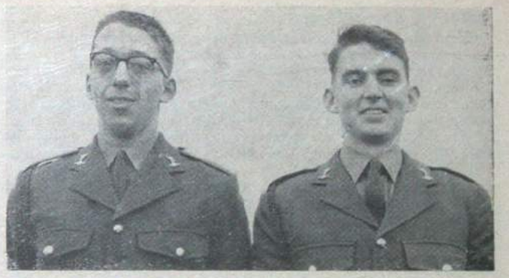
Signalman Tildesley

Signalman Gordon E. M. Tildesley was the best recruit on the pass-off parade on 11th December. He joined the Regiment on 12th October, 1964, having enlisted at Stockport, Cheshire.

He had served in the Army Cadets with the Combined Force, Lesley King's School, Macclesfield, for 3½ years.

He is keen on rugby and has represented the Regiment. His ambition is to serve in the Far East.

The competition for the best recruit on the pass-off parade held on 23rd December, 1964, between 1 Troop and 3 Troop was so close that the adjudicators decided to share the honour between Signalman Howard Hartley Loates, of 1 Troop, and Signalman Nigel Mack, of 3 Troop.



Signalmen H. H. Loates of 1 Troop (left) and N. M. Mack of 3 Troop

Signalman Loates. Signalman Loates, of 3, Burley Bank Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, gives as his reason for enlisting the urge to travel and see the world. He has, however, previous knowledge of Army life, as his father is a Staff Sergeant in the Corps. Prior to joining the Army he was a laboratory assistant working on dry cleaning research. He is interested in most sports, but rugby and cricket take the places of honour. He goes forward for training as an OR-1.

Signalman Mack. As joint best recruit at the pass-off parade on 23rd December, Signalman Nigel John Mack, who enlisted in Plymouth on 29th October, 1964, completed the first step in his Army career. Before enlistment his employment was that of a salesman in a gentlemen's clothing store, and his hobbies were hiking, camping and shooting with his local A.T.C. unit.

As his ambition is to become a commissioned officer in the Corps, he is now on the first step of the ladder, in that he has been posted to the OR 1 Troop of this Regiment.



The old and the new

It is doubtful whether the young recruits marching past the ruined buildings in the photograph above realise that they have, during their heyday housed many thousands of Royal Signallers, for this was Baghdad Lines which, indeed, until recently, provided shelter for transitees prior to posting overseas. Former tenants can probably recognise the very billet which provided a roof over their heads during the earlier days, and recall, perhaps with nostalgia, old comrades who were billeted with them and whom they have not met since.

There has been a slightly higher ebb and flow of soldiery, particularly during the earlier part of the month. 3 Squadron, in Bourlon Barracks, has gradually run down so that at the time of writing they have lost not only their recruit training troops to 1 Squadron, but also their O.C., Major T. I. McL. Robinson to 8th Regiment, to prepare for the task of training drivers. We wish him every luck in his new appointment. With the exodus of 3 Squadron, room became available in the comparative luxury of the Sandhurst Block for the Depot transitees. This move, however, is only of a temporary nature, because 2 Squadron will be moving yet again early in the New Year to Hooge Lines when the W.R.A.C. move out.

Officers' Mess Notes

The Christmas activities started earlier this year. The Ladies' Night was held as early as 11th December. It is not clear whether this was by design, in that the officers and their ladies could gain a slight breathing space before the more energetic entertainments provided later on in the month, or a training run for the more hectic evenings to follow. It probably served both purposes, because by the time the New Year's Eve Dance arrived, most members were in top form, helped, no doubt, by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Draw, the Corporals' Club Dance, and the lunchtime session on the 23rd, when the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were well and truly wined before breaking up for the Christmas Grant. It is felt that this party helped to dispel the rumour that the officers had "chickened-out" of the annual rugger match, which, if memory serves right, was cancelled (or rather "postponed" was the terminology used at time) last year because of similar frosty weather conditions.

On his brief inspection of the Mess, and the word is used loosely, early in the morning on New Year's Day, the Orderly Officer concluded that "1965 had been well and truly welcomed in."

Sergeants' Mess Notes

Contrary to popular belief, the above photograph is not the result of an over-enthusiastic bingo session nor a conspiracy on the part of a recruit to get even with his Troop Sergeant, but a genuine demolition job carried out by a local contractor.

Christmas festivities in the Sergeants' Mess commenced on the 16th December when the annual draw was held. Great credit must go to W.O.II R. Pearce, APTC, and his band of willing helpers for a first class show, but we are still trying to find out if there is any truth in the rumour that the committee had laid on a 3-tonner to take away their prizes (approx. 40). The evening was graced by the presence of the Commander Training Brigade, the Commanding Officer and officers of the Regiment and their ladies. Everyone waited with bated breath for the Christmas duties forecast to appear as neither the Brigadier or the R.S.M. were successful in the draw.

The New Year was heralded into the Mess in the usual cracking style, and as the last stragglers disappeared down the road at four in the morning, the Orderly Sergeant was heard to mutter, "They'll never make it in the morning?" But as always, they did, much to the chagrin of the recruits who seemed to derive much pleasure in driving the feet down a little harder (Oh! my head).

Finally, congratulations to R.Q.M.S. G. Mercer, W.O.II P. Gill, Staff Sergeants B. Hardy and L. Harding and to Sergeants Pope and Brown on their recent promotions.

Farewell to happy memories—parting is such sweet sorrow or . . . It's certainly got that morning after the night before look now



Demolition in progress on the old Sergeants Mess in Bagdad Lines

17th REGIMENT, SEREMBAN, MALAYSIA



Queens Gurkha Officers from the Guard of Honour at the marriage of Lieutenant John Edgar to Miss Deirdre McCluskie of the Foreign Office Cipher Staff in Singapore

The month of December saw the usual round of social activities which are common to all regiments at this time of year. The month also saw the return to Seremban for rest and retraining of our old friends of 540 Troop who have been serving in Eastern Malaysia with the 1st Green Jackets. Most of the members of this troop had spent Christmas 1963 with us. At that time they had just arrived in the Far East fresh from their recruit and trade training in Catterick. What a difference a year has made. In place of the young, untested, pale-skinned youths of a year ago, we had sitting down to Christmas dinner 1964 a well-knit team of soldiers full of confidence in themselves and pride in their troop after some months of operational service on the eastern frontiers of Malaysia. This time the talk was of ambushes and patrols, of operation A510 radios from jungle bases and the effectiveness of different types of booby traps.

Another noteworthy event for the regiment was the marriage of Lieutenant John Edgar to Miss Deirdre McCluskie of the Foreign Office Cipher Staff in Singapore. The marriage service was performed in Seremban Garrison Church before a large congregation from the regiment and Singapore. After the service, Lieutenant and Mrs. Edgar, led by a regimental piper, entered their new life together through a Guard of Honour of Queen's Gurkha Officers. After a very happy reception in the British Officers' Mess, Lieutenant and Mrs. Edgar left for their honeymoon in a car fiendishly decorated by the British junior ranks.

18th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

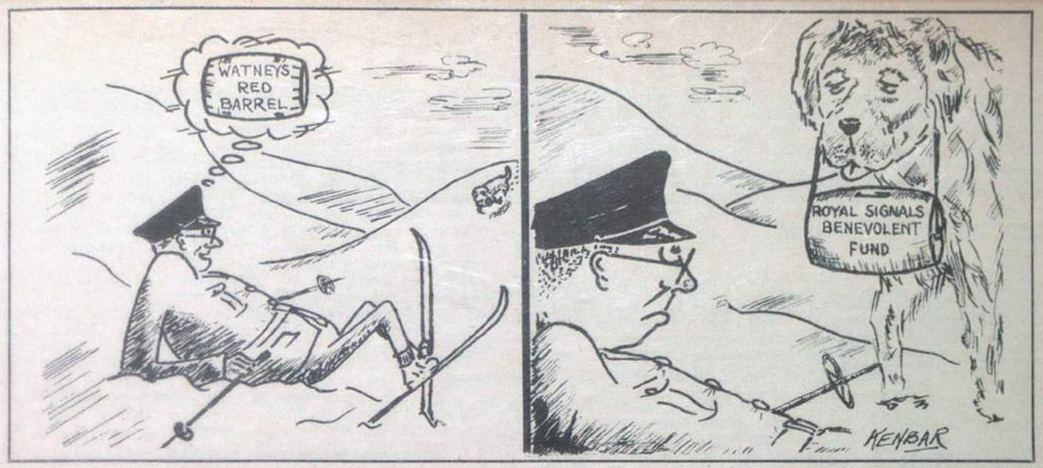
Looking back over the past year, we find many changes have taken place; new buildings have been erected and new equipment installed (who would have believed a year ago, when shift workers were used to working in a sticky and heavy atmosphere, that with the advent of a new, air-conditioned Signal Centre, night workers would not only wear pullovers on occasions, but actually go *outside* to get warm?).

There is a sense of achievement also. As a result of the Borneo operations, there has been a great increase in the handling of traffic—figures unheard of a year ago. It has been difficult to keep pace at times, but with the help of communicators "on loan" from Regiments in Germany, we have coped. Without them, life would have been impossible, and our very grateful thanks go to those units which could ill afford the men.

Shifts—Not an all-male Prerogative

Readers may be forgiven for thinking that shifts are an all-male affair. This is not so, for we have almost as many

(Continued at foot of page 57)



Signalman Alan Pearse on the slopes of Silberhuette

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

Sergeant F. G. Holmonroyd, B.E.M.

In the New Year's Honours List H.M. The Queen graciously approved the award of the British Empire Medal to Sergeant F. G. Holmonroyd.

Sergeant Holmonroyd was selected to command a party of ten other Royal Signals tradesmen which left Germany on 31st July, 1963, to carry out a major underground cable project for the new military automatic telephone system being installed in Aden.

On arrival he was placed completely in charge of this major project, and became responsible for laying all the cables, arranging the road crossings and trenching through built up areas with the civil authorities, organising his transport, preparing all records, terminating and joining all cables, and handing them over as a working system. Such a project would be a formidable task even for a well qualified and experienced officer.

During the six months that he was in Aden he devoted himself unsparingly and wholeheartedly to the project. His initiative in discovering disused water mains to use as cable ducts in difficult laying areas made savings on the cost of trenching and reinstatement. His resourcefulness and ability to improvise and make the best use of his limited resources of equipment, stores and transport enabled him to overcome many difficulties that would otherwise have delayed the project. His own zeal and enthusiasm were an inspiration to his detachment who worked long hours in the heat of Aden to complete the project on time. Furthermore his personal relations with the Public Works Department created a most favourable impression which brought credit to the Army.

(Continued on page 58)



Sergeant F. G. Holmonroyd who was awarded a well deserved B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours

18th Regiment (continued from page 56)

W.R.A.C. on duty as well, and without them we should be lost. We are fortunate that beneath the easy camaraderie in each sex there is a highly competent communicator dealing only with live traffic.

To those readers who have served in 18th Regiment during the past few years, a few words on the changes in the Signal Centre complex. The previous teleprinter room was stripped and converted into a radio receiver room in a few hours by Captain J. A. Tonnison and a few able-bodied men. After trial and error, positions for the AR 88s was decided upon, and very fine consoles built round them to hide the wiring. Looks fine and works well. The new Signal Centre itself backs on to the TRC, with a very well laid-out Counter Room, separated from the Teleprinter Room by a glass wall; at the other end is a Rest Room/Stats Office—also separated by a glass wall. The DSO, on his dais in the Counter Room, can see EVERYTHING.

The SDO (which has also had a very busy year—including the hazards to D.R.s when driving through riot-torn Singapore last July) is the only department without a "new look." There is talk, of course, of air-conditioning and a brighter environment—but D.R. Troop will believe that when they move.

237 SQUADRON

The season of good cheer comes to this Squadron as a completion of training for 1964 and a pleasant period of 'block leave.' One cannot write about relaxation because the number of functions that are held do not allow one to relax too much. However, it is a well earned break for the Instructors, particularly on the operating side, for we have really had a hard time of it, on this side of the school. Perhaps we may be allowed through the medium of THE WIRE to say a big thank you to 1 Squadron of 18th Regiment without whom we could not have possibly met our commitments with the COMCEN trainees. They helped us with Instructors at a time when things were looking really black. The first course of basic COMCEN Operators has now been trade boarded and posted. Their postings were all within Far East and only one out of the course failed his trade test.

During December we said farewell to R.Q.M.S. Evis who left us on promotion to W.O.I (R.S.M.). He will be very much missed in the Squadron and we wish him complete success in his new rank and appointment. In his place we extend a hearty welcome to R.Q.M.S. Greenbrook. We hope his tour will be a happy one and that he has been given some of the contacts of his predecessor.

The successful completion of this project according to the highest standards was due entirely to Sergeant Holmonroyd who devoted himself far beyond the normal course of duty. Throughout he displayed resourcefulness, initiative and a sense of responsibility and leadership that was quite outstanding for an N.C.O., and this was the culmination of many loyal and valuable years service to the Army and his Corps.

We are sure that all his friends in the Corps will wish to join us in saying "Well done."

No. 1 Squadron



A sad loss, Stella the well known marching dog

The Squadron Marching Team (from "C" Cable Troop) took part in the last march of the season at Dordrecht—W. Holland—and added a St. Nicholas Toch medal to its collection.

1964 has been a good marching season and the team has been awarded seventeen trophies to swell the Squadron collection. In addition all marchers obtained individual medals in all the marches.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of the Squadron mascot. Stella, a black mongrel bitch, has been with the Squadron for two years and has taken part in all the marches with "C" Troop and has earned seven individual medals for herself. One of her pups will now take over.

No. 2 Squadron

1965 continues in the same vein as 1964 although certain airfield work has been held up due to frost and snow, much to the relief of the 'diggers.' Our second Lineman Course is well into the middle of training under Sergeant Richardson who can be seen most mornings (06.30 hours) being pursued across country by 18 hungry, cold, miserable trainees. Oh, the joys of keeping fit!

Second-Lieutenant Bob Homewood (O.C. "D" Troop) has taken eight stalwart young men up to the slopes of Silberhuette for a fortnight's Ski-ing Course. In the party is the Regiment's Gold Medalist hope, Signalman Alan Pearse, ably backed by Private Larry Fritsche of the ACC.

Manpower is still at a premium and the Squadron Commander, Major J. L. Botterill, can be seen working his Squadron "Plot" with an instant soldier kit, and has been heard to say, "I would accept 'Daleks' provided they had their MPC III.

The Christmas festivities went off with the usual bang with the officers, Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s serving the Christmas dinner, the beer flowing fast and furious. It was during the celebrations that the Wing Commander (Admin.) was heard to refute the evil rumour spreading around that R.A.F. Brüggen is attached to 2 Squadron, 21st Regiment—it just seems that way.

No. 3 Squadron

One of the many bonuses we get serving with the R.A.F. is an annual invitation to enter the Station Christmas Bar Competition. Basically, this entails a metamorphosis in the interior design of a barrack-room; to convert an otherwise nondescript dwelling place into a pub. The more unusual the theme, the better chance of winning one has.

The competition is judged on the day Christmas Grant starts, by the Station Commander and a team of well meaning, completely unbiased gentlemen, so desperately keen to project an aesthetic and artistic image that they are able to overcome the cumulative effects of drinks offered at every bar they visit.

For three Christmases, O.C. 3 Squadron has cherished the thought of winning the competition for the Unit; somehow or other he has never quite made it. A Western saloon in 1962 was adjudged third, a theme on the '19th hole' in 1963 won a consolation prize, so on the 28th October this year (the day following the Annual Inspection) the order went out, 'Right, start the bar now—no last minute rushes, we'll win this year! So being what they are, Corporal Dore (producer), Lance-Corporal Goggin (artist, painter and decorator), Signalmen Jardine and Napier (Jacks-of-all-trades) converted 'L' Troop quiet room into an awe inspiring replica of an Eastern Harem.

Tinkling tinsel screens, heavily carpeted floors and piped oriental music (courtesy Signalman Gayden) gave the place a most realistic joss-stick scented air. A few touches were missing: Sergeant Davies couldn't persuade the local zoo to let him have a camel for the day and the O.C.'s wife showed a marked reluctance to appear as a dancing girl. However, Signalman Fry acted the latter part very well and Signalman Gumbs was a truly superb mameluke.

Well, we didn't win, but at least we came second and won two crates of beer. Squatting on a cushion the O.C., the only person we know who smokes cigars all the year round and treats himself to cigarettes at Christmas, was heard to be muttering something about 1965! It was at about this time too that our one and only Staff Sergeant Martin, when asked in all seriousness what his ambition was replied, 'To be asked to resign my commission, sir.' Our guess is that acting as S.S.M. has gone to his head!

HEADQUARTERS, ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG, B.F.P.O. 1.

Out with Typhoons, in with Sport

The typhoon season is now over and gone for a few months, as is the oppressive heat and humidity. We are now enjoying weather reminiscent of the hotter summer days at home, except that one can predict with accuracy that it will be dry and that the sun will shine almost all and every day. Officially, it is winter, and on 7th December, the change to No. 2 Dress was made.

This is also the season when all types of games are played, including football, rugby, hockey and cricket, and the gladiators have a very exhausting time. The organisers of the various games also have their problems—and sometimes battles—trying to agree which expert plays what and when. That all usually ends amicably and good teams are fielded, says much for their patience and negotiating ability. To ease our problems, the normal winter games are played by Squadron teams, whilst cricket is arranged on a Corps basis. This has proved a happy solution and the cricket team is enjoying reasonable success.

Sapper - Signals Guest Night

For the officers, one of the more enjoyable occasions has been the annual Royal Engineers - Royal Signals guest night. By kind permission of the officers of H.Q., Land Forces, this was held in the Victoria Officers' Mess. The C.R.E., Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Thompson, M.C., and eleven Sapper Officers, together with Brigadier D. A. Pringle, O.B.E., the Commander, Hong Kong, Kowloon Garrison, were our guests. Also the opportunity was taken to dine-out Captain Bernard Strange, shortly to renew close association with the R.A.F., this time at Odiham. It was a most successful and enjoyable evening.

Inter-Service Integration Works well in Hong Kong

We had hoped that the guest night would coincide with the visit of Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Far East Land Forces, but unfortunately, this was not to be the case. The C.S.O., accompanied by Mrs. Blaker, paid us a very welcome visit from 30th November to 7th December. After his initial briefing by Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Winn, C.R. Signals, the C.S.O. visited all the Royal Signals units in the Colony, and our fellow communicators at the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, and the Composite Signals Organisation. We hope that the C.S.O. was pleased that in this place at least of his far-flung command, inter-Service communications are being made to work in a practical manner. We have our problems and difficulties, but there are very few of them that cannot be worked out to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

A new departure, from the training angle, was the Signals day of the Staff College Candidates' Military Science Course. In spite of a certain amount of difficulty in judging just the right level of technical instruction required—the experience also of all the technical arms involved—the day was reasonably successful. Our thanks are due to the various instructors for all the hard work and time they put into the preparation of their papers.

Help Safeguard Independence in the Zambia Defence Force

ZAMBIA (formerly Northern Rhodesia) has recently celebrated Independence. Because of this and the greatly increased demand on the Defence Force, a planned expansion programme is envisaged calling for men of initiative and ability. The following ranks are invited to apply for the exceptional and interesting posts now existing in the Defence Force.

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GENERAL INFORMATION
Zambia is a fast growing energetic Country with a cost of living on a par to the U.K. (Income tax lower). Some items, e.g. cigarettes and petrol cheaper. It has a warm, dry climate most of the year, allowing for a wide range of outdoor and sporting activities—swimming, boating, fishing and hunting. It's National Parks, Victoria Falls, lakes and wild life offer exciting sightseeing and photography opportunities.

Applications, quoting age, rank and brief history of previous military service, should be sent to :

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22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

(THE THRUSTERS)

Farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe

We have had a very full month in the Regiment, as we have been preparing for a change in command, with the usual round of inspections, boards of officers, and the many pleasant, but sad social occasions associated with saying goodbye to our departing Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe. Among the most notable were two dining-out nights, one by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and the other in the Officers' Mess. After the latter, the Colonel was driven from the Mess on top of a Saracen, and we are sure he will remember this most hair-raising experience, because he incurred a tailor's bill for the restoration of a leg of his mess overalls!

The Wives' Club gave a farewell party to Mrs. Wythe and presented her with a silver rose bowl.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wythe actually leaves the Regiment on a short tour as C.S.O., United Nations, Cyprus, and then he goes to Larkhill to teach the Gunners to signal, later in 1965.

All ranks extend their very best wishes for the future to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Wythe and thank them sincerely for all the hard work unselfishly devoted to our welfare during their tour with the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Beale is our new Commanding Officer, and he paid a brief visit early in October to see the form. At the time of going to press, Colonel and Mrs. Beale have just arrived in Lippstadt, and we welcome our new "No. 1 Thruster" and his wife and hope that they will enjoy their time with us.

Major Finch Bleeds "the Poor"

Our bonfire, for Guy Fawkes night, was unusually large, as we had our annual administrative inspection a few days later. We combined with 42nd Regiment, R.A., in a fine fireworks display and many stalls and sideshows. Part of the proceeds went to "Operation Shakedown." This is the name for a series of devilish devices organised by that arch rogue, Major Stephen Finch to bleed "the poor" of the Regiment (the officers) for the benefit of that noble cause, the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. Actually, it has been a process of entertaining and painless extraction. For instance, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess organised a social evening to which all the officers and their ladies were invited. Having tried our luck against a battery of (we suspect rigged) one-arm bandits and pitted our skill against impossible odds at various sideshows, we settled down to an entertaining dance with our Regimental beat group, "The Spartans," providing the "music." The evening realised 1,100 DM for the fund. (About £400.—Editor).

Our annual administrative inspection, by the C.C., Royal Signals, Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., was on 10th November. All went well, although we were a little disappointed at not having to crash-out detachments and fight saboteurs, as we did last year!

Sport to the Fore

Our Regimental soccer team has been going from strength to strength under the tutelage of R.S.M. Lafferty.

We have reached the 4th Division final of the Army Cup, which is shortly to be played off against the Royal Highland Fusiliers. Our triumphs on the stormy road to the final were:—v. Royal Horse Guards, won 4—0; v. 7th Signal Regiment, won 3—1; v. 42nd Regiment, R.A., won 8—2; v. 4th Division Column, R.A.S.C., won 2—1.

We have also beaten 16th Regiment in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup and are looking forward to our match with 28th Regiment in the next round.

Other notable events during the month were the visits of Colonels Hoerder and Brindley. The latter was persuaded to see a D11 in an Austin K9, ready for battle, and had the overloading problem fully rammed home!

New C.O. Slips up!

1 Squadron has been carrying out a series of VHF/HF trials during the month and our daily routine has been interrupted on three occasions by crash turn-outs. On one of these, in heavy snow, the C.O.'s Land Rover skidded completely round in front of a 'bus, and Corporal Martin now drives at 5 m.p.h.! Fortunately, Lance-Corporal Devine arrived with his detachment to help put matters right, and our new C.O. claimed 'devine' providence in this particular instance.



The O.R.s Dance was a success: (l. to r.) Lance-Corporal Herd, Lance-Corporal Crisp, Signalman Niels, Major and Mrs. N. R. F. McKinnon, Lance-Corporal Cussons, Lieutenant Hutley and Signalman Larkin

30th Regiment

BLANDFORD CAMP

Christmas Festivities

The Odling Committee demonstration (see separate article) successfully disposed of, the Regiment quickly changed gear and began feverish preparations for a week of socials before the Christmas break.

Top priority was given to the conversion of the AKC Cinema into the New Swan Social Centre and its decoration for the Christmas socials. The lights burned long into the night as willing hands in the form of Corporal Roberts, Corporal Esplin and Corporal Trent, to name but a few, gave up their own time to meet the deadline. Strange, though, how small the Corporals' Mess is when there is work to be done.

The Corporals' Mess had the honour of staging the opening function (much to the relief of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) and they did this with great success with their Christmas dance and draw on Wednesday, 16th December.

Great credit for this success goes to the Corporals' Mess committee consisting of Corporal Tuffin, Corporal Trent, Corporal Meyrick, Corporal Roberts and Corporal Esplin.

This was followed during the next week by equally successful functions, namely the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dance and draw, the other ranks' dance and no less than THREE children's parties at which over four hundred presents were distributed by a very popular Santa to the children of the Regiment under the age of twelve years.

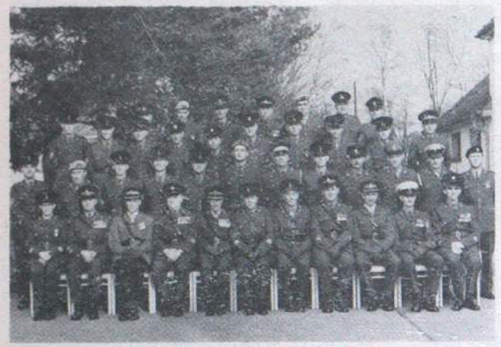
Finally the traditional men's Christmas dinner was served by the Officers and senior ranks in the men's dining hall on 23rd December, and again on the 25th the C.O. carved the turkey.

Many thanks are due from us all to Sergeant Cotterill, A.C.C., and his staff for the superb buffets they laid on for all the functions.



Enjoying the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess Dance: (l. to r.) Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Montgomery, Sergeant Marchant and Mrs. Marchant, and Sergeant and Mrs. Coatsworth

7th ARMOURED BRIGADE SQUADRON B.F.P.O. 30



Brigadier I. G. Gill, O.B.E., M.C., Commander 7th Armoured Brigade with members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. As a mark of integration there are nine different cap badges in the front rank alone

Brigadier I. G. Gill, O.B.E., M.C., the Commander of 7th Armoured Brigade, took our administrative inspection on the 11th December. During the parade he presented a clasp to the General Service Medal which W.O.II (F. of S.) Frank Smith was awarded for his part in the Borneo campaign. **Foreman Smith was Mentioned in Despatches for the conscientious way in which he ensured that communications were maintained.**

Our efforts in previous months were well rewarded: everyone appeared most impressed. The next twelve months will be one of consolidating and if possible improving our standards.

In the last few months we have welcomed Lieutenant Tony Fry, R.A.S.C., as our new MTO and Staff Sergeant Ray Copland as Chief Clerk. W.O.II (S.S.M.) Ben Thirkill, Q.D.G., and Sergeant Tony Carroll who have filled these vacancies respectively in recent months have now left us for further postings and we wish them good fortune. The majority of Royal Armoured Corps drivers have now returned to their regiments and have been replaced by Signalmen. We should like to thank all those Troopers who have served with us in past years, especially for the way in which they have helped us with our vehicles and driven them so well on exercises.

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Ernie Storie and Sergeant Phil Tuppenney on their promotion.

Christmas celebrations began immediately after the administrative inspection when the Sergeants invited the Officers to a games night. This was a very pleasant evening and the officers were extremely well entertained. This was followed the day after by a party which was given by the Corporals' Mess to the local German orphans. The children were brought to the camp by bus where they first saw some cartoon films, before eating a cake and mincepie tea. Father Christmas arrived by helicopter and gave all the children presents. It was a wonderful party and the orphans had a really good start to the Christmas season. Over Christmas and the New Year all ranks enjoyed themselves at the many troop parties and various Mess occasions which are traditional at this time of the year.

Now we look towards the first exercises and training courses of 1965.

Royal Signal Band Records

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20 ARMOURED BRIGADE GROUP H.Q. AND SQUADRON (200 SQUADRON) B.F.P.O. 41

We have made a New Year resolution—to do better than last year with our WIRE notes. We are now about to keep it, since, sad to say, we contributed nothing to our magazine last year. (*Nice to hear from you at last—Editor*).

We are situated in Detmold, a delightful part of Germany, and, as our title implies, are fortunate to be the 20 Armoured Brigade Group Squadron. We are just completing our integration and look forward to an interesting year in 1965.

For all those people who have lost contact with old friends, our senior Royal Signals personalities are: Major R. L. Stonham, Commanding; Captain R K. Ward, Second-in-Command, Captain J. R. S. Ovenden, Communications Officer; Second-Lieutenants C. G. Cruickshank and R. M. Goymour, Communications Troop Officers; W.O.I (R.S.M.) M. J. L. Molony; W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) C. Pinkney; W.O.II (F. of S.) G. Moore; Staff Sergeant A. Constantinou, Chief Clerk; Staff Sergeant G. E. Tomkins, Troop Staff Sergeant; Staff Sergeant D. N. M. Eldridge, Troop Staff Sergeant (arrived 1st January) and Sergeants Bresloff, Cush, Pape, Rogers and Whittingham.

1964 was, as usual, a very busy year, with much of the year spent in the field.

Autumn training saw us in the initial stages of integration. As with all new organisations, it took a little time to sort ourselves out, but everyone set to with a will and, in spite of being short of officers and senior N.C.O.s, the new system was soon working. Our shortages have since been made up and we can now really get down to our new integrated organisation.

Our annual inspection was carried out by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. E. Ward, D.S.O., M.C., on 9th December, 1964. This seemed to go well, but more than that must not be said, since the report is yet to come. It did mean that we were all able to celebrate Christmas with that behind us.

Christmas was as happy as always—most of us remember all of it, but just a few . . . . let us be kind and say for them it was difficult to believe that we had four days' holiday. Father Christmas, at the Children's party, a very benign figure who travelled by helicopter (much more comfortable transport these days), was Staff Sergeant J. L. Bearne. Sad to say, we shall have to find another one for next year, as he has now left us for 4th Regiment. We can only wish him and his family well in Herford and hope that we shall still see plenty of them. Our loss is 4th Regiment's gain.

The diary for 1965 is already full and we hope to have some interesting stories during the year. We are at present in the midst of individual training. Some of our experienced drivers are going grey, or bald, trying to teach the operators to drive their own vehicles, and other operators are on upgrading courses, trying to improve their trade rating and pay. Almost everyone in the Squadron is doing something in the trade training sphere and it is amusing, providing you stay far enough away, watching the R.S.M. trying to find enough men to carry out the normal day-to-day duties.

In the sporting world, we have had a fairly successful winter, so far. We have a go at everything and sometimes bring off surprises. Our soccer team has been the most successful, and this month play 5 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E., in the Divisional Minor Unit final at Herford. Lance-Corporal Armstrong skippers the team, and Signalmen Ryan, Brittle and Perkins have been prominent in the attack, with Signalman Stewart bobbing up and down all over the place from left-half. We are hoping for big things in the final, but we hear that we start as under-dogs. Reports of the R.E.M.E. team vary between very good and outstanding, for a minor unit.

The hockey team entered the Major Unit Championship and very nearly beat the Fifth Fusiliers. Two games and two periods of extra time were necessary to decide it, and we were leading 1—0 with half-a-minute of full time to go in the second match. The Fifth were finally beaten 1—0 by 1 R.H.A. in the Divisional semi-finals. We played them just before this semi-final game and won, so we are fairly pleased with ourselves. We are now hoping for some success in the Rhine Army .22 Shooting Competition and are starting to practice hard.

We close this edition with a promise to try and keep to our resolution and keep you informed of our progress in 1965. May we wish all Royal Signals units a happy and prosperous New Year.

210 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

Let us commence by wishing Signalmen, the world over, best wishes and successful communicating in 1965.

A Tough Climb up Mount Kilimanjaro

The last four months of 1964 were certainly hectic in "two-ten." During September we had our final fling in Kenya. Mount Kilimanjaro was climbed by a party from the Squadron, who made a gallant attempt to carry a C11 to the top (19,340ft.) and operate it from there to Bahrein. The full story will appear in a later edition of THE WIRE (*thank you! Editor*), but to save readers from suspense, the outcome was that the set was successfully carried to, and operated from 16,000ft., but was found to be frozen and inoperable the next morning. Presumably, the set had not been properly sealed on its last visit to Workshops—at any rate, it worked perfectly when it got back to camp again.

The radio was temporarily abandoned while the climbers continued to the peak. The feat attracted considerable publicity, especially around the mountain, where the professional African porters had pronounced that it was impossible to carry such weights at these altitudes. However, perhaps the best published part of the expedition was Corporal "Dusty" Miller's Squadron base camp, which provided curry and tea for all-comers, regardless of race, colour and creed.

The returning mountaineers passed yet another Squadron safari—Major Hartnett's Serengetti game-spotters—as they crossed the border. This safari was a great success, visiting the Maro Game Reserve, the enormous Serengetti Reserve, the Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara Game Park. Animals of East Africa—you name them—we saw them. A separate account of this safari will also (Editor willing) appear in a later issue of THE WIRE. (*The Editor is very willing.—Editor*). However, it was a great eight days, where the "big five" were eventually treated with contempt.

The Squadron Move, Families and all, to Aden

The tail end of September was packing, packing and more packing, in readiness for our October move to Aden. Hard work by all, with particularly careful organisation by R.Q.M.S. Crow and Staff Sergeant Jones, ensured that we left in good order. Stores departed in the correct priorities and vehicles loaded on flats having previously been serviced. It was a most complicated move. Operational stores had to fly. Vehicles went by sea in two different boats. Other unit freight and M.F.O. travelled by sea—some in vehicles, some as loose freight.

The first party to depart Kenya was our advance party, who flew, on 2nd October, together with one C11 (private wire Aden - Kenya) and families. Yes, an accompanied operational move! The advance party consisted of Major Hartnett, the R.Q.M.S., the Foreman of Signals, the Chief Clerk, and some hard workers! All on one Argonaut of Air Links Charter. (No! we hadn't heard of them either!).

The ship, with most of our vehicles, and a small party under Lieutenant Higton, sailed from Mombasa on 3rd October. This, in fact, was also the next party to disembark in Aden. They looked tanned and well on arrival, and had an extremely hectic day unloading the L.S.T. *Empire Skuar*. On the whole, our lads had enjoyed their nautical experiences, and a Squadron plaque will soon be hanging on the Ward Room wall of the ship—we hope.

Then, from 10th to 16th October, the same Air Links Argonaut flogged from Nairobi - Aden - Nairobi daily. Members of the Squadron and families arrived daily in varying quantities. The arrival organisation went fairly smoothly, with families being conveyed to their quarters or hirings, where they found a standard NAAFI parcel, 'fridges loaded with canned beer and switched on. Countless electrical and plumbing faults immediately appeared, and the wives were wonderful in their patience and good humour in face of the most domestic disorder, and all in sweltering heat.

The single soldiers also had their difficulties in makeshift accommodation and overcrowded cookhouses. They, too, are to be congratulated on the excellent way in which they rallied round and got on with the job. We, in fact, moved into Little Aden, where our camp was not ready, our accommodation occupied by another unit—so on and so forth.

. . . Extremely Valuable Experience and Training . . .

The Squadron was complete in Little Aden by 16th October, except a small rear party, who were attached to The Staffords, under Corporal R. J. Bailey. This party was to follow by L.S.T. early in November. On 20th October, after a very early breakfast (02.30 hours local time) a large advance party moved into the Radfan to take over the Force communications from 213 Squadron. The hand-over went smoothly, and many old friendships were renewed in our few days overlap. We won't embarrass 213 by publishing the result of our soccer match against them, but they will be relieved to learn that we have won every match played since, including the Infantry.

Communications have gone very well in the operation, and we are finding the job extremely valuable in experience and training, especially for our younger soldiers. As far as we are concerned, it is mainly a static signalling commitment, but a live one. Our radio stations are all ground stations, apart from one rover. The line layout is vast for a Brigade Squadron, but our linemen have enjoyed maintaining it. Activity has been increased recently, due to a move of H.Q. and consequent move of exchange signal centre and radio terminals. After initial chaos, all was well by lunchtime on the day of the move.

We are undisputed (and unbeaten) champions in Radfan soccer and volley ball. The latter game has been taken up very seriously and is now enjoyed by most of us.

During our time in the Radfan, our new barracks in Little Aden were "walked into." They were not ready for occupation, and so a "march-in" was not possible. We recommend "walk-ins," as all we did was to move in and list deficiences or damages, which are to be rectified at a later date—soon, we hope.

It would be remiss not to congratulate all ranks of the Squadron on the way they have borne all the shortcomings and discomforts of our recent moves, and their signalling performances between moves.

In conclusion, we say a fond farewell to Brigadier David Lloyd Owen and wish him well at the I.D.C.

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11th INFANTRY BRIGADE H.Q. AND SIGNAL SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 29

We fear it is a long time since we appeared on these pages. (*We wondered where you had been.—Editor*). The reasons are several, but too much work is the main one. Also, of late, we have been biding our time until we had something to boast about. Now we are feeling boast-worthy, at last, and so are venturing into print.

All about "This"

It was noticeable that even after our autumn exercises had finished, sundry people took to button-holing the Squadron Commander, preferably with an encouraging mug of tea, and beginning: "You know, sir, we really must write to THE WIRE after THIS."

"THIS" was two exercises which promised to be a real "stinker" for an Infantry Brigade, including its Signals, but in which both Infantry and Signals showed themselves a good match for a certain Armoured Brigade we all know. Our despised "gravel-crunchers" moved just as fast as tanks, and our signals kept through. In fact, the only dull thing about it was that Brigade Headquarters hardly had to move at all, because the communications proved so elastic. Of course, we all know we can do better; just watch next year!

"THIS" was also our first real test of 'Integration' in the field. This means that Royal Signals moved the headquarters, defended it, camouflaged it and—most important of all—brewed the staffs' tea. We were complimented at the time, and afterwards, on all these things. Our most valued pat-on-back came from a visiting Infantry Commanding Officer, after the R.S.M. had reminded him about his camouflage; the visitor remarked how good it was to see such a grip upon the place.

Ferrets Everywhere

Incidentally, we all had the importance of defence brought home to us on the exercise. Once, the advance party stood-to for four hours in harbour in a wood, while a troop of enemy armoured cars cruised round them looking for victims. You should have heard what the R.S.M. said, having got his head down for a nice "kip," when Mr. Pritchard woke him up and told him the enemy were four hundred yards away. Then, on the last night, two troops of Ferrets drove round us for an hour in the dark, firing in all directions and apparently hoping that we would reveal ourselves by replying. We had an awful job restraining certain people from forming fighting patrols, and the Squadron Commander nearly ruined himself trying to cross a pile of logs twenty yards from the Signal Centre. Luckily, the enemy gave up before our patience, and we remained undetected. But now nobody tries to argue that Royal Signals don't need to know their weapons and fieldcraft.

Life is now as near normal as it is ever likely to be. A fortnight after the exercises we had the C.I.V., Telecommunications and Arms Inspections, for which we gained good reports. We are pleased about this, because preparation time was short, and most people had to work from 07.00 until 19.00 hours daily, and some at week-ends. In a few days we have our administrative inspection, and in the same week the Brigade night marches, when pretty well everyone in the Brigade, including ourselves, competes in a 20-mile cross-country march at night.

The rugger team is doing well, and has entered for the Army Cup. We have two hockey teams and, of course, a football team, all playing hard. We entered a team in the Royal Signals Regatta at the Mohnesee in the summer, and hope to do much more sailing next year, as we have plenty of talent in that direction. Currently, we are looking forward to the opening of the Brigade Ski Centre at Murnau, in Bavaria, to send parties there for courses.

Personalities, Ordinary and Extra-ordinary

Space does not allow us to mention all the remarkable personalities in the Squadron, but the R.S.M. is W.O.I A. F. N. Crabtree; then there is Signalman Percy Drummond, who is the fastest 880 yards man in these parts and gets to the cookhouse pretty quickly too, even though he's apt to forget his eating irons. And Corporal Turaga, our Fijian rugger star; and Lance-Corporal Tuson, who runs, skis, sails, leads the "Alcoholics" dance band, brings the house down with his imitation of the Brigade Major, and occasionally commands his radio crew.

Tail Piece

Captain Alan Yeoman of Brigade H.Q. Staff has informed the Editor that the article in the October issue of THE WIRE, *which stated that the Corps was still short of Yeomen, was highly inaccurate. He states, with vehemence, that his own domestic circles indicate no lack of young Yeomen, and he would be obliged if Officer-in-Charge Records would amend his rosters accordingly!*

266 SQUADRON (BORNEO), B.F.P.O. 660

These notes are being written in December and one cannot help but look back at the past year. It has certainly for 606 Troop/266 Squadron been a year of movement, action, drama and at times humour. December itself is continuing as a month of strong winds and heavy rain, and a month of many changes of personalities in the Squadron. In fact, during these turn of the year months we have a major change round, including a complete change of officers. There are certain advantages in this perhaps, as the new Squadron Commander, Major J. H. Hild, when he takes over in February can start with a new team.

A Year of Remarkable Variety and Progress

Highlights of 1964 are difficult to isolate because the whole year has been one of remarkable variety and progress. We have changed from 606 Troop, short of men and good equipment, with crisis following crisis uninterrupted, to the present 266 Squadron. We still say we are short of men, who does not; we are still short of some of the things we want, but we receive great support for our outrageous requests. The year began in Brunei and ends in Labuan Island. This is easy to say, but it implies to us so much. Many people drove themselves very hard to make it possible and they deserve our thanks.

What about happenings in December itself? We have lost on posting 20 men. These include emergency reinforcements and some of our stalwarts of the Brunei days. Good luck to them in their new postings.

Losses and Gains

A big loss is Staff Sergeant Nick Leach. He has worked as few have worked and always with dry good humour. How difficult it was some mornings to start up that Main Ledger. It even once had to be towed. His family have now joined him in Singapore and they have our sincere good wishes.

So, too, our thanks to Sergeant-Major Chuff Lloyd. As the first S.S.M. of the Squadron he has done a fine job. The whole Joint H.Q. now marks time on Saturday mornings checking their tombola tickets.

We welcome to the Squadron Second-Lieutenant J. W. Easson, Sergeant-Major F. A. Gibbs, Yeoman G. Gwynne and Staff Sergeant K. Bunston.

Rugger is now under way and the Squadron, led by Lieutenant Roger Thompson figuring large on the field, began with a fine win over the rest of Labuan. We all saw him engineer that black eye to impress his fiance with. A fine sight was the Officer Commanding, Major Charles Lewis, going bald-headed for the opposition.

Soccer has slowed for the time being. The inter-Troop competition was rained right off the island, so will have to be replayed.

At Christmas we had two Squadron parties in the Membedai Lines and, of course, the traditional Christmas dinner. Plum pudding in 90° F. and 95 per cent humidity. Whatever next?

Blueberry Hill, our remote relay station, has had its problems this month. The approach track has become muddier and muddier until, to Corporal Sigrist's delight, he was able to declare it impassable. So in went the water and rations by courtesy of the Royal Air Force and a helicopter. There is rumour now in M.T. circles that Corporal Sigrist is checking servicing schedules for Whirlwind helicopters, as he is sure we need one in the M.T. Section. This would be on charge to Signalman Taylor 606 (606?—he is out-of-date, we shall have to amend him).

Apart from all this, but really the reason for it, work continues. As the months progress so we learn and improve. There is a lot to do; you ask our chaps, they know. They have now become eligible for the 1962 G.S. Medal with the Borneo Clasp. Does anyone want to volunteer for 266 Squadron?

644 Signal Troop (UNFICYP) Report on

SIX MOMENTOUS MONTHS IN CYPRUS

UNTIL the end of 1964 almost the whole of the Royal Signals representation in the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP for short) was provided by the 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment, under the leadership of Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., the C.S.O.

When the time came for the withdrawal of 3 Division, a motley selection of officers and soldiers was collected to fill the gap. Royal Signals was well represented and, building on the solid foundation left by their predecessors, they have forged a high reputation throughout the force. As C.S.O., we have had Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. P. Sampon, supported by Sergeant N. Wallace. On the Ops. ('G') staff we have had no fewer than three officers: Majors C. S. Galbraith, C. G. A. Ridley and H. A. Johnstone. Serving with British units in the Force are Sergeant Daniel, Lance-Corporal Jaques, Lance-Corporal Paterson and Signalman Dewa, with the Cheshires, and Corporal Alcock, Lance-Corporal Smith and Signalman Frigolt, with 2 RTR, all of whom are proving worthy successors to their predecessors with the Life Guards and the Inniskillings.

644 Troop Claim Unique Honour

What now follows concerns primarily 644 Troop (UNFICYP) which claims the unique honour of being the first unit of Royal Signals specifically formed for duty with a United Nations peacekeeping force, but they are the first to acknowledge their debt not only to the other members of our Corps serving with UNFICYP, but also to all ranks Royal Signals Cyprus District who, inspired by their C.S.O., Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, have been unstinting in their assistance and support. In particular, special tributes must go to Sergeant Frances of 262 Squadron and his detachment perched on the top of Mt. Olympus, who have acted as relay station for the UNFICYP Command Net, and to Sergeant Sparrow of 261 Squadron, and his Airfield Troop at Nicosia.

The Troop was finally in location by 7th August, 1964, having first formed at Bulford under 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment. We were split into four drafts and duly despatched to Nicosia Cyprus, where we were joyfully greeted by members of the 3rd Regiment who had been here since the United Nations Force first arrived.

Sun-tanned faces and faded Blue Berets were evidence of their outdoor life here! Within a week of our arrival we had taken over equipment and duties and were on our own.

The Troop is commanded by Captain P. J. R. Brown with Lieutenant J. E. Gill as traffic officer. Initially Lieutenants P. L. Bye and R. A. Knox Johnson were also on our strength, commanding the Radio and Line Sections. They have now left us and departed for other parts. Much work was done during their time here, supervising, improving and organising their respective Sections.

A Difficult Task—Keeping the Peace

The United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has the difficult task of keeping the peace on the island. For this purpose Cyprus has been divided into five zones which were initally—Nicosia Zone, Paphos Zone, Famagusta District, Limassol District and Larnaca District. Troops are provided by the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. In addition, Austria, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark and Sweden provide Civilian Police Elements. Each Contingent has the task of policing a zone or district, and peace keeping in its own area. The deployment of U.N. troops has since changed and will be explained later.

Headquarters UNFICYP is situated in a Cyprus Airways hangar at the Western end of Nicosia Air Field. For the purpose of Control and Command of UNFICYP, it is divided into Ops (A), Ops (B) and Logistics branches. Also, each contingent has its own National Representative Element at the Headquarters. These are small staffs, responsible for the command of their own national contingent. The British Contingent for example is controlled by COMBRITCON, the Canadian Contingent by COMCANCON.

644 Troop (UNFICYP) is responsible for providing communications for the United Nations Force in Cyprus. One can imagine, that with so many different contingents in the Force, difficulties immediately arise, working common circuits and radio nets. However, a reliable communications network has been established and proved, and continues to function effectively.

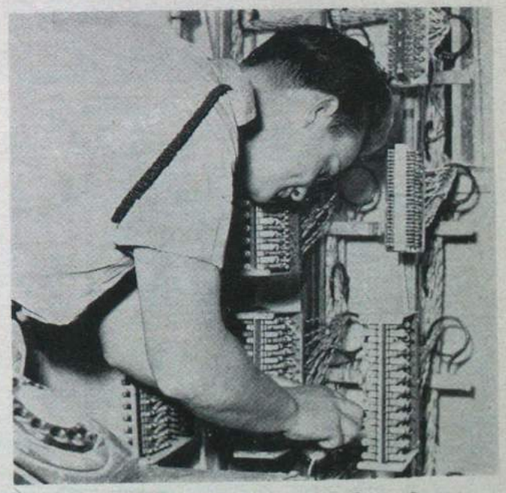
Royal Signals Aid Asked

No sooner had we taken over, when the Cyprus Crisis rose to danger point with the Tillyria Battle. The Turkish Cypriots were holding Kokkina against determined Greek Cypriot attacks, with troops of the Swedish Contingent caught in between. The Swedish Battalion decided to move its Headquarters and requested our C.S.O. for Royal Signals aid in moving and reinstalling their technical equipment. As an immediate temporary measure, a one-to-one HF radio link was opened, with the assistance of Staff Sergeant Rowland our F. of S. using SR C11-R210, until telephone and teleprinter lines could be established.

Normally, all telephone installations and lines are provided and repaired by the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA). In this instance, however, CYTA were most reluctant to repair this line which runs partly through the Turkish Cypriot town of Lefka. After a reconnaissance by the C.S.O., Lance-Corporal Arbuckle, who commanded our only line detachment, was briefed, and departed with instructions to lay a lightweight quad across No Man's Land with all possible speed. Working in almost unbearable heat with the sound of small arms fire to encourage them the line party completed its task and communications were once more through.

The DR Was Mistaken

The DR Section too, has its exciting moments. Signalman



Corporal Edwards at work in the Frame Room

(*Continued on page 66*)



Signalmen Seabrook (rear) and Hopper in the radio room



Signalmen Elgood and Harrington burying 7-pair cable

Dunphy had returned from the nightly "Milk Run" in Nicosia, complaining that his Land Rover was back firing badly. It was later discovered that it was nearby small arms fire which caused the "Snap, Crackle and Pop . . ."

For normal communications and meeting Staff demands, the Troop split into three sections, each commanded separately under Troop Headquarters. Our initial establishment was over-generous, and consequently re-organised and re-written. We have been working under the new organisation for some months, and it has been found to work well.

The Comcen is supervised by the Traffic Officer and Yeoman of Signals, W.O.II A. M P. Howie, B.E.M., who has put in a great deal of work reorganising and writing relevant SOPs.

Due to its location near the main runway, switchboard operators are hard put to understand subscribers when a Comet or Boeing jet takes off at full boost a hundred yards away!

Judicious use of hardboard and other materials has converted the large space into various offices, and the Comcen bears superficial resemblance to the layout suggested by Signal Training Vol VIII.

It is responsible for all UNFICYP traffic, with the exception of messages addressed to U.N. H.Q. New York, for which a United Nations Radio Link is maintained, and in addition passes all domestic traffic for the British, Danish, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand contingents utilising COMCAN/ACE networks.

Thank You to 259 Squadron

All traffic routed over COMCAN is passed to the tape relay centre Episkopi, and we are much indebted to 259 Squadron for help, cooperation and understanding.

For UNFICYP purposes, the island is divided into five zones, each with a direct teleprinter circuit to H.Q. UNFICYP. All the equipment and the circuits are installed and maintained by the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority. Operators at Zone Headquarters are found by the various national contingents in these zones, and formal procedures are impossible. However, we manage to communicate on a common understanding, although it has been known for the H.Q. UNFICYP operator to tell his distant colleague "you are sending all gash" when the said distant colleague is quite happily transmitting in his native, Danish, Swedish or Finnish for his Liaison Officer at H.Q.!

Corporal Baker supervises the exchange, and usually manages, in his air-conditioned comfort, to satisfy the demands of about one hundred subscribers.

Since Lieutenant Bye's departure, the Radio Section has been commanded by Corporal Cathcart. Main radio communications are on a C43 net, with a complex rebroadcast site on Mount Olympus. This net is backed up with a standby SR C42 net, operating through the same rebroadcast. This in turn has a SR C11-R210 HF standby.

All radio equipment is centralised in the radio room adjoining the Comcen. An extensive aerial field is situated nearby and much work was put into its erection.

Unusual Technical Problems

It was recently decided that the U.N. Force should be re-deployed in order to ease the burden of some contingents. Paphos Zone containing the Troodos Range was difficult to police with 28 Swedish Battalion. The area was too large and the terrain too difficult. The Force Commander, General K. S. Thimayya, D.S.O., issued orders for re-deployment. Paphos Zone was to be divided in two and re-named Paphos District and Morphou District, and taken over by 41st Irish Battalion and 3rd Irish Infantry Group respectively. 28 Swedish Battalion were to take over a new Famugusta Zone, which was a combination of Famagusta District and Larnaca District.

Our problem was basically simple, with a requirement to instal a working C43 station at Ktima, the Headquarters of 3rd Irish Infantry Group, and to arrange through CYTA for the installation of telephone and teleprinter. The terrain, with the massive Troodos range blocking VHF paths, did not allow for reliable communications, even through the Mount Olympus rebroadcast station. Although a SR C42 gave a reasonable working link, it was not possible to clear the obstacle with the higher frequency of a C43. The problem was partially solved by the erection of a 90ft. "Jontz" mast, imported from Jerusalem.

This, together with juggling and swinging aerials at Mount Olympus, gave us a good working net once more.

A simple job like banging in an anchoring peg is impossible (due to a solid rock layer just under the dirt surface) and it is necessary to use a drill and compressor unit, available from R.A.F., Nicosia.

Again, the difficulty is to establish a working net with four nationalities working as sub-stations. With the Swedish contingent, it was a question of finding an operator who could speak English. Finally one came to light, and we now have an Australian accent gracing the air. The voice procedure would be unacceptable on an all-British net, but a compromise has been reached, and a simplified United Nations procedure, designed by the C.S.O. on the basis of Signal Training (All Arms) Pamphlet No. 7, has been adopted as standard.

Obviously, when there is a change of personalities or circumstances, there are bound to be changes in the *modus operandi*. Our predecessors preferred to have radio sets scattered around the headquarters, but these are no longer required or desired. We have therefore moved all the sets into one radio control room and have run remotes out to the operators. We can now maintain and repair our sets without interfering with the staff.

Sport Is Not Forgotten

In spite of fully manning the communication centre, we still manage to take part in active sport. Naturally, during the summer months, with the temperature reaching 100°F., the emphasis is on swimming. Besides recreational visits to beaches at Famagusta, Dhekelia and Kyrenia, we have taken part in swimming matches against the Camp Staff and other contingents.

With Corporal Boase's help, we were normally well placed and won most matches. Besides representing the Troop, Corporal Boase has also represented the Army in an inter-Services match, and is to be congratulated on winning his Army swimming colours.

Cricket, too, was one of our major sports, although the lush green turf of a county cricket club ground was noted by its absence. We found a solution, however, and a mat wicket laid on the helicopter landing strip adequately served our purpose, although we had occasions of "Chopper stopped play."

(*Continued on page 69*)

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A local cricket league was formed, and one match played on "The Oval," Nicosia, once a day. We were placed second to 3 Infantry Workshops at the end of the season, with some outstanding performances. In a match versus the Ordnance Detachment, Sergeant Davis made 102 and Signalman Hopper 32.

With winter upon us, the soccer season has started. A seven-a-side soccer league has been formed, which the Troop heads. The Troop also takes part in rugby, hockey and basketball, providing players for H.Q., UNFICYP teams.

Last month we completed the building and decoration of our Troop Club, aptly called the Mercury Club. It was built entirely by self help and is well supported, showing a good profit from bar takings. The opening night was attended by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier A. J. Wilson, M.B.E., M.C., and we believe he spent an enjoyable evening with us. He showed great interest in the club and in Troop members.

T.A. and A.E.R.

47th REGIMENT MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

Are the Troop Leaders Leading? "Activity and Leadership are what the T.A. soldier wants and the only leadership he understands is the visible kind, so let me see the Troop Troop Leaders leading—and don't let 'em forget. 'You can't do business sitting at a desk!—now get 'em galvanised."

The speaker—our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D.

The subject—the role of the Junior Officer group within the Manpower aspect of our 1965 Regimental Development Programme.

With a Manpower Target of an Enlisted Strength of 400, by mid-July 1965, we have no time for complacency, and with out present strength at 350, the Commanding Officer sees there is none, his views on this are quite clear: "In the sphere of Manpower Planning for the Reserve Army, the problems of The Attraction Factor (Recruiting) are relatively simple, the real difficulty is with The Retention Factor (Wastage), the fundimental answer to which lies in the nature of the Activity and Leadership, planned and maintained by a Unit."

Because of the outside interest already shown in the methods used by the Middlesex Yeomanry to handle its manpower problems, this column will be regularly reporting methods and progress.

News in Brief. The Regimental Ball was the highlight of our Christmas festivities, directed by Major E. A. Scarlett, B.E.M., T.D., most ably assisted by R.S.M. Giles and S.S.M. Alexander.

The Children's Party followed in January, for 200 kiddies, which was run by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess under the able direction of the R.S.M. and S.S.M. Alexander, with S.S.M. Wylie as Father Christmas, arriving in a Space Car produced by the LAD, and Corporal Shorter of "C" Squadron causing much excitement amongst the children in his lion's costume.

A Tombola night was held for the first time in January, a great success, run by the R.S.M. ably assisted by Lance-Corporal Gavin-Duffy.

Personal Column. Our congratulations to W.O.I (Bandmaster) E. Tamplin on his award of the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List.

We welcome S.S.M. Judd, from our associated Parachute Squadron, who rejoins the main Regiment to take up an appointment as a Troop Leader, with "D" Squadron, our Primary Training Unit.

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . to be read by the Corps.



Recognise the faces?

W.O.'s and Sergeants of 64th Regiment (T.A.) at their Annual Dinner

3 SQUADRON, 64th REGIMENT (T.A.)

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess has a very successful evening

The 20 members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess turned out to a man to welcome their guests to their annual dinner, held in the T.A. Centre, Butterbiggins Road, Glasgow, on Saturday, 21st November, 1964. The guests, ten in number, included, among others, the Squadron Commander, Major A. G. McHoul and the R.S.M., W.O.I T. E. Knight, who had crossed the border along with three other representatives from 1 and 2 Squadrons, W.O.II R. Dobbs, W.O.II Pykett and W.O.II K. Headleand.

After sherry, an excellent dinner was served in the Junior Ranks' Mess, which had been specially decorated for the occasion. When the loyal toast and the toast to our Colonel-in-Chief, proposed by Mr. Vice-Sergeant Jimmy Jamieson—had been drunk, the Mess President, S.S.M. Jimmy Harris, took the opportunity of making a presentation to W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Charlie Sooman, who was being dined-out. R.Q.M.S. Sooman, who was taken prisoner with G.H.Q. Signals during the war has served with the Squadron since its inception as 500 (Indep.) Signal Squadron (T.A.) in 1951.

We hope the Editor will accept this article and will publish our mess photograph, as we are sure that a number of T.A. readers of THE WIRE will recognise some of the faces who have served with this Squadron for many years under its different roles as 500 (Indep.) Signal Squadron (T.A.), 3 (Indep.) U.K.L.F. Signal Squadron (T.A.), 313 Signal Squadron (G.H.Q., U.K.L F.) (T.A.), and presently as 3 Squadron, 64th Signal Regiment (T.A.).

409 SQUADRON (PARK) A.E.R.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. N. Stilwell writes of the Squadron's activities towards the latter part of last year.

The end of October saw 409 commanded by Major E. J. Kelly together once again at Donnington, this time for a 4-day training weekend. We also acted as hosts to members of 80th and 81st Regiments, 404 and 405 Squadrons who live in the vicinity. We hope they enjoyed their stay with us.

The inclement weather unfortunately curtailed our training programme, as we were the victims of a "Reet proper Midland Fog." However a Paper Exercise organised by Major Carter and Major (Rtd) Smith was attempted by the Stores Troops.

Technicians under the command of Major R. E. Playle, ERD, were active on short familiarisation courses, once again liaising with local T.A. and Regular Signal Units.

Later a social was held in the NAAFI. It was at this function we met some past members of the Unit; let us hope we shall see more of them, preferably back in uniform as active members of the Unit. Once again the R.A.O.C. looked after us with their impeccable hospitality. Our thanks to them.

One last word about our attachments; thank you for the way in which you adopted us; we sincerely hope you enjoyed yourselves. Do not hesitate to look us up any time in the future, we shall be pleased to see you.

In closing may we extend (even if a little belated) sincere good wishes to all other Signal Units, and our friends at the C.O.D. for a peaceful and enjoyable New Year.



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Shooting

A.R.A. NON-CENTRAL MATCH RESULTS FOR 1964

Match 66.—The Individual Rifle Match

1st Lieutenant D. H. Insall, 21st Regiment
2nd Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, H.Q., Southern Command.
3rd Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E., H.Q., ALFCE.
4th Sergeant G. F. Smith, 14th Regiment.
5th Sergeant E. R. R. Smith, 14th Regiment.
7th Major G. A. S. Exell, R.R.E., Malvern.

Winner of the Royal Signals Bulford Cup, Lieutenant D. H. Insall.

Match 62.—Pistol and S.M.G. Match (Minor Units)

Winners: 243 Squadron (Southern Command).

DATES FOR MAIN EVENTS, 1965

15th - 17th June	Royal Signals Southern Comd. Meeting, Bulford.
21st - 24th June	Royal Signals Corps Meeting, Bulford.
26th June - 3rd July	A.R.A. Meeting, Bisley.
2nd July	Methuen Match.
5th - 9th July	N.R.A. (SR(a)) Meeting, Bisley.
10th - 17th July	N.R.A. (SR(b)) Meeting, Bisley.

A.R.A. Meeting, Bisley, 1965. The meeting has been reduced from the usual fortnight to eight days. The matches to be fired will, however, be the same as in previous years. The conditions of the main matches will remain unchanged, except that in the Roupell and Whitehead, Snap will be fired immediately after Rapid and without sighters, and the S.M.G. Match will be shot under N.R.A. Conditions on Cheylesmore Range.

Royal Signals Sailing in Singapore

Fierce Tussle with Sappers

The FARELF Triangular Regatta was held at the Royal Singapore Yacht Club on 2nd, 3rd and 4th December, 1964. Three teams, from the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and Royal Signals competed for the St. Barbara's Buoy, and after three days of very exciting sailing, the Sappers emerged as the winners, with Royal Signals a very close second.

Races were sailed in Fireflies and Ospreys with the following results:

Teams	*No of Firefly Wins*	*Firefly Points*	*No. of Osprey Wins*	*Osprey Points*	*Total Wins*	*Total Points*	*Position*
R.E.	2	86	1	83½	3	169½	1
Royal Signals	1	80½	2	79½	3	159½	2
R.A.	0	68½	0	57	0	115½	3

The match was virtually decided when Signals, sailing against the Engineers in Fireflies decided to come inshore and allowed the Sappers to sail where the tide turned out to be more favourable. By failing to cover them, Signals finished third and fourth instead of first and second. Despite this, Signals put up a terrific fight in Ospreys, Colonel David Gibson getting three first positions out of four races, and the match against the Engineers produced some really first class sailing, with Signals winning by a narrow margin of two points. The Signals team, rather unfortunately, became involved in two protests against the Gunners, one of which was decided in their favour and one against, but for this, the margin of victory for the Engineers would have been very narrow indeed. There was only half-a-point between the points Signals and Sappers scored against each other. *All factors considered, the trophy went to the best team, and we wish to congratulate the Royal Engineers on their fine win, and we look forward eagerly to next year.*

The Royal Signals were represented by:

Helmsmen	*Crews*
Colonel D. Gibson	Captain J. L. E. Hardy
Major J. Denton	W.O.II Hall
Lieutenant-Colonel E. Erskine	Major P. Garratt
	Corporal Malcolm

At the conclusion of the regatta, Royal Signals organised a drinks prize party at the Army Sailing Club, and as keen but friendly post mortems were held on various aspects of the regatta, all of the weather-tanned sailors attending agreed on one point—there is no finer sport in the Far East.

Corps Football Result

Royal Signals 10; Manchester University 1. Played on 13th January.

Required.—House, bungalow, or plot of land, at reasonable price; Berkshire, Middlesex Area; others considered.—Major D. Banham, H.Q., A.E.R., Blandford Camp, Dorset. Blandford 370, ext. 218.

Hertfordshire County Council, Civil Defence Department, have a vacancy for a Signal officer to be based on Hertford. Salary within the range £1,055 - £1,340 per annum. The person appointed will be expected to provide a car, for which travelling allowance will be paid.—Apply, stating age and details of experience and qualifications, and giving the names of two referees to Civil Defence Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Welfare Work by Branches of the Association

Seldom publicised and, indeed, often unknown to the Staff at Headquarters, the Branches of the Association are concerned in a considerable amount of most worthy service to our less fortunate Comrades.

As an instance of the work carried out by branches of the Association, a typical case has come to notice from the Croydon and District Branch. Association Headquarters Welfare Section notified the branch of an ex-signalman, aged about 35, who was living in their area with his wife and young family, and who was suffering from an illness which prevented him from working.

The branch has taken this family under its wing and, apart from clothing, was able to take along a large Christmas hamper, which was gratefully received. A watch is being kept over this family's welfare.

Note.—The Croydon and District Branch now meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Army Cadet Force Hut, Sydenham Road T.A. Centre, Croydon.

Clothing

Since early October, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Mrs. H. A. C. Wilson
W.O.I F. Stockdale
Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch
W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, 11th Regiment
Brigadier and Mrs. C. Vincent-Smith
Mrs. E. M. Cochrane
Brigadier H. R. Firth
Mrs. T. S. Foster
Mrs. E. Fladgate
R.S.M. and Mrs. D. G. Newton
Major D. S. A. Hutley, G.M.
A. E. Stead, Esq.
A. Walsh, Esq.
Major N. A. C. Clubb
H.Q., Training Brigade, Royal Signals
Mrs. Pentreath
Major J. F. Stokes, T.D.
Major and Mrs. F. R. Pedley
R.S.M. and Mrs. K. H. Attwell
F. Veness, Esq.
Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals
Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.
Major T. Jenkinson
G. A. J. Peakes, Esq.
D. A. Watts, Esq.
Mrs. D. St. J. Hoysted
Miss Rosemary Hoysted
Major S. P. Irwin
W.O.I E. Summers, M.B.E.
W.O.I P. McNaughton
J. F. Benson, Esq.
Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham
2 Squadron, 13th Regiment
235 Signal Squadron
W. Mycroft, Esq.
North London Branch, Royal Signals Association
Major R. K. Nice
Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow
Colonel and Mrs. D. E. Harrison
David and Simon Gallyer
A. Stokes, Esq.
Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E.
B. A. Rhodes, Esq.
Mrs. E. J. Waddon
P. J. Hordle, Esq.
Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Mansfield, O.B.E., T.D.
Mr. and Mrs. Foote
R. L. Cartwright, Esq.
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Carole, Joan and Ian Morgan
J. N. Dunlop, Esq.
Major R. Lawrence
Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Emley
Captain G. Corden
Colonel W. D. McGregor, O.B.E.
A. C. J. Chalmers, Esq.
Colonel D. R. Paterson, O.B.E.
His Honour Judge Ingress Bell, T.D., Q.C., J.P.
Mrs. E. C. Barker
Mrs. M. Boyland
Sergeant L. Treharne
Major J. W. Saul
Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Swaby
209 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb
Captain (T.O.T.) J. L. Bayfield
Captain C. E. N. Pilkington
Lieutenant-Colonel W. McCulloch

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during December, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	30	0	0
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	0	0
10th Regiment	18	15	0
227 Squadron (ALFCE)	21	5	0
418t Regiment (2 Squadron) (T.A.)	3	0	0
3rd Regiment	11	4	0
58th Regiment (T.A.)	5	0	0
319 Squadron (T.A.)	3	0	0
1st Regiment	55	9	5
28th Regiment	50	0	0
28th Regiment (Wives' Club)	7	10	0
229 Squadron	7	4	8
257 Squadron	2	15	6
234 Squadron	5	9	0
210 Squadron	10	0	0
245 Squadron (Cyrenaica) Wives' Club	10	0	0
Signal Squadron, Trucial Oman Scouts	15	0	0
Croydon and District Branch	3	3	0
Army Ben. Fund (donation on behalf of H.Q., 50 (N) Division)	2	0	0
Various individual donations	9	14	8
Total Receipts	£271	11	3
Expenditure during December, 1964: (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture: Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£704	19	11

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"Quality" Car Badges	38/-
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Pace Sticks	117/-
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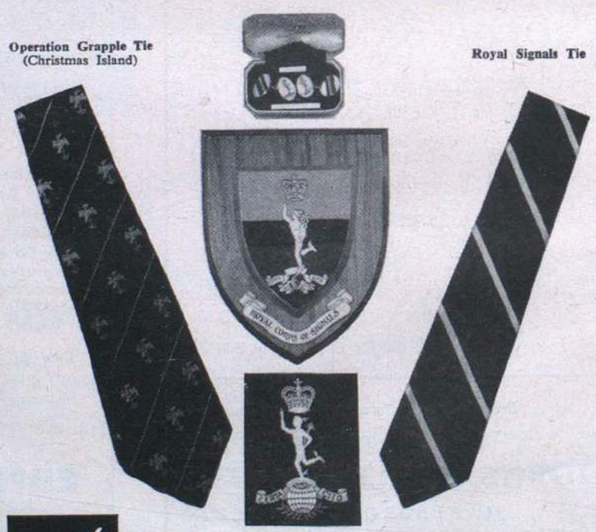
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 18/-; single month, 1/6.

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MARCH/APRIL • 1965

Vol. 19 *(New Series)* **No. 4**

Editorial

Recruiting

Several years ago Corps recruiting was far from satisfactory. Competition between the Corps and Regiments of the Army was very keen. For various reasons we were late starters in this field, and others had got going before us. It became a matter of urgency for the Corps to take energetic and rapid action to avert an impending crisis. The then S.O.-in-C., General Michael Whistler, appointed a Corps Recruiting Co-ordinator in the person of Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Knowles. In addition, although there were heart-rending protestations from some quarters, he posted out from various units some 40 Sergeants to perform the duties of Special Recruiters in Army Information Offices. The officers of the Corps also contributed generously from their funds to help in the advertising effort so necessary to a successful recruiting campaign. Finally, the late S.O.-in-C., General Eric Swainson, persuaded those in authority that Corps recruiting should be given priority.

Now, in 1965, we see the pay-off. The Corps is at the top of Army recruiting figures and except for the technician group of trades we are practically up to establishment strength. But there is more to it than that. The hard work of Lieutenant-Colonel Knowles and our Corps recruiters has attracted into the ranks a very high standard of young man whom we can justly be proud. Already these young regular soldiers are bringing considerable credit to the name of the Corps, wherever they may be serving.

To achieve all this has been an up-hill struggle. For the special recruiter working on his own it has been a duty that has called for dogged perseverance and an enthusiastic loyalty to the Corps. Constantly assisting and advising in all this has been that shrewd and experienced personality, Major Frank Petrie, who for so long has been dealing with man-power selection problems.

The grateful thanks of the whole Corps must go to this well-knit team for all that they have done to build up from scratch our present day regular Corps. They have translated the doubtful outook of the past into the assured future which now confronts us.

From our "In Tray"

A senior N.C.O. of the Indian Corps of Signals concludes a pleasant letter to us with the following: "Great Britain occupies a very special place in our daily family prayers. With kind permission, I am closing this letter with a big God bless you all, always."

There is undoubtedly a tremendous residue of goodwill between this country on the one hand and India and Pakistan on the other, due entirely to our happy Service relationships in days gone past. Our greetings and good wishes go to Signals in both countries.

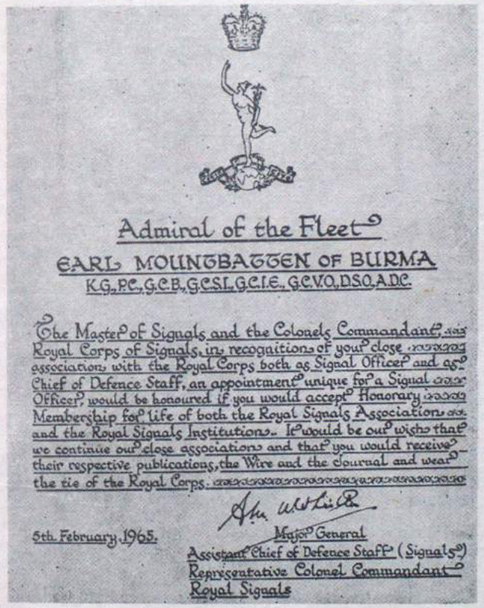
* * *

A young lady writes from Oldham that her boy friend is in the Corps and that he sends her a copy of THE WIRE every month. She goes on to say that her two younger brothers read it as well as her mother, and when the family have finished with it she takes it to work, where all her workmates read and enjoy it. She concludes by saying: "to me it seems there is no finer Regiment in the British Army; may the Royal Signals always keep up the good work." A very nice compliment. We will do our best to live up to it!

Admiral of the Fleet EARL MOUNTBATTEN Accepts Honorary Life Membership of The Association and The Institution

☆





Admiral of the Fleet
EARL MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA
K.G., P.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., D.S.O., A.D.C.

The Master of Signals and the Colonels Commandant Royal Corps of Signals, in recognition of your close association with the Royal Corps both as Signal Officer and as Chief of Defence Staff, an appointment unique for a Signal Officer, would be honoured if you would accept Honorary Membership for life of both the Royal Signals Association and the Royal Signals Institution. It would be our wish that we continue our close associations and that you would receive their respective publications, the Wire and the Journal and wear the tie of the Royal Corps.

5th February 1965.

Major General
Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals)
Representative Colonel Commandant
Royal Signals

THE Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Michael Whistler, made his farewell call, as Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals) on his Chief, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Mountbatten, Chief of the Defence Staff, on the 5th February. This was over a month before General Whistler gives up his post, but C.D.S.'s world tour made it necessary. It was an interesting, and a unique occasion for two reasons:—

General Whistler, on behalf of the Corps, invited Lord Mountbatten, as C.D.S. and the world's most senior serving Communicator, to accept Honorary Life Membership of the Royal Signals Association and Institution. The Admiral was delighted to accept and was particularly pleased with the Corps tie given at the same time.

Lord Mountbatten congratulated General Whistler on his arduous two years' work as the first incumbent of the new post of A.C.D.S.(S), the first appointment ever made for one officer to oversee the communicators and signallers of all three Services. He pointed out that Signals were well in the van of the new unified organisation so essential to run our joint Forces, and were indeed the major controlling factor in so doing.

Thus the Corps has, in a sense, achieved a double first—an Admiral of the Fleet as an Honorary Life Member of its Association and Institution and a General of the Corps as the first chief joint communicator of all three Services.

The Corps will undoubtedly wish the Editor to express their appreciation to Lord Mountbatten for his help and advice as C.D.S. and for honouring us by accepting membership of our Association and Institution. Perhaps we may have the pleasure of seeing him at some of our Corps functions.

More will be written of General Michael Whistler when the Corps finally 'dines him out' in April. Suffice now to say that we are conscious of all that he has done in the important and exacting appointment of Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals).

We were also glad to hear that at the conclusion of the ceremony Lord Mountbatten presented General Whistler with a signed photograph of himself.

DO YOU KNOW?

About the Regular Forces Employment Association?

DURING 1964 the number of men and women from the Regular Armed Forces of the Crown placed in employment by the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen was 11,922, which was 81 per cent of those who registered at one or other of the Association's 49 branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom. It is of interest that of this number, 5,192 were from the Army and 425 were from Royal Signals.

If when you get home you have mislaid the address of your Area Jobfinder, apply at any big Post Office or to Association H.Q.

The Lying-in-State and the State Funeral of the RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, K.G., O.M., C.H.

By Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Pounds, Chief Signal Officer, London District

Preparation

"WHAT is my priority, sir, is it 90 rounds or a gun per minute?"

This question, which was asked by the Commander, Minute Guns, on a very early rehearsal, received the following retort:

"Fire as you like, but I assure you if it is noticed that you let off any more or any less than 90 rounds, you will live with it for the rest of your life!"

This exchange sums up the general approach by those in Headquarters, London District, responsible for the organisation of such great occasions as the State Funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. Everything is planned with almost irksome precision in a simple, unflurried manner; anything complicated being ruled out because of the indelible effect of a mistake on the unfortunate individual concerned.

Planning for Operation "Hope Not" (the code-name for the funeral) started as soon as Sir Winston's wishes concerning his burial place were known. It was not until 1960, however, that details of communication support were agreed. These were finally included as part of the operation in 1961. The existence of the plan had, for reasons of secrecy, to be restricted to very few officers outside Headquarters, London District. As is nearly always the case, militating against this was the urgency, particularly if death took place suddenly. It was also a tragic fact that, unlike many other emergency plans sitting in one's safe at the time, Operation "Hope Not" would for a certainty take place.

The communications plan called for about 60 Royal Signals officers and men from twelve different regiments to report to Headquarters, London District, by D+2 (D-Day being death). It was for this reason that special authority was obtained for a signal instruction to be written and released on a very restricted basis in August, 1964. At the same time, the extremely detailed overall plan was reduced to one volume instead of five previously produced. This document containing, as it did, the most intricate detail, eventually consisted of 185 pages of foolscap-size sheets, maps and diagrams. Each weighed 3¼lb., and had to be distributed between D-Day and D+1 (not before) to 140 addresses in the Greater London Area. In the event this gigantic task was completed on time by despatch riders from 10th Signal Regiment (Eastern Command).

It was a remarkable fact that, apart from minor amendments, this overall plan, produced by "A" Branch, London District (involving as it did over a hundred units of all three Services) was the one adhered to on the day. The only major change being that, instead of eight days between death and the funeral, in the event only six days transpired.

Organisation

The basis of the organisation centred around eight commanders, all from the Household Brigade:—

Procession:	Chief Marshal
Commander:	Street Liners, first half of the route
Commander:	Street Liners, second half of the route
Commander:	Westminster ceremonial
Commander:	St. Paul's ceremonial
Commander:	Tower Hill ceremonial
Commander:	Tower Wharf/Pier ceremonial.
Commander:	Minute Guns.

Each commander was allocated a signal officer with the specific task of providing radio communications within the main framework of the signal plan, which was as follows: —

Procession Control Net. To control the progress of the procession. This consisted of 17 Metropolitan Police cars placed along the route with a crew of two police officers and a Royal Signals Officer and Warrant Officer/N.C.O.

Artillery Net. To control the firing of the minute guns.

Tower Pier Ceremonial Net. To control the ceremonial at Tower Pier including the R.A.F. flypast.

Communications—Radio

The Procession Control Net. This worked magnificently. It is of interest to note that it is not police practice to permit one car to talk to another. Special authority was obtained from Scotland Yard for all 17 cars to use the same transmit/receive frequency and operate as a net. The main use of the net was for the Chief Marshal, marching with the Earl Marshal's group to check on the progress of the mile-long procession by means of messages passed to and from marshals marching in the groups to the front and rear of the coffin. During rehearsals several systems were tried, the one finally settled on was the "pit-stop" idea, whereby a millboard was displayed from selected control posts giving the necessary details as heard over the net to the marshals as they marched by.

The success of this net was due, not only to the reliability of the Metropolitan Police radio, but also to the wonderful co-operation shown by Chief Superintendent F. H. Banfield and his staff in the Communications Division of Scotland Yard.

The Artillery Net. This was deployed at the gun positions of King's Troop, R.H.A., in St. James's Park, and the H.A.C. at Tower Wharf. Since minute guns were to be fired only whilst the procession was actually moving, further radio stations were sited at New Palace Yard (to start the guns), at St. Paul's (to stop the King's Troop and start the H.A.C.) and at Tower Pier (to stop the salute). The net was also used for King's Troop to pass over to H.A.C. the number of unfired rounds to make up the 90 (one for each year of Sir Winston's life). A further station was sited at Tower Pier to warn the H.A.C. when the launch *Havengore* was clear of the pier to enable the 19-gun salute to be fired.

The net consisted of SR B44 working through a rebroadcast station with substations sited as high as possible. The sets worked very well, in spite of the crowded frequency conditions, and full marks must be given to the operators, all from 10th Regiment, many of whom endured hours of blizzard conditions in their lofty perches.

The Tower Pier Ceremonial Net. This net enabled the commander of the ceremonial on Tower Pier to control the progress during the procession down to the pier, the salute of the Naval Guard of Honour and piping party, the playing of the lament by 60 massed pipers and the R.A.F. flypast, all of which had to be timed to precision. An extract from the main order shows the split-second timing required:

L hour	Launch starts to move. Piping party start.
L + 30 secs.	Piping party stop. Guard of Honour present arms. Salute music starts.
L + 75 secs.	Salute music stops. 19-gun salute starts. Massed pipers start lament.
L + 120 secs.	Fly past.
L + 155 secs.	Gun salute stops. Guard of Honour Shoulder Arms. Massed pipers fade out.

L + 3 mins. Launch passes under London Bridge.

Manpack equipment was used on the net, and the operators, all from 30th Regiment, deserve particular praise for carrying out the task in an atmosphere of almost overwhelming emotion.

Communications—Line

Line communication consisted of an omnibus circuit used to duplicate the Artillery net and a circuit to the R.A.F. controller on top of the Byward Tower, H.M. Tower of London, who, in his turn, had circuits to the Air Defence Operations Centre and London Airport. In addition, there were a number of direct circuits required between the Earl Marshal's office in the Ministry of Defence and those concerned with preliminary planning in Headquarters, London District.

The co-operation of Mr. C. W. Davies, the Telephone Manager and his staff at G.P.O. Centre Area was, as always, readily and efficiently given.

No circuit took more than four hours to engineer from the time of placing the order. This commendable feat was quite unbelievable when one considers that many telephones were required in the most unlikely places. For example, the arrangement for the Artillery net included one at the "third bush on the right of pathway running from the lake to road in St. James's Park, opposite the Guards' Chapel" and another "on the eighth layer of scaffolding on partially-built building opposite north side of St. Paul's west entrance."

Signals Despatch Service

No communication support would be complete without S.D.S. As mentioned earlier, 10th Regiment despatch riders bore the early brunt of the operation. They were joined on D+2 by nine members of the Royal Signals Display Team from 24th Regiment. Lack of knowledge of the Metropolis was a handicap soon overcome, and considerably helped by such clear directions as under:

24th Regiment D.R.: "New Palace Yard? Where's that?"

10th Regiment D.R.: "Try and drive under Big Ben, when you can't get any further—you're there!"

As always, the despatch riders had many long and tiring days, in particular those on duty in the Earl Marshal's office, whose runs invariably included almost every Embassy and Consulate in London.

The Lying-in-State

Any account of this great event would be incomplete without a mention of the Corps contribution to the Vigil at Westminster Hall. Never before has the Corps been called upon to share the great honour of providing officers to guard the coffin at a Lying-in-State.

On this occasion each Service provided 54 officers. The Army Watch was made up of 18 officers each from the Household Brigade and the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, and six officers each from Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers and Royal Signals.

The R.A./R.E./Royal Signals watch was on duty from 06.00 - 12.00 hours on the second day of the Lying-in-State. Each relief was at the catafalque for 20 minutes, with 40 minutes off; the Corps relief standing vigil for the last 20 minutes in each of the six hours.

The atmosphere inside Westminster Hall was unforgettable, mainly because of the incredible silence, in spite of the many thousands filing past to pay homage.

One experienced a great feeling of pride at the sight of our officers, standing absolutely motionless in ceremonial dress, head bowed, sword reversed, and also at the dignified precision of the changeover drill, carried out as inconspicuously as possible; each movement controlled by the barely audible tap of the watch commander's sword. The officers who performed this duty were:

Major F. P. Stewart, M.B.E.	School of Signals
Major D. A. Polley	School of Signals
Major P. F. W. Gahan	8th Signal Regiment
Major W. G. A. Cathcart	11th Signal Regiment
Major P. A. Wing	School of Signals
Captain J. H. T. Nealon	11th Signal Regiment

Conclusion

The funeral of this great man took place over six weeks ago. In spite of what the papers said at the time, an honour of such dimension had not been paid to a commoner since the death of the Duke of Wellington, on 14th September, 1852. Sir Winston Churchill's funeral was truly a magnificent tribute, and those of us in the Corps who were concerned with it feel very proud, not only to have played our part in such a meticulously staged event, but also to have shared in the wonderful sight of history in the making.

* * *

(This very excellent article will also be appearing in the Royal Signals Journal, thereby giving the maximum coverage of the part the Corps played on this memorable occasion.—Editor).

Is this of interest to YOU?

The Editor has received the following letter from the Office of the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District (Engineering Department)

I would be most grateful if you could bring to the notice of any Radio Technicians who may be completing their engagement and contemplate leaving the Army in the near future that vacancies exist for Radio Technicians in the Telecommunications Branch of the Metropolitan Police Engineering Dept.

The Radio Technician grade carries a salary of approximately £1,000 on starting, rising to £1,142 by annual increments plus generous overtime and shift allowances per 42 hour week. Annual leave is 18 days increasing to 30 days according to service.

Duties of Radio Technicians consists mainly of the maintenance of VHF R/T and ancillary equipment installed in Mobile Police vehicles and fixed Stations.

Technical Qualifications

(a) A sound knowledge of the principles of electricity and radio combined with practical workshop experience of radio equipment maintenance and the use of electronic test gear.

(b) The City and Guilds Telecommunications Technicians Intermediate Certificate, or equivalent Technical qualifications.

Favourable consideration will be given to applicants who are currently undergoing the City and Guilds Telecommunications Technicians Course and who have every prospect of obtaining the Intermediate Certificate in the near future. Time off with pay may be granted to attend Technical Training Colleges where applicable.

Application Forms from:—

The Telecommunications Engineer,
113, Grove Park,
Camberwell,
London, S.E.5.

Sale. Modern semi-detached house, 156, Wombridge Road, Trench, Wellington, Shropshire.—Apply, W. Oxhey, at this address.

our aim in all Depts.:—
Superb Quality
CHAS. JACKSON & SONS
63, 64 and 66 SKINNERGATE
Established 1894 **DARLINGTON** Telephone 2955
Sixty Years Satisfactory Service
"WE BUY THE BEST" "WE SELL THE BEST"
DAILY DELIVERIES IN YOUR DISTRICT
Butchers : Grocers : Game Dealers

THE CORPS' NEW HOME TAKES SHAPE

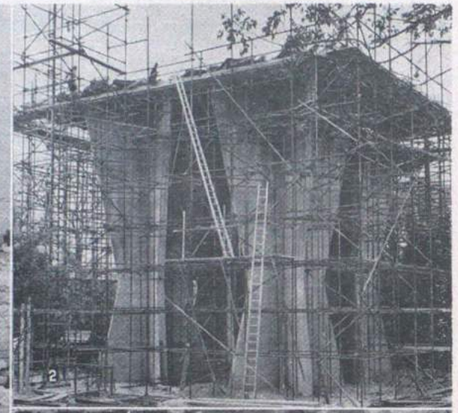
A Progress Report from Blandford Camp

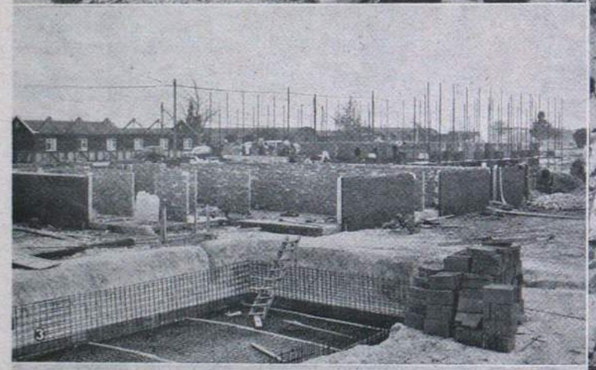
AS reported in September 64 issue of "The Wire," the rebuild of Blandford Camp commenced on June 19, 1964. These photographs give an idea of the work that is going on.

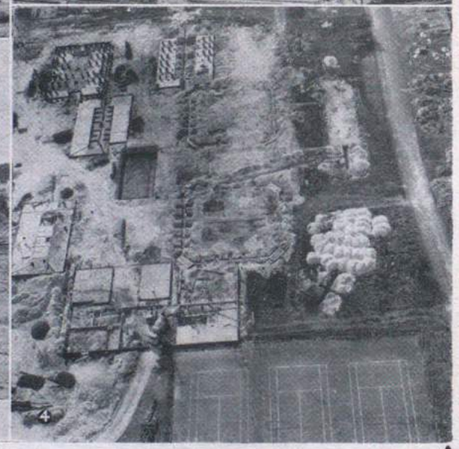
Substantial progress has been made although the Contractors are believed to be somewhat behind schedule due to a shortage of bricks, which one might add, is nation-wide. We understand that the problem has now been largely overcome by the choice of different coloured facing bricks for the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess, the transmitter and the Receiver sites.

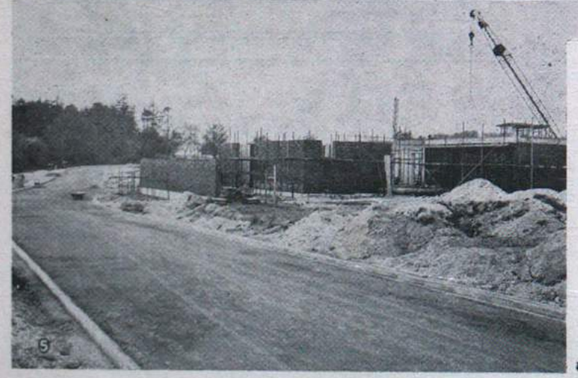
The N.A.A.F.I. Families Self Service Shop is now roofed and should be open for service about May 1965.











[Photos Crown Copyright

1. **Officers' Mess, — Dining Room and Card Room.**
2. **The new water tower.**
3. **Officers' Mess Pool and Junior Officers' Sleeping Blocks Nos. 1 + 2.**
4. **An aerial view of a portion of the camp.**
5. **N.A.A.F.I. and new diversion to Nelson Road.**



VALE

Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E.

Max Anderson Charlton, son of R. C. Charlton, Esq., was born in 1911. He was educated at King's School, Canterbury, and the 'Shop' and was commissioned into the Royal Corps in 1932, attending 25Q course. His first field unit was 3rd Divisional Signals at Bulford, which he left in 1934 en route for 1st Indian Divisional Signals. His first taste of active service was the last occasion of the award of the I.G.S. medal 1908, namely the Mohmand operations of 1935.

In 1936-47 he was again on operations, this time in Waziristan where he was Mentioned in Despatches and received the 1936 I.G.S. medal. He was by now a Brigade Signals specialist. In his spare time he was never still. He was a keen horseman and assisted in raising the Rawalpindi Hunt. He was a keen game shot. He had represented the Corps at rugger, cricket, hockey and golf. Later in life he not only represented the Corps in sailing but became Commodore of the Royal Signals Yacht Club.

He became Adjutant in 1938 and in 1939-41 he moved around the Frontier serving in Peshawar, Kohat and Thal, finding time in 1940 to marry Phillipa Patricia, daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Beazeley, D.S.O., R.E., in Murree.

He assumed command of 17th Indian Divisional Signals in Burma in 1942 and led this Regiment untiringly and with distinction throughout the extremely difficult and hazardous times of 1942-44 and then through the victorious years 1944-45 up to VJ-Day. He was awarded the O.B.E. and was again Mentioned in Despatches.

On his return to Europe, after a short spell as C.R. Signals in Germany he was appointed G.S.O.1 Signals 30 Corps District until he went to the Staff College in 1947. This was followed by a second grade post in the War Office (C 8).

For two years from 1950 he commanded the Officers' Training Wing, a most important post where the influence of the Commander was bound to have an effect on the officers passing through. In 1952 he returned to the Far East as G.S.O.1 Signals which he held until 1955 when once again his skill as a Regimental Commander was put to use in 2nd Divisional Signals in Germany.

His promotion to Colonel came in 1956 when he became D.C.S.O. at H.Q. B.A.O.R. and this was followed by his appointment to the Directorate as G.S.O.1 (Signals 5).

In 1960 he was promoted Brigadier as C.C.R. Signals 1 British Corps and his final post was C.S.O. Northern Command from 1963 until 1965, when he retired.

Max is a first class regimental officer; his understanding of men and natural charm made him immediately liked wherever he went by all ranks British or Indian. Few have done more for the Corps in terms of loyal uncomplaining leadership during the bad days in Burma and the trying period of scarcity of trained soldiers and lack of respectable equipment in Germany.

We are sorry to lose him and his wife Phillipa and we wish them the happiest of retirements and good sailing.

Major W. H. Buttle, M.M.

His death, reported in the February/March WIRE reminded his friends of a remarkable member of the Corps. Two periods come to mind. What he did before, and between, will be known to others. First met in 1934 he was Officers' Mess Sergeant of 56 (1st London) Divisional Signals T.A. and "Caretaker" of Signal House in Clapham Park. In both capacities he made his presence felt. The prototype of all modern T.A. Centres was kept in scrupulous order, but his fame was made in the Officers' Mess. Under the late Colonel G. D. Ozanne and then Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, Buttle served two great Commanding Officers. In those days City of London Signals was justly famous for the monthly dinners to which were invited many famous in the City of London and/or in the Army. Members of the Royal Family, the Lord Mayor of London, the Minister of Defence, all were entertained to a full guest night dinner impeccably served. A company of thirty-five was normal.

He served an excellent three-course supper to his officers every "Drill Night" and on occasions catered as well for the needs of four or five hundred other ranks.

Came the War, he continued to serve, as did his son, both being commissioned.

1945 found Major Buttle, aged, but still active, translated to Chief Duty Signal Officer, in the Communications Centre serving the War Office.

In 1947 and 1948 the writer had the privilege of writing a justification for his retention, although well over the age for compulsory retirement. This was simply expressed, and was successful.

> "The retention of Major W. H. Buttle, M.M., is very strongly recommended. His experience and personality are invaluable in teaching large numbers of junior and inexperienced officers the art of controlling a large signal office."

Incidentally, he was awarded the Military Medal in the 1914-18 War, and from then until 1940, or later, had no technical experience whatever.

These two excerpts from his story are additional proof that to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Corps nothing is impossible.

Motor Cycle Display Team

Engagements For 1965

DATE	*PLACE*	*OCCASION*
29 Apr., 1965	Catterick Camp	Press Show
21-23 May, 1965	Dumfries	Kape
29 May, 1965	Redcar	Youth Club Display
7 June, 1965	Bury St. Edmunds	Town Fête
9-10 June, 1965	Chelmsford	Essex Ag. Show
12 June, 1965	Woodley (Reading)	Carnival
19 June, 1965	Romford	Carnival
26 June, 1965	Darlaston	Works Fête
27 June, 1965	Catterick Camp	Royal Signals "At Home"
3 July, 1965	Motspur Park	B.B.C. Fête
10 July, 1965	Basingstoke	Carnival
4 Aug., 1965	Nantwich	Agricultural Show
5 Aug., 1965	Sheringham	Carnival
30-31 Aug.–1 Sept.	Belfast	Kape

COLVIN MEIK

Their many friends will be interested to hear that Colvin Meik (late of the Corps) and his wife, Mary, have moved from Chideock to Brighton. With them, we are glad to report, has gone the Safari Room—that popular rendezvous for those who appreciate and understand good food and wine. They are now to be found at the Safari Room, 15, Western Street, Brighton (just off Norfolk Square), 'phone 772005. Serving or past members of the Corps can always be certain of a warm welcome chez 'Meik.'

WANTED

Telegraph Operators, Radio Technicians (Light) particularly but other trades will do

A Signalman writes:

". . . and within two hours of arriving here we were operating in the jungle. It's not like my last unit where I didn't seem to use my trade qualifications as much as I should have liked. This trip, and the one to the desert and the one to Europe makes three trips abroad in 10 months! Not bad! I'm certain there's more to come—I can't say exactly what I've been doing but it's a great life if you can keep up with it . . ."

* * *

If you are a little bit fitter, a little brighter, a little more enthusiastic than the next man, and want to do something very different while still using your trade to the full then you *must* have a look at ACI 227/63 and fill in the application form. Note: It cannot be withheld by the unit.

If you are not clear write direct to the Signal Officer, 22nd Special Air Service Regiment, Bradbury Lines, Hereford. He'll sort out your application for you.

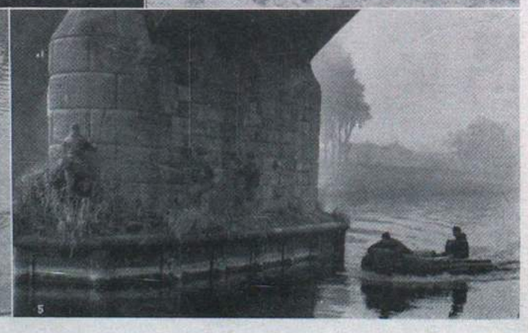
* * *

You can judge for yourself from the photographs below what this open air, adventurous life offers.

(1) Unarmed Combat Training.
(2) A Signalman of the S.A.S. doing a 'drop.'
(3) On active service in foreign parts.
(4) Water activities.
(5) Demolition Training.







DIRECT TO YOU!

From the Inspector of Trade Training

More of interest to Technicians

City and Guilds of London Institute Exemptions

LAST month we announced the revised exemptions which the City and Guilds of London Institute has granted to Royal Signals technicians. Some technicians have read this in conjunction with the MOD letter of 31st March, 1964, which listed the trade test exemptions offered to soldiers who hold certain City and Guilds Certificates. Taking the two together the question has been asked whether a technician holding a Class I trade rating will now be exempt from sitting the Foreman of Signals qualifiying examination. The answer of course is NO.

With closer study it will be noticed that the new exemptions granted by City and Guilds do not allow for the award of any of their certificates solely on account of a military trade qualification. The military trade qualification merely allows direct entry to a higher City and Guilds examination than was previously possible; thus a Class I technician cannot claim a third year certificate outright, but he can claim exemption from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year in order to sit the fourth year Final examination. Under these circumstances it will be seen that the holder of a Class I trade rating, by virtue of being unable to claim a third year certificate, is ineligible to claim exemption from the Foreman of Signals qualifiying examination.

We are sorry if hopes were raised only to be dashed so soon.

Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians

We would also like to draw the attention of technicians to a new Society which is being formed under the auspices of IERE. This is the Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians. Membership is open to qualified and experienced technicians in the field of electronics and radio. The object of the Society is the advancement of the techniques and practice of electronic and radio technology. For this purpose the Society will organise meetings, publish proceedings, hold examinations, encourage the establishment of appropriate courses of study and increase the status of electronics and radio technicians.

There are three grades of membership:—

Member (MSERT). Open to senior technicians of at least 30 years of age who have passed the Radio Trades Examination Board Final Certificate in Radio, Television or Electronic Servicing, or such other examinations as are considered equivalent, and have been engaged for a period of not less than ten years as an electronics or radio technician, and have held a position of responsibility for a period of not less than five years. For Service personnel, a position of responsibility is interpreted by the SERT Council as holding the rank of Sergeant or above.

Associate (ASERT). Open to technicians over 21 years of age, who have passed the Radio Trades Examination Board Final Certificate in Radio, Television or Electronic Servicing, or such other examinations as are considered equivalent, and have had a minimum of three years experience as an electronics or radio technician.

Student. Open to technicians over 17 years of age, who have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Radio Trades Examination Board in Radio, Television or Electronic Servicing, or such other examinations as are considered equivalent, and are receiving regular training in radio and electronic technology.

The main qualification on which membership of the Society is based is the examination of the Radio Trades Examination Board in Radio, Television or Electronic Servicing. However, for the purpose of election, exemption can be claimed on account of the following:—

To Member or Associate

Higher National Certificate in Electrical Engineering with Electronics.

City and Guilds of London Institute Telecommunications Technicians Certificate or Electrical Technicians Certificate (provided Electronics was the specialist subject chosen).

Foreman of Signals Royal Signals.

Class I of any technician trade.

To Student Membership

Class II or Class III or any technician trade. Membership fees are as follows:—

	Entrance Fee £ s. d.	*Annual Subscriptions* £ s. d.
Member	2 0 0	5 0 0
Associate	1 0 0	4 0 0
Student	10 0	1 10 0

Further details about the Society can be obtained from Inspector of Trade Training, Catterick.

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Line Technician	II-I	7th Sept., 1965
Telegraph Technician	II-I	28th Sept., 1965
Radio Technician (Light)	II-I	14th Sept., 1965
Cable Jointer	II-I	21st Sept., 1965
Comcen Operator	II-I	14th Sept., 1965 (two courses)
Telegraph Operator	II-I	28th Sept., 1965 (two courses)
Line Technician	III-II	14th Sept., 1965
Telegraph Technician	III-II	28th Sept., 1965
Radio Technician (Light)	III-II	7th Sept., 1965
Lineman	III-II	14th Sept., 1965
Telegraph Operator	III-II	14th Sept., 1965 (two courses)

The Royal Signals List . . .

Some Observations

Officers will have noticed that in the 'White List' the letter 'm' or 's' is shown after their names to denote whether they are married or single.

At Association H.Q. we are accused of much, but the letter we reproduce below is the most serious complaint we have had yet! We have cloaked it, for obvious reasons, in suitable anonymity.

In this case we were able, with our hands on our hearts, to pass it on to A.G. 11 whose 'baby' it really is—in more senses than one perhaps.

"Dear Sir,

Though through a 'laissez faire' attitude to my career prospects I have not studied your estimable publication as carefully, heretofore, as I should, I did, the other day note my entry in the October 1964 copy. Now, frequently in the past, imputations against my morals have been made and now, as then, they flow like water off a duck's back. My two elder children, also, have so frequently been referred to by their father as 'little bastards' that they tend to grow accustomed to the idea.

However, on two counts I really must draw your attention to the solitary, damming 's' behind my name. My wife, having taken my name and given me a full five good years of life feels the imputation of living in sin at this stage most hurtfully and my third son, still at his mewling stage, insists firmly that his recent arrival was quite definitely on the correct side of the blanket.

I, therefore, respectfully request that in your next publication steps be taken to expunge the offending 's' and legitimise an otherwise happy family.

Though slightly hurt, I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,

? ? ? ? ? ? ?

Major, Royal Signals.

(Married)."

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . to be read by the Corps.

Personal Column

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

2/Lt. D. Hunt to be Lt., 7th January, 1965.
Major (Q.M.) E. Glover to be Lt.-Col. (Q.M.), 27th December, 1964.

The undermentioned Second-Lieutenants to be Lieutenants 2nd February, 1965:—

C. E. Byrom
M. A. Payne
P. J. Pritchard
R. M. Volland
R. F. Brooks
R. A. Wright
D. G. D. Gray
G. A. Allen
B. M. Cooke
R. Boden
L. G. Fraser
N. A. Horler
T. J. Starkey
R. P. Gravestock
M. R. Stephenson
M. K. Carson
M. H. L. Pickford
A. L. W. G. Steane
M. J. M. Alden
J. W. Easson
D. C. Podevin
M. H. King, B.A.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

Lt. (Q.M.) M. A. Barnes-Murphy to be Capt. (Q.M.), 28th January.
W.O.II A. W. Bird to be Lt., 28th December, 1964.
W.O.I J. I. Jenkins to be Lt. (Q.M.), 17th December, 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt. K. D. Brown to be Capt., 1st January, 1965.
Lt. D. J. Young to be Capt., 1st January, 1965.
Lt. R. M. Smith to be Capt., 1st December, 1964.
Signalman I. Thomson to be 2/Lt., 9th December, 1964.
Cpl. R. D. Gilpin to be 2/Lt., 16th December.
Lt. T. W. Henderson to be Capt., 17th December.

Births

SAMPSON.—To Corporal R. G. Sampson, of 240 Squadron (Northern Command) and Mrs. Sampson, a daughter, Joan Rebecca, at Fulford Maternity Hospital, York, on 31st January, 1965.

PEDLEY.—To Major (T.O.T.) F. R. Pedley, of 15th Regiment, and Mrs. Pedley, at R.A.F. Hospital, Steamer Point, Aden, on 26th January, a son, Christopher John.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

MARCH, 1965

W.O.I D. F. Langston ... ... To 22nd Regiment
W.O.I G. Oakley ... ... ,, 249 Squadron

W.O.II G. D. Willis ... ... ,, 246 (Gurkha) Squadron
W.O.II D. D. Clarke ... ... ,, H.Q. COMCAN
W.O.II D. Prime ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II J. R. Gilbert ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
W.O.II J. Hehir ... ... ,, 261 Squadron
W.O.II A. Coyne ... ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.II R. J. Wombell ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
W.O.II A. S. R. Alfred ... ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.II R. S. Dobbs ... ... ,, 257 Squadron
W.O.II J. D. Laing ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
W.O.II J. Templeton ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
W.O.II K. Hadfield ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II G. A. Stephenson ... ... ,, H.Q. 11 Infantry Bde and S. Sqn
W.O.II R. C. Meyer ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
W.O.II B. Cleaver ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II P. G. Litchfield ... ... ,, H.Q. Mid East
W.O.II R. Jones ... ... ,, CAFSO, FEAF

Staff Sergeant J. W. Clarke ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant B. M. Huxley-Duggan ,, H.Q. 6 Inf. Bde Sig. Squadron
Staff Sergeant M. Harrison ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant D. J. Mortlock ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant J. L. S. Grinnell ... ,, 1st Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. Lawton ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. G. Cox ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant R. G. Osborne ... ,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Halliday ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant J. Maher ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. Warren ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. W. Marshall ... ,, H.Q., A.E.R.

Sergeant T. Tanner ... ... ,, 44th (H.C.) Regiment, T.A.
Sergeant W. C. Wheeler ... ... ,, 241 Squadron
Sergeant A. C. T. Tasker ... ... ,, 50 Missile Regiment R.A.
Sergeant B. F. Gooding ... ... ,, 65th Regiment T.A.
Sergeant A. L. C. Coleman ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. W. L. Jones ... ... ,, 521 Troop
Sergeant J. M. Craig ... ... ,, 41st Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant H. E. Williams ... ... ,, Queen's Own Hussars Sig. Tp
Sergeant R. Simmons ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant T. A. B. Mirk ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant D. T. Llewellyn ... ... ,, H.Q. 20 Armoured Bde Gp
Sergeant M. J. Scott ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant R. E. Hambleton ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant W. Helme ... ... ,, 228 Squadron
Sergeant R. L. Danells ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant F. J. P. Wyatt ... ... ,, 262 Squadron
Sergeant D. H. Gorman ... ... ,, 262 Squadron
Sergeant L. Pollard ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant T. Gracie ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant A. McHugh ... ... ,, 11th Hussars Signal Troop
Sergeant J. J. Smith ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant B. J. Styles ... ... ,, 266 Squadron

Sergeant R. T. Thompson ... ... ,, 1 QDG Troop
Sergeant J. Sinnett ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant A. W. Kyles ... ... ,, R. Scots Greys Sig. Troop
Sergeant M. Stanger ... ... ,, 1 Med. Regt. Sig. Troop
Sergeant F. M. Young ... ... ,, 244 Squadron
Sergeant W. E. Metters ... ... ,, 14th Regiment R.H.Q.
Sergeant C. D. Matzen ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Jones ... ... ,, 205 Squadron
Sergeant W. N. Dunn ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant R. Geddes ... ... ,, 208 Squadron
Sergeant R. H. Marchant ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Horne ... ... ,, 259 Squadron
Sergeant J. H. Blank ... ... ,, 226 Squadron
Sergeant B. W. Cutler ... ... ,, H.Q. 3 Div.
Sergeant J. B. Morris ... ... ,, 222 Squadron
Sergeant B. L. Brewer ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
Sergeant D. E. Holder ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant C. J. Goodridge ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant A. Sammut ... ... ,, 640 Sig. Troop

Staff Sergeant G. R. Harrison ... ,, 245 Squadron

Sergeant R. Perry ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant D. E. P. Rock ... ... ,, 21st Regiment

Promotions

(January, 1965)

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	14457340	A/W.O.I	Hughes, C. T. A.	650	670	
	14474618	A/W.O.I	Barnes, W. A.	660	550	
To W.O.II	22265571	A/W.O.II	Jones, R. M.	3080	1180	
	22212669	S Sgt.	Leonard, H. W.	3090	830	
	22296051	A/W.O.II	Armstrong, D. C.	3100	430	
	22242662	A/W.O.II	Hammond, P. W. V.	3110	630	
To S Sgt.	22242575	Sgt.	Jones, D.	3310	1140	(Fd)
	22772600	Sgt.	Gilder, G.	3320	700	(Fd)
	2549471	Sgt.	Curtis, D. N.	3330	1360	(Tec)
	22838001	Sgt.	Johnson, R. C.	3340	5710	(Op)
	22804789	Sgt.	Scott, W. W.	3350	1240	(Fd)
	22233078	Sgt.	Champion, A.	3360	5870	(Op)
	22515738	Sgt.	O'Connor, P. E. C.	3380	4800	(Op)
	19041501	Sgt.	Ratcliffe, N.	3390	730	(Fd)
	22537013	Sgt.	Crisp, D. W. L.	3400	1220	(Fd)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	14453145	W.O.II	Davies, A. J. D.	290	300
	2548654	U/A/W.O.I	Heard, J. D.	300	390
	22523422	A/W.O.I	Metcalfe, P. F.	310	394
	2549513	A/W.O.I	Cotton, J. H.	320	360
To W.O.II	22823877	S Sgt.	Brown, P.	1030	1040
	22515692	S Sgt.	French, K.	1040	1020
	22956230	S Sgt.	Hawkes, C. D.	1050	1030

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22111588	W.O.II	Jupe, J. B.	880	960
To W.O.II	2549493	S Sgt.	Thomas, B. W.	1640	1730
	2549659	S Sgt.	Hughes, G. F.	1650	2090

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To S Sgt.	22548559	Sgt.	Henry, D.	1070	1560	(Ad)

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

To W.O.I	22248984	W.O.II	Cooper, F.	470	970
To W.O.II	2204998	S Sgt.	Halliday, J.	1500	570

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23516485	Cpl.	Watts, B. G.	4856	7452

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	22289361	Cpl.	Charles, G. J.	11890	13620
	23220397	A/Sgt.	Stark, R. L.	11900	13850
	22550285	Cpl.	Greaves, R. W.	11910	14122
	22246052	A/Sgt.	Porter, T.	11920	14154
	23482571	A/Sgt.	Eastmond, D. R.	11940	14750
	22845337	Cpl.	Mulcahy, D. N.	11950	14840
	23658511	A/Sgt.	Kendall, F. W.	11960	15340
	23545348	Cpl.	Gardiner, S.	11970	15370
	23659412	A/Sgt.	Jupe, W. R.	11980	15930

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22560563	Cpl.	Tibby, E. C.	4050	1960
	22321445	Cpl.	Lee, V. F.	4060	70
	22050655	Cpl.	Williams, G. J.	4070	270
	22248619	Cpl.	Ramm, D. E. A.	4080	440
	22063413	Cpl.	Gregory, K. R.	4100	870
	22771316	Cpl.	Feltham, W. G.	4110	1092
	22823026	Cpl.	Peters, B. J.	4130	1700
	22265775	Cpl.	Smart, J. R.	4140	1730
	02548994	Cpl.	Daniels, D. R.	4150	6440
	23467254	Cpl.	Juckes, B. W.	4170	1760
	22837459	Cpl.	Harris, K.	4180	2050
	22264509	Cpl.	Johnson, R.	4200	2490
	23350275	Cpl.	Lewis, C. T.	4210	2580

INSERTIONS

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.II	2549586	W.O.II	Staniford, R.	1660	590 (Tec)
	2549660	W.O.II	Lace, D. J.	1670	690 (Tec)
	22296348	S Sgt.	Wagstaff, R.	1680	594 (Tec)
To S Sgt.	2549567	S Sgt.	Short, E. M.	2200	860 (Tec)
	22242357	S Sgt.	Gill, P.	2210	952 (Tec)
	22562532	S Sgt.	Brookes, A. N.	2220	960 (Tec)
	22289313	S Sgt.	Bridgeman, J. V.	2230	1220 (Tec)
	22540025	Sgt.	Gardner, J.	2240	1330 (Tec)
	22525166	Sgt.	Kitchen, C. W.	2250	1560 (Tec)
	2549688	Sgt.	Kelly, R. C.	2260	1710 (Tec)
	23242296	Sgt.	Benson, W. L.	2270	3070 (Tec)
	22821011	Sgt.	Falconer, A. D. F.	2280	3495 (Tec)
	22967461	Sgt.	Allen, S. W.	2290	3524 (Tec)
	22515591	Sgt.	McInally, J. P. S.	2300	3540 (Tec)
	22967471	Sgt.	Everett, T. J.	2310	3580 (Tec)
	23225020	Sgt.	Goodwin, D. G.	2320	3859 (Tec)
	23466235	Sgt.	Sugden, D.	2330	4320 (Tec)

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	20	180

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	500	

TECHNICAL ROSTER

Sgt.	2100	3110

Black Wednesday at Droitwich

Round One — The Battle of the Roads

WEDNESDAY, 20th January, 1965, was a bad day for the Squadron Commander at Droitwich transmitter station. It started quietly enough. He set off early from Oxford to return to Droitwich, having stayed overnight after dropping his son at his new school, and it was nearly 09.00 hours before the snow began in earnest, with gusting winds up to 70 miles per hour causing drifts across exposed roads. Speed was reduced to 30 miles per hour but the first serious check was on the long climb through the Cotswold village of Bourton-on-the-Hill, where a large rural district council lorry spreading grit and sand was slowly overtaking a long line of cars which had failed to climb the hill. Our hero wisely stayed behind the sand wagon until, halfway up the hill, it too began to slide backwards —and sideways, to the consternation of the occupants of all the snow-bound cars already stuck on the inside line. It only took about 15 minute of backing and filling, to the accompaniment of much verbal advice, to sort that lot out.

Having climbed the hill, the run along the top of the Cotswolds was relatively uneventful—a few stranded cars, the odd vehicle head-on into the ditch, but on the descent into Broadway there was drama. A snow plough, attempting to overtake a snow-bound lorry, had itself become stuck, successfully and completely blocking the whole road until, after about 20 minutes it gave up the ghost and somehow slithered back down the hill. The rest was easy, only two vehicles in the ditch alongside the motorway between Worcester and Droitwich, though the A.A. patrolman advised that there was a four-mile queue between Droitwich and Birmingham, and he arrived feeling like Scott of the Antarctic at about 09.30 hours.

Round Two — The Battle of the Aerials

A quick check and the operational situation was revealed as follows:

a. Delhi-Rawalpindi aerial icing-up and arcing over the nine-inch separators on the feeder; circuit passed to the standby station, Pirbright, at 09.00 hours.
b. Similar flashing seen on the down feeder of the Ottawa aerial; circuit to Pirbright 09 35 hours; the linemen set to work, muffled in protective clothing, to lower the 2,000ft. long curtains—each of three separate copper wires, from the 150ft. high towers, clean off the ice and snow, reposition the separating insulators and re-erect the aerial.

Anxious eyes were kept on all other aerials as the snowstorm continued. The snow and ice builds up on each wire to nearly two inches in diameter, doubles the weight of the aerial, multiples the area affected by the wind and causes the 400lb. counterweight at the end of the halyard to ride up the concrete post at the foot of the aerial tower until it comes up against the drum on which the halyard is wound against a ratchet. After this the aerial can only break if the wind continues.

At 10.20 hours the Commanding Officer rang for a Sitrep and was surprised to hear of the violence of the storm, which was apparently by-passing Gloucester. (Gusts of up to 101 miles per hour were reported in the National Press, and the Midlands Electricity Board had four power cuts that morning. We had long since gone over to standby generators). At 10.50 hours the cage dipole to B.A.O.R. came crashing down in a tangle of wires—the "cage" is a series of octagonal metal spacers about 30in. across, each having eight wires connected and all slung between 105ft. towers. Not too serious because we have land lines to B.A.O.R. and little traffic is passed by radio. At 11.15 hours the feeders parted on both the upper and lower rhombics of the Malta aerial; in the resulting crash the absorber route was broken. This *was* serious and could take up to four days to rebuild.

The Royal Navy accepted our traffic for Malta, Pirbright handed back the Ottawa circuit to the restored Droitwich aerial, and took over the Malta circuit at 13.07 hours. The Delhi-Rawalpindi aerial at Droitwich was also ready to take over the circuit from Pirbright, but there was no need to, as the traffic schedule had closed till next day.

As a final grand finale the standby aerial to Kenya came crashing down, leaving only the two aerials working to Cyprus undamaged by the blizzard. The only bright spot was that by noon the snow and wind were easing off and the temperature was rising.

That afternoon the business of disentangling the debris and assessing the damage began. It was out of the question to send anyone—even a qualified aerial rigger up the 150ft. towers in these weather conditions, so work was confined to noting where breaks had occurred, making up replacement components and repairing the feeder routes and absorber routes carried on 16ft. poles, which are within reach.

Round Three — The Battle of the Bull

It was at this stage, after a frazzling day of anxiety, physical discomfort, vague reports and strained tempers, that our hero, the Squadron Commander, was dealt the unkindest cut of all.

Dressed for battle, in combat kit, gumboots and caps SD (none of your navy blue and gold braid in the aerial field) he was busily and, it must be admitted, rather noisily, engaged in encouraging and supervising his small army of linemen, field signalmen and any unfortunate technicians, cooks and bottle washers who could not take cover in time, when he noticed a strange thing. First of all, there was a silence, as when an audience settles for the opening curtain—as indeed it had. Then, from the herd of young cows vainly searching for the pasture in the snow-covered fields, one had detached itself and was making, rather purposefully, towards him. It was only 50 yards away when he made two important discoveries:

First of all, the silent audience—of brutal and licentious soldiers, had all quietly taken up positions some ten feet off the ground and were indeed awaiting, with interest, the opening moves of a drama which they had witnessed before.

Secondly, as the curious cow came closer, the ring on its nose revealed that it was in fact a boisterous young bull. Now the stage was set. There was not actually any fanfare and certainly no band played the passo-doble, but the audience called "Ho, Torro" and "Ole" very realistically and the bull responded by charging.

The matador, poor thing, must have felt he was quite improperly dressed, with no "suit of lights," no sword and very definitely no torreros. (They were all up the aerial towers). He fixed the bull with a steely glance and willed it to stop, but the unintelligent animal did not know its Hemingway and came on. He did have his canes, rattan, two feet, however, and he executed a fairish veronica, first off, which brought him nicely round to the only escape route; Signalman Brown, who also comes from Glasgow and understands the patois, made a diversion using a jerkins, leather No. 2, as a torrero's cape. Displaying some very fancy footwork and throwing dignity to the winds, our hero, ignoring the cheers of the crowd, sought cover behind an absorber route pole. That settled it. There was to be no blood on the snow, no death in the afternoon.

Honour was satisfied and Torro, after pawing and snorting a bit, rejoined his harem and moved off, lowing, "cross the lea and into the setting sun." The banderilleros collected their blow lamps and solder, the picador mounted his tractor and the whole escadrilla moved slowly back to tea (fish and chips and seconds for the line party), discussing details of the corrida en route. OLE! . . . .

"The Young Corps"

(See also pages 100-101)

ARMY APPRENTICES' SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

Rebuilding. Unaided by the weather the rebuilding programme has appeared to reach a most depressing stage. A large number of buildings in Uniacke Barracks have been demolished so far and Phillips Squadron have taken the wise precaution of vacating their accommodation, thus avoiding being bulldozed into the sea of mud that is all that now remains of their late 'home from home.'

Everyone seems to be moving and it is not unusual now to meet roving bands of hobby enthusiasts searching for a new home to replace one destroyed about their ears. Those clubs which have, so far, retained their premises are now particularly careful to keep them permanently locked to discourage would-be squatters It is, perhaps, purely coincidental that the new temporary Guard Room has been sited beside a large hole labelled "Deep Excavations."

New roads appear with surprising regularity, power and telephone lines are cut, and the array of mechanical equipments demolish buildings with remarkable sped and efficiency. Be that as it may, one member of the permanent staff was heard to remark that the demolitions would have been done far more quickly and effectively if the apprentices had been allowed to 'have a go' for a day.

Arrivals. We have 45 new arrivals this term and we wish them all success in the Corps. **One of the new recruits is worth a mention, he is A/T Smith, whose grandfather had service with S'gnals as an Engineer from 1899 when he enlisted. Since that date there has always been a member of this family serving with Signals.**

There was mention of this family in the February, 1964 issue of THE WIRE in notes from 234 Squadron (Malta).

Visits. We have had the following visitors so far this term: C.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, Lieutenant-General G. R. D. Musson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.; Inspector of Boys' Training (Army), Brigadier K. R. S. Trevor, O.B.E., D.S.O.; the Matron-in-Chief, Brigadier E. M. Turner, M.B.E.

Hockey. Since the middle of last term our hockey officer, Major A. R. Rawson, has been trying to arrange a six-a-side competition for the apprentices. Its purpose was twofold; firstly, to try and find hidden talent, and secondly, to provide a good afternoon's sport. There are many conflicting demands on an apprentice's time, but the date was finally settled for the 20th January, and despite snow and slush the competition was held on that day; two teams being provided by each Squadron. The final was between Rawson "A" team and Penney "A," the former winning by one goal and one short corner to nil. The standard of hockey was high considering the appalling weather conditions. The players appeared to enjoy themselves much better than the spectators !

Rugby Football. There have been two matches so far this term; we beat 24th Regiment in the first round of the Northern Command Cup competition by 14-0 in a replay. On the first date conditions were so bad that the game was abandoned after a player was taken off the pitch suffering from exposure !

The team includes members of the permanent staff and apprentices, and particularly good performances have been put up by Corporal Pottinger (P.S.) and A/Ts Higgins, Nason and Walpole.

The future of School Rugby looks fairly bright at the moment, with plenty of young talent coming up.

Squash. Having no squash court in the School (as yet), all our matches are played "abroad," mainly at Catterick, on the "home and away" basis. The record is as follows:

Winter Term	...	Played 8	Won 5	Lost 3
Spring Term	...	Played 5	Won 4	Lost 1

Two teams have been entered in the Northern Command competition, and the "A" team have now reached the semi-final.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

March winds, April showers. Generally speaking, March is one of the quieter months here at Denbury, prior to the usual build-up of activity before Graduation Day, and the end of term. This year Graduation Day is Tuesday, 13th April.

The swimming pool is now an accepted and much-needed amenity in the Regiment. It seems strange to think that swimming pools, until quite recently, were regarded as a luxury which could only be seen in the larger country residences. Now they are recognised as vital items of training equipment, not only in the Services, but in all educational establishments. Our aim is for every Junior Leader to be a competent swimmer before he graduates to man's service.

Basketball. An excellent recovery from last season . . . Having won four out of seven matches, the team has risen from bottom of the local civilian league, the Exeter and District League, to fourth. In this largely men's league, the team has done well. The first two matches, one against St. Luke's Teachers' Training College and the other against Northbrook School, the scores were impressive, as the team "made rings around" our opponents—21 points to 8 and 30 points to 6. Tribute should be paid here to the good shooting of J/Sergeant Bowers and J/Signalman Endean, Endean having scored nearly half the points. With the recent addition of three six-footers, the Jones twins and Palmer, training has started on producing two Squadron teams. "Slim" Squadron has a most impressive team, with four six-footers! The teams practice five nights a week for an hour, an effort well worth while, for with the Army Boys' Basketball Championship only a few weeks away, it is hoped to field two teams strong enough to beat the Junior Leaders Regiments of both the R.A.C. and the R A.S.C., not forgetting our friends at Harrogate. Perhaps when this is won, the fact that the team got lost going to a match, due to someone's bad map-reading, will be overlooked, and all the effort put in by Sergeants Lightfoot, Block and Dart and Signalman Anderson will be made all the more worthwhile.

Fencing at Denbury? It is hoped to produce some fencing equipment in the near future and start a small fencing club at Denbury. Membership will include boys, staff, and possibly families as well.

Fencing is a sport dogged by technical terms, mostly still in their original French forms, and because of this does not enjoy the popularity it deserves as a sport. Only a small percentage who begin to learn the noble art of fencing are still at it a year or so later. This is a pity, because those who persevere through the tedious initial stages find what a grand sport it really is.

With all this in mind, it is proposed to get rid of the tediousness here at Denbury, so that we may send a few novice fencers into the Corps who are ready to graduate into more advanced classes. We are fortunate in having several staff members qualified to teach the sport, so fencing Regiments can, we hope, look forward to receiving a few enthusiastic fencers from Denbury.

Army Cup Competitions. It has been somewhat disappointing this year that we have lost the football, boxing and rugger competitions, but we were particularly unfortunate in that all the matches were played away from Denbury; in the boxing, it was a particularly narrow defeat by Oswestry, which depended on the final bout.

The rugger match versus R.A.C. Junior Leaders was again a very closely-fought match in which Signals clearly had territorial advantage almost throughout, but we were unable to actually cross our opponents' line. Dropped passes at the crucial moments were largely to blame and the lack of a good kicker resulted in our failing to gain any penalty points. The R.A.C. Junior Leaders finally won 8—0.

We hope that our hockey team can again reach the Army finals; we have a large nucleus remaining from last year, whose experience should enable us to do very well.

Outside Army Cup Competitions, however, we have enjoyed a large degree of success. At the recent Army Gymnastic Championships, this Regiment won the Army Junior Team Championship and also the Army Junior Team Trampoline Championship. Individual placings in these two championships were:

(*Continued on page 85*)

Army Junior Championship (Gymnastic)

1st J/Signalman Norgrove
2nd J/Signalman Riddell
4th J/Signalman Kendall
5th J/Signalman Rookes

Army Junior Trampoline Championship

1st J/Corporal Robertson
3rd J/Signalman Norgrove
6th J/Signalman Riddell

Having been knocked out of the Army Cup boxing in the first round by the Infantry Junior Leaders, six members of our team entered for the Southern Command Junior Individual Boxing Champions with the following results:

J/Lance-Corporal Carr (8st. 7lb.)	Winner, Class B
J/Signalman Unwin (10st. 7lb.)	Winner, Class B
J/Signalman Foster (10st.)	Winner, Class B
J/Signalman Connachen (9st. 7lb.)	Runner-up, Class B.
J/Signalman James (8st. 7lb.)	Runner-up, Class B.
J/Signalman Parker (8st. 7lb.)	Semi-Finalist, Class C.

Education and Trade Training. The results of the new training programme are beginning to bear fruit and the number of passes in all examinations has risen to an all-time high. Likewise, on the trade side, the new training and greater concentration of effort and time in the programme is producing a more capable and qualified end-product. It is to be hoped that training of Linemen and Electrician Drivers will soon be under way, thus broadening the facilities of our Junior Leaders.

The Regiments

1st DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 32

1st Division Ski Meeting

The 1st Division Ski Meeting was held in the Oberharz at the end of January. In preparation for this event, a number of recognised or potential skiers had been selected early in November to start training. They spent the first month doing some very tough and gruelling training in and around the gymnasium under the experienced and demanding hand of our tame muscleman, S.S.I. Barnes of the A.P.T.C. His programme of exercises and runs was designed to develop physique and stamina, assets so vital to langlauf ski-ing. After four weeks of this toughening-up process, the ski team departed for the picturesque village of Bad Harzburg, which is close to St. Andreasberg where the 1st Division Ski Meeting was to take place. At Bad Harzburg, the team were initiated into the complexities of langlauf ski-ing, many of them for the first time. Their instructor was Herr Werner Trummshausen, who is a local Bad Harzburg Bundespost official. The snow conditions varied considerably during the six weeks they spent at Bad Harzburg, and this enabled them to experience the many conditions they might encounter at the Ski Meeting and to perfect their technique. As the start of the Ski Meeting approached, confidence in their ability increased and everyone hoped that no last-minute setback would occur to affect their aspirations.

Success at last in the Patrol Race

The Ski Meeting opened with the Individual 15 km. Cross-Country Race, and the Regiment scored an instant success. Corporal Gardiner and Lance-Corporal Baynes, neither of whom had ever skied before, came first and second respectively in the Novices' Race, and were sixth and ninth respectively in the Open category out of over 70 entries. This augured very well for the remaining events, and so it proved. In the 4 × 10 km. Relay Race, the "A" team were lying second until the last leg, when, unfortunately, our last skier took a wrong turning only 2 km. from home, and came in fourth. The "B" team followed them in in fifth place. And so to the last event, the Patrol Race, probably the most demanding task of all, involving a long and difficult course over thickly wooded hills and including an exacting firing competition. There were a number of well-fancied teams to contend with, but our two teams set off undaunted and looking very determined. Those spectators who braved the inclement conditions to watch them on their way



CCR Signals HQ 1 (BR) Corps congratulating the regimental 'A' Team upon winning the Patrol Race watched by SSI Barnes who had trained the team in the early stages

round the course paid tribute to the way in which they kept well together and to their display of high morale in difficult conditions. As they went through the various control points on the course, it soon became apparent that both teams were gaining time on other teams. And so it proved. The "A" team (Lieutenant Brock, Corporal Gardiner, Lance-Corporal Wilson, Lance-Corporal Baynes) came in easy winners by five minutes over the very experienced team of 94 Locating Regiment R.A., and the "B" team (Second-Lieutenant Podevin, Corporal Bailey, Lance-Corporal Dransfield, Gunner Lee) finished third, only 48 seconds behind the runners-up. This triumphant finish was watched by a jubilant Brigadier M. S. Hancock, C.C. Royal Signals, 1 (B.R.) Corps, who had travelled down from Bielefeld for the day. He was subsequently seen with the Commanding Officer on the ski slopes of St. Andreasberg where both were executing parallel turns of delight with varying degrees of success.

Much of the credit for our success must go to Herr Trummshausen, to whom we are indebted for his assistance and advice, not only during the period of training but also during the Meeting itself. He was always there to inspire and encourage our teams, and gave invaluable advice on technique, tactics and what sort of wax was best suited to the prevailing conditions.

The Linemen, As Usual, Do a Fine Job

Before leaving the subject of the 1st Division Ski Meeting, mention should be made of the sterling work done by "C" Troop in laying the lines for the Meeting. This is an annual event for "C" Troop, and this year Captain Grant, our Canadian exchange officer, was appointed to be responsible for the provision of line communications, ably assisted by Sergeant Barnden and a party of linemen. Our linemen, as usual, thoroughly enjoyed it all, in spite of having to be up early to check the lines and getting home very late sometimes after reeling in. Often the lines were laid in deep snow in arctic conditions, but all difficulties were surmounted and communications were maintained without a hitch. **All concerned with the Meeting were most impressed with the way in which all tasks were tackled cheerfully and willingly and with the immense amount of hard work performed by the men of "C" Troop.** Nonetheless, Sergeant Barnden still managed to find time to sample the wares of various refreshment houses and Captain Grant, who had announced at the outset that he was a skier, was later seen to be taking unofficial lessons from a Norwegian girl-friend. Most of these lessons seemed to be conducted away from the public gaze, so we have no idea of how he got on (at ski-ing, of course).

B.A.O.R. Ski Meeting

Fresh from its success in the Divisional Meeting our "A" team travelled to Oberjoch with two reserves. Lieutenant Mike Brock, Corporal Gardiner, Lance-Corporal Baynes, Gunner Lee the team, and reserves Lance-Corporal Wilson and Lance-Corporal Dransfield. It was immediately apparent from others gathered for training in Oberjoch that the competition was going to be fierce and a number of Olympic standard skiers were seen to be training hard.

In the four by ten kilometre relay race we were placed ninth, we were a little unlucky here, in that Gunner Lee finished the last kilometre with only one ski. Competing in the fifteen

kilometre British and Army Cross Country event Lance-Corporal Baynes put up a very good performance finishing thirty-second of one hundred and seventy-four starters. All the more creditable considering that the first ten home were all up to British Olympic standard.

The climax of the meeting was the twenty kilometre Team Patrol Race. Twenty-four teams from the United Kingdom and B.A.O.R. competed. The Regiment's team came ninth. A little disappointing to them after all their hard training but nevertheless a jolly good performance. Bad luck again "dogged" the team in that we had two snapped skis in the first two kilometres and lost five minutes as a result. This cost the team two places in the final reckoning. Interesting to note that the team's shooting was well up to standard and better than most Infantry Regiments.

So ended a very enjoyable but hard period of training and competition crowned with fair success but more important than that many lessons learnt and much valuable experience gained.

Well done the 1st Regiment. It was high time the Corps did something about ski-ing. Now the foundation for future success has been laid—Editor.)



Taking a drink before his farewell dinner, RSM Johnston with the new RSM, W.O. I Adams

Farewell to R.S.M. C. W. Johnston

On the 10th February, 1965, the Regiment bid farewell to its R.S.M., W.O.I Johnston. On the same day he joined 16th Regiment as Lieutenant (Q.M.) Johnny Johnston. After two and a half years we were indeed sorry to lose one who together with Mrs. Johnston had done so very much for the Regiment. We shall miss them both.

The Sergeants' Mess wined and dined Mr. Johnston on the 6th February, 1965. A sign of the times was that a total of ninety-five members sat down to an excellent dinner prepared under the supervision of Staff-Sergeant Rodrigues, A.C.C. Suitable music was provided by the Band of the 11th Hussars who also provided music for the dance which followed. During the evening our new R.S.M., W.O.I R. Adams, presented a very fine canteen of cutlery to Mr. and Mrs. Johnston on behalf of the Sergeants' Mess.

At a curry luncheon in the Officers' Mess on 9th February, 1965, at which Mr. Johnston was the guest of honour, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Page presented a sword to Mr. Johnston from the Officers of the Regiment.

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feature of the Cipher Department no doubt reflects our Confucian environment—all the locks go the wrong way!

Since the new centre opened, we have had a number of distinguished visitors, including the Commander, British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir Denis O'Connor, whose visit to the centre, on 21st December, is depicted in the two lower photographs. Other high ranking visitors have been the Commodore-in-Charge, Hong Kong, and the Chief of Staff, Headquarter, Land Forces; but it was left to our Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, to sound the keynote of the whole enterprise when he said after his visit on 1st December: "It's nice to see some real progress at last."

Real Progress at Last:

It's Streamlined and it's the . . .

New Look in Comcentres

WE are indebted to 252 Squadron for this account of the new Message Centre in the Joint Services Communications Centre in Hong Kong. It took two years in the planning. It is air-conditioned, sound-proofed, and incorporates many of the modern refinements which give it a streamlined appearance, and it's a centre situated on Hong Kong Island, of which 252 Squadron are justifiably proud.

Appearances can be deceptive. The glossy counter which you see in the top left-hand photograph on the facing page is *not* the bar of the Hotel Metropole; nor, for that matter, is the clock intended to be a perpetual reminder of "Time, gentlemen, please!" A more discerning scrutiny reveals that the "bar price list" on the wall behind the counter is, in fact, a schedule of Courier Services for Headquarters, Land Forces, Hong Kong. So much for deception!

What you see, in fact, is a courier's-eye view of the Message Centre in the new Joint Services Communication Centre in Hong Kong, which went into operation on 20th October, 1964. The photographs on the facing page represent, pictorially, the culmination of two years of planning. Those of you with any experience of "planning" in this day and age will readily appreciate the many frustrations, delays—even fundamental changes of plan—which have to be met and overcome before a project of this nature can be brought to completion.

The Hong Kong Communications Centre was no exception. It began as a single-Service project, to replace an antiquated Signal Centre, in equally antiquated buildings; then the plans had to be expanded to cater for Joint-Service operation, in line with the policy of integration for Service strategic networks; and finally, it was a question of modifying certain constructional aspects to conform with individual last-minute requirements of the other two Services.

However, Royal Signals are the sole users of the facilities offered; the Royal Navy are joining forces with us in the near future, followed, in due course, by the Royal Air Force.

Air-conditioned and sound-proofed throughout, the new comcentre incorporates many refinements which help to give it a streamlined, ultra-modern appearance (including fitted carpets). Much of the credit for this must go to the C.D.S.O., Captain E. G. Barrett, who nursed the project through, with one uncompromising axiom in mind—"only the best will do!" Add to that a meticulous attention to detail, and you get the results depicted in the accompanying photographs.

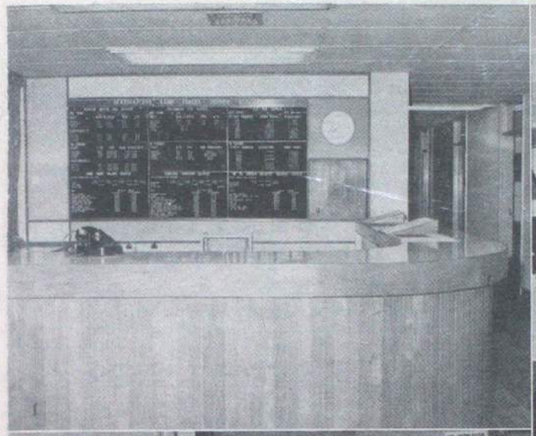
In essence, the centre consists of three main entities—the Message Centre, the Tape Relay Centre, and the Cipher Department. The Message Centre handles all messages and S.D.S. packages to and from overseas, for all units in the Colony. Its associated teleprinter tributary (located behind the "bar price list" in the top left-hand photograph), serves the Joint Headquarters and units located on the island. This tributary feeds into the Tape Relay Centre (top right photograph), which houses the terminals for the "long-haul" circuits, and also the terminals of local circuits to various formations and agencies in the Colony. It is worth mentioning here that both the transmit and receive consoles depicted in the photograph were designed by the C.D.S.O., and were manufactured locally (as indeed were the majority of fittings incorporated into the new centre). **The design of these consoles has attracted the active interest of civilian firms, notably Cable and Wireless and Pan-American Airways, who have placed firm orders with the local manufacturer for the production of similar units for commercial use.**

The Tape Relay Centre also includes a tape factory, and we make no apologies for mentioning this feature, because it gives us an excellent opportunity for introducing one of our star attractions—Lance-Corporal Betty Devine, who is seen operating the copy-selection switch in the No. 3 photograph!

For obvious reasons, we cannot go into details of the Cipher Department, except, perhaps, to mention that the design and constructional specifications for this particular enclave have caused us more frustration than the rest of the building put together, due to the necessity for meeting individual Service requirements, which appear to alter each month! Another

(Continued at foot of previous column)

Pictures which show the 'New Look in Comcentres'











1. General view of the Message Centre, HQ Land Forces, Hong Kong
2. View of the Tape Relay Centre, showing transmit and receive consoles
3. Lance Corporal Betty Devine, WRAC, seated at the tape factory in the TRC, Hong Kong
4. Lieutenant General Sir Denis O'Connor, visits the new Comcentre. Left to right: Captain E. G. Barrett (CDSO) Commander British Forces, Lieutenant Colonel E. J. Winn (C. R. Signals), Lance Corporal Annice Williams (WRAC), and Major D. G. H. Armold, RA (M.A. to C.B.F.)
5. C.B.F. in the Tape Relay Centre, Left to right: Private Olga Tinkler (WRAC), Lieutenant General Sir Denis O'Connor, and Captain E. G. Barrett



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• Rank, name and address • Date of birth • Price of house (an approximation will do) • Loan required
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3rd HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT
BULFORD CAMP

After returning from block leave on 4th January, there has been much to do to prepare for the usual visits of Senior Staff Officers who come once per year to check that we eat well; our stores are correctly maintained and accounted for; we wouldn't all go up in smoke if we had a fire; that the rats just manage a meagre existence and are not bloated; we are all worthy of admission to University; vehicles go; watches tell the time; radios are more beneficial than just for the racing results: and that the arms are good enough for drill on the Square. Such is the typical schedule of visits before that great event in any Unit's year—the Annual Administrative Inspection. Ours this month was conducted by the G.O.C. 3rd Division, Major-General C. H. Blacker, O.B.E., M.C.

Hearts Set Fluttering!

After inspecting the Quarter Guard the G.O.C. set a few hearts fluttering with a practice fire alarm—not just to the surprise of those in the vicinity of the Guard Room but also to those drawn up on the parade ground awaiting his arrival! Never before had so many men been so readily available to the Fire Master to fight an imaginary fire! After inspecting men, vehicles and detachments 'ready for war,' keeping them active by doubling around the square—and lots of the unexpected—the G.O.C. inspected all parts of the Regiment. If the holiday he granted at the end of the day is any indication of the satisfaction he got from his inspection—then we did all right.

But life is not all work with no play, and on the lighter side we have had some exciting moments. Captain Davies, Lance-Corporal Aston, Signalman Stephens and Signalman Radley played Rugby for the Divisional Team, the latter being the main tactician of the recent defeat of the potential Division 3 Staff Officers from Camberley. The team is planning a tour of the Divisions in B.A.O.R. shortly.

The Hockey XI suffered a narrow defeat in the semi-finals of the Army Cup against the S.E.M.E., Bordon, when they lost 1–nil, and again to the Royal Dragoons in the Divisional Hockey Championships when they lost 2—1. Nonetheless the team has had a good season and have maintained the best traditions of the Regiment in getting as far as they have.

They Won Every Weight



Sergeant M. J. Blay of 1 Squadron Featherweight Individual Champion 3rd Division 1964/65

The Regiment's Boxing Team made its debut on the 13th January in a friendly contest with the National Smelting Company from Bristol. The experience gained was noticeable when two weeks later the team went on to win every weight in the Divisional Individual Championship. Particular credit must go to Sergeant Blay, Lance-Corporal Oliphant, R.E.M.E., Signalman Bennett, Corporal Cobrand and Signalman Barber for their victories, and a special word for Signalman Corner who unfortunately fell out of the ring and sustained slight injuries to his head. For the majority of the team who had little previous experience, their reward for many weeks of arduous training came in the ring, and afterwards at the presentation of prizes by the G.O.C.

The Best Tentacle

Air Support Troop presented themselves for the C.O. in a simple competition for the best tentacle. The winning team composed of Lance-Corporal Hardiman, Signalmen Gregory, Andrews and Hussey richly deserved the prize they were awarded, but the proof of it all will come at Easter and Whitsuntide when they provide communications for the Service and National Gliding Championships.



A SUCCESSFUL BOXING TEAM

Back row: Sergeant Bradley, APTC, Lance Corporal Oliphant, REME, Signalman Bennett, Corporal Cobrand, Signalman Barber, Sergeant Riley, RASC. *Front row:* Signalman Corner, Private McElaney, RASC, RSM, CO, Private Bell, RASC, Sergeant Blay

Second-Lieutenant Ingham and Sergeant Bradley spurred the Unit Cross Country Team on in the Divisional Team Championships—and although they didn't secure a win, they certainly were not at the bottom of the scale.

Entertainment continues in the Junior Ranks "Triangle" Club—with our weekly dances. With our own Regimental Group has been featured this month "The Griefs"—a local group. Suffice to say simply—'Good Grief.'

4th DIVISION H.Q. AND SIGNAL REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Fourth by name, but not by nature. Sometimes we slip from the top three, but the efforts of "The Quadrants" in coming fourth out of a field of twelve in the local beat group contest in Herford are not to be decried. Formed just before Christmas, by kind permission of the P.R.I., managed by the Foreman of Signals, publicity manager R.S.M. Stephens, they are already making a name for themselves. Some "squares" query certain aspects of the electronic output, but the real proof of their ability was when they "sent" 150 officers and their wives at the Divisional Headquarters New Year's dance.

Exercise "Woodcock" is our name for a series of exercises designed to test and exercise junior ranks' initiative and endurance. The first consisted of a 20-mile march, range course and obstacle course. The blisters were legion. There is no rank without privilege, so the C.O. headed the queue at the M.I. Room. The winning team was "M" Troop, and H.Q. Squadron continue to keep up their form by winning the second exercise, which was devoted solely to weapon handling.

Thanks to our new establishment, we have now raised a fourth Squadron. O C. 3 Squadron still gets furious any time he is referred to as O.C. 2 Squadron, but we shall get it right soon.

The snow has come and gone, in patches, but so as not to be outdone by the variations of the weather, our ski-ing experts have been building a dry run in the gymnasium. It will probably be completed by the time the spring comes, but at least it should enable the experts and beginners alike to practise throughout the year.

Tact!

Tact is always an asset, especially, perhaps, in Signals personnel of all ranks who have to deal with the staff. This appears to be appreciated by the Corporals' Mess, when, at their recent and first guest night, to which they invited the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, they allowed themselves to be beaten by their visitors. The new Corporals' Mess Committee is full of ideas and hopes for the future.

We hoped to be able to end these notes by recording a victory over 7th Regiment in the finals of the 4th Division Area Hockey. They were, however, well-deserved victors, so we can only say that at least it was two Corps teams who fought the final battle.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Well informed? Compassionate? Sentimental? If you are one of the above you'll enjoy our article this month.

With a large percentage of the Regiment engaged in Trade Training and Education, interesting news items for January are few and far between. This month, however, you can read about our hockey team, our dog Digger, and our own wedding.

Hockey

This season has produced as good a hockey team as the Regiment has ever seen. Fresh from their 3—0 victory over 4th Regiment in the final of the 4th Division section of the Army Cup, they are determined to get to England for the Army Final.

A record of the season's games laid out in a table looks more like the point tally for a Rugby team than the goals scored in hockey matches (Played 25, won 21, lost 2, drawn 2, goals for 133, goals against 32).

We have some prolific scorers, Captain Moss and Staff Sergeant Angell heading the list, who between them in one game shot 13 goals without reply. Unfortunately the next Cup games won't be so easy, but with so much at stake we can't afford to lose now!

Digger



Digger

In a large Regiment like ours, many have passed through the Sergeants' Mess, and few of those surely can forget Dog W.O.II (D.Q.M.S.) Digger. He has risen from the ranks, though what his original rank was we're not quite sure; some say sheepdog, some say spaniel, most just say shaggy mongrel dog, but all say Champion.

Way back, we think in 1953, a certain Sergeant Andy Barnes, R.E.M.E. (now Mr. Barnes) got him as a puppy from a Captain in the Regiment. Sergeant Barnes was married and lived out, but he brought Digger in daily, and everyone got to know him. He liked camp life and, although remaining loyal to Sergeant Barnes, he eventually decided to "live in"; his master gave up the uneven battle, and Digger was put on the living-in strength.

In 1961 Sergeant Barnes left the Regiment and the Army and "Paddy" Malone established nominal ownership, but Digger wasn't changing his way of life, and everyone now accepts him as belonging to the Regiment in general and the Sergeants' Mess in particular.

Digger's reveille is at 05.30 hours, when he goes to sit at the main door of the Mess to say good morning to the Regimental Orderly Sergeant on his way to dismount the guard at 06.20 hours. Many a guard during the last thirteen years can be grateful to him: he has often brightened the day for the R.O.S. with his friendly bark.

His morning rounds start at 08.00 or 08.30 hours: a hopeful request at the ration store for a spot of breakfast, a greeting for the civilian staff, and often a bone from the Chief Cook. Next a quick 'Good Morning' to Vicky, the Q.M.'s (Technician) dog, before going up to the main gate to meet the real love of his life, a pedigree setter who owns the German market gardener living just opposite; this is a friendship of many years, and the lady knows her place: she will wag her tail at the sentry, but will not enter the camp unless Digger is there to escort her.

Sometimes Digger feels like an outing, so he will hop a ride (it's fatal to open a car door when he's in the mood) or wait at the Bus Stop for a trip to the Bahnhof and back—"Der Hund von der Kaserne" is well known to the bus drivers, and greetings are mutual and friendly. (In his youth he used to go out on exercise in the L.A.D. Commander's Champ—front seat, of course; the O.C. sat in the back.)

Back to the Mess for lunch. He has almost too many friends—Sergeant Archie Cunningham, W.O.II Eddie Holness, Sergeant "Paddy" Maskell, etc., and especially the Mess Steward, Sergeant Alex McCabe. Most of the members—and their wives—try to give him Kit Kats, and it is only a severe warning from the Vet which has tended to reduce his consumption from over ten a day.

After lunch he will usually listen to the radio; he prefers light music, but often keeps himself up to date with the Archers. If the radio is turned off, he lets you know in no uncertain howls what he thinks of you.

Colonel P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., when being dined out at the Sergeants' Mess a few years ago, was tried by Court Martial for "permitting his dog to desecrate the gardens of the Sergeants' Mess." Chief witness for the prosecution: Digger. "As guardian of the lawns of the Sergeants' Mess, have you seen the Colonel's dog misuse that hallowed piece of ground?" "Woof, woof"—very firmly, taking a Kit Kat from Sergeant McCabe. "Did the Colonel make any attempt to prevent this happening?" "Woooof" sorrowfully, with a noticeable shake of the head. Case proved. We hope Colonel Pentreath still has the bound volume of snapshots depicting the trial—including Digger in the witness box sealing his fate. For his coolness in the face of danger on that occasion Digger was promoted Acting D.Q.M.S.

A few weeks ago Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Davies and the Squadron Commanders were guests at another Dinner Night; all the members of the Sergeants' Mess except Digger wore the new Mess Kit. After dinner Staff Sergeant Knight, Official Herald, blew his own trumpet and read a citation to the C.O :—

"Sir . . . I am to request you to give ear to the following requests which we hope will benefit our much loved and trusted Mascot, Acting Warrant Officer Class Two Dog Quarter Master Sergeant Digger.

ONE: That you consider him for promotion to substantive D.Q.M.S.

TWO: That . . . you will have him transferred to the E.R.E. List, and remove him from the Regimental Duty Roster.

THREE: That . . . he is NOT made an Officers' Mess Steward, as . . . he could not stand all that rich food.

FOUR: That you excuse him hence forward from *fighting, frolicking and finding his own food.*

FIVE: That you present him with this stable coat.

These benefits . . . will be a fitting reward to the loyalty and affection he has always given those of us assembled here tonight to do him honour."

As the picture shows, Colonel Davies granted the requests. Who could do otherwise for the doyen of dogs?

Wedding

The first marriage service to be conducted in the 7th Regiment Roman Catholic Church took place on Saturday, 23rd January. Lance-Corporal Didon and his bride, Private Michelle Ally, QARANC, met while she was nursing at BMH Rinteln.

They held their reception in the Regiment's Wives' Club, and later left for a short honeymoon before moving into their new home in Herford.

We wish them every happiness for the future.

MARRIAGES.—Corporal Knowles and Lance-Corporal Didon, both to members of the QARANC. Signalman Higham (893).

BIRTHS.—102 Lance-Corporal Taylor, son, 16th January, 1965; 850 Signalman Brians, son, 8th January, 1965.

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Arthur Barker receives his clock. He served the Corps loyally from 1921 to 1965

10th Regiment, Hounslow

R.H.Q. All Ranks congratulate Major Norman Robinson on his recent award of the Meritorious Service Medal. Major Robinson, who commands the U.K.L.F. Signal Troop (incorporated with 10th Regiment), is at present running the overflow comcen operator course, from 11th Regiment, from which fifteen operators will be due to join their new units shortly.

Presentation by 82nd Regiment. When this Regiment re-formed in June 1964, a certain number of historical notes and past records were delved into from general interest and it was discovered from General Nalder's book that 10th Regiment and 82nd Regiment both trace their origin from the original General Headquarters Signals formed in Glasgow in 1932. It was felt that some contact should be made and brotherly greetings were exchanged, these led to a meeting between the two Regimental Commanding Offices, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ellis and Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Dalziel, T.D., on the 23rd January, 1965, at Hounslow. At this meeting 82nd Regiment presented their Regimental Insignia Plaque to this Regiment and we are very proud to have this magnificent emblem of the 82nd Regiment suitably backed by their Regimental Tartan on display in R.H.Q.

Signal Troop (Works) Shoeburyness. On 8th January, 1965, Arthur Barker retired from service with the Troop on reaching the age of 65. The Troop presented Arthur with a clock as a token of their esteem.

Arthur was the first civilian lineman signed on by the Royal Engineers in December 1921 when they took over the responsibility of fixed Signal Services at Shoeburyness from the G.P.O. In 1939 Royal Signals assumed the responsibility for fixed Signals Services and almost immediately after transferring to Signals he put on uniform as a supplementary reservist. He spent the war at Shoeburyness and in 1946 carried on after 'demob' as a civilian. Now after 43 years of climbing poles and laying cable Arthur finally retires. We shall miss his personal knowledge of every cable in the area and wish this loyal servant of the Corps good health, happiness and fortune for the future.

11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Visit of Lieutenant-General G. R. D. Musson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command

Having recently arrived in the Command, the G.O.C.-in-C. visited this Regiment on 11th January, as part of his programme for getting acquainted with units under his command.

He generously gave a complete day of his time to find out all about us, suffice it to say that even this was not sufficient for all he wanted to see and say.

The main pre-occupation here in January is how to look after cold and wet inspecting officers, but the weather held and, at the appointed hour (or almost!) he duly arrived with the Brigade Commander.



The G.O.C. talks to one of the members of the O.R.I. Troop

He was very interested in our new Barracks, and especially in the dining hall, which he visited at lunch time, speaking to many of the new recruits; many of them realising for the first time that the rank of Lieutenant-General is real, and not something one talks about on the Rank Structure lecture.

After lunch, the G.O.C.-in-C. met O.C. 1 Squadron, Major W. B. Foote, and was conducted on a tour of training of recruits on the square, meeting first the O.R. 1 Troop, talking to each of the Troops in turn.

His keen eye turned to the recruits of No. 5 and No. 8 Troops in their final week of training; his gaze and the wind proved a little too much for one or two of them, but all soon were back to top form and gave a good impression.

After a visit to Instructional Wing and the gymnasium, where No. 7 Troop were being instructed in physical training, the G.O.C.-in-C. visited the "other half" of the Regiment in Bourlon Barracks, being met by O.C. 3 Squadron, Capt. R. C. Roberts.

He showed great interest in the Military Proficiency Course and Weapon Training being carried out, and spent some time discussing each with the Squadron Commander.

On to 2 Squadron, and with Major J. Telfer explaining the complexity of postings to all parts of the world. Here the G.O.C. showed keen interest and knowledge of the system, and it would appear that the future of a proposed card index machine is very much in doubt!

After talking and walking the barracks for the day, the G.O.C. and party were welcome guests of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for tea, meeting many of the members in the warm, relaxing atmosphere of the new Mess.

All too soon the visit ended, with farewells and the promise of another visit in the future. We all hope the G.O.C.-in-C. enjoyed his visit to 11th Regiment and wish him a pleasant stay in Northern Command.

Best Recruit



Signalman Edward Wroe was the best recruit at the pass-off on 15th January.

His home is at Littleborough, near Rochdale, Lancs. He enlisted at Manchester and joined the Regiment on 24th November, 1964. He was educated at Hayward Grammar School, plays all sport, particularly interested in basketball. His reason for enlisting was to learn a trade and to gain new friends. He now leaves the Regiment for training as a Technician.

(Continued on page 92)

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess



The late S.O.-in-C. digs in the tree he presented to the Regiment

The aftermath of Christmas is about all that can usually be said about the month of January, but not so in the Depot Mess.

The visit to the Regiment of the G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, Lieutenant-General T. R. D. Musson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., concluded with tea in the Sergeants' Mess, where the G.O.C. had an opportunity of talking to members of the Mess.

Shortly after, the Garrison was honoured by a farewell visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., and the Warrant Officers of the Garrison were invited to meet him in the Depot Mess.

Talking of farewells, we have had more than our quota this month.

To R.Q.M.S. (John) King and Sergeant Thurlow, good luck in civilian life.

To W.O.II (Terry) Cushen, Staff Sergeant Leiper, Sergeants Delargey, Biggs, Wingate, who have gone to help out 8th Regiment Sergeants' Mess.

To Sergeant Parks, who has now joined the Motor Cycle Display Team.

To Sergeant (Paddy) Magowan to Germany.

Welcome to Staff Sergeants Kimber and Nightingale and Sergeant Logan—we hope your stay will be a happy one.

13th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 40

Those Resolutions. Suddenly it is 1965, and already almost a month of the New Year has gone by! This has made us realise that our last conventional (is that the right word?) WIRE notes were included in the July, 1964, edition. Granted, we have had one or two special feature articles since then, but these do not cover our activities with the "broad brush" and, however "special" we might consider ourselves, modesty demands that we cut ourselves down to size occasionally—especially after the arrival of a new year. Having thus suitably reduced ourselves from the "gigantic" to the "terrific," let us examine the goings-on during the last six months!

In and Out. The puffs of dust have now settled, but we still remember many who have left the Regiment since June, 1964, amongst whom are Major B. R. Jacob, to H.Q., Royal Signals, 1 (BR) Corps; Captain G. W. Young to School of Signals; Captain F. Saffrey, W.R.A.C. (to desert sands); Captains Wield and Trotman and Lieutenant Hillman, also W.O.sI O'Toole and Harrington, and many other good friends and comrades. We wish them all the best in their new jobs.

Amongst the "inrushing hoards" during the same period (Officer-in-Charge Records please disregard!) we welcome Captains I. N. (hockey) Lee—mit TE—A. J. Dobson and P. T. Johnson; W.O.sI Whittington and Gay, Sergeant (hockey) A. Cooper, Signalman (cross-country) Gue and many others. We must not forget either, our pleasure in welcoming Captain G. D. Richardson, Royal Canadian Signals (who is still shaking maple leaves from his kit), and Captain Steve Hart, Royal Australian Signals (a jolly swagman if ever there was one!) and, of course, our new W.R.A.C. officer, Second-Lieutenant G. P. Furney.

This multifarious shot in the arm has done us all a lot of good. Meanwhile, we veterans, with a few more months in the Regiment are still here saying "All this and heaven too!"

"The Twisters"—Not only in the dance idiom! We have just emerged from a turmoil generated by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess (W.O.I Palmer was undoubtedly at the back of it!) This was a succession of raffles, the prizes for which were tickets for more raffles—and more raffles—and more! The end of this long road was the prize (if you were lucky) of some tickets for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas draw. We are all "punch drunk" after this marathon, but results speak louder than words, and the prizes at the draw were worth more than £600. It was a very enjoyable and memorable evening in every way, and we were honoured to have as principal guests our C.S.O., Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., and Mrs. Anderson.



Lieutenant A. K. Wright receiving the Commandant's award for the best officer student at 1 (BR) corps outward Bound Centre, Norway for 1964 from Commander Rhine Area

The Older the Fiddle . . . We have adopted two Pensioners from the Royal Hospital at Chelsea. They visited us for two weeks in the summer and again for Christmas. Our Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess have been the prime movers in organising this, and R.S.M. Palmer reports: "George Pledger and Bob Wooley (our two veterans from Chelsea) are able to make our octogenarian, Staff Sergeant Ted Marsden, M.S.M., gaze in awe with tales of the past. Marsden didn't get to 'Pindi until 1935 and our pensioners were there in 'Oh six.' In spite of the gap in time, there appear to have been some soldiers who they mutually admire—old 'Dusty' Miller, 'Dodger' Green and 'Blanco' White must have been on very long overseas tours! We all find it difficult to believe that our Adjutant, Captain Dickie Bird, was at Razmak in 1926, but who are we to disagree!"

Laurels. We are proud to report the award of the Queen's Meritorious Service Medal to Staff Sergeant J. E. Marsden, and give him our most sincere congratulations.

Recently we "cleared the board" at the Rhine Area Cross Country Meeting, with our Signalman "Lanky" Gue coming in first in the field as undisputed individual winner and the team making off with the Championship Award in fine style. Hard training and guts by these madmen certainly paid off and, although the Regiment were hosts and organised the event, we deny that we put arsenic in the tea of the other competitors before the start! Well done the Cross Country Team!

We are also proud to report that two members of the Regiment won the Commandant's Awards for the Best Officer and Other Rank students attending courses at the 1 (BR) Corps Outward Bound Centre, Norway, during the whole of 1964. These tough characters were Lieutenant A. K. Wright, Royal Signals, and Lance-Corporal J. P. W. Busby, R.E.M.E., who won the Other Ranks' Award. Both awards were won in competition with students drawn from all Army Units in B.A.O.R., and Brigadier J. D. King-Martin, D.S.O., M.C., the Brigadier Rhine Area, presented the Officers' Award to Lieutenant Wright, together with a Certificate of Achievement, at a ceremony held after the presentation of prizes for the Rhine Area Cross Country Championships. Unfortunately the Other Ranks' Award could not be presented personally to Lance-Corporal Busby as he has since left the Army and emigrated to New Zealand with his family (where no doubt he is fast becoming a notable "Outward Bounder" in a new environment!)



Signalman M. "Lanky" Gue receiving the individual winners award from the Commander Rhine Area

Our soccer team is well placed in the second division of the Rhine Area League and we have an excellent chance of promotion into the first division next season. Signalman Oxley and Irvine both shine as the "twinkle toes," and are stoutly supported by the other members of our team, under the capable driving force of our team manager Staff Sergeant Banyard.

Mixing It. We have some keen boxers, but are having difficulty in finding competitors who are willing to fight us in Unit competition. We will not cry "chicken," because there is one fixture which is firm. Our old friends the "immaculates" of 225 Squadron are visiting us to "mix it" in the ring in the near future, so followers of the noble art will have an opportunity to watch some scrapping after all.

We are mixing it, however, in another way. Major Wilbur ("Anglo-German Relations") Wright, our O.C. H.Q. Squadron, has been doing great things fostering an Anglo-German Club. Activities vary from taking old and disabled German civilians on trips to places of interest, through Anglo-German Children's Parties, to internationally supported dances. All for the good of the cause!

Tail Piece. Idle pens do not necessarily mean idle people. We have ambitious plans for 1965, and will do our best to record any results that may be of interest to all our comrades in the Corps, by producing some more WIRE notes in due course.

In the meantime it may cause the odd chuckle to record that our Second-in-Command, Major R. P. D. F. ("Paddles") Painter, was crazy enough to try to "shoot" a weir in his canoe one freezing day in early January. Needless to say he capsized as he emerged from the "boil," and the combined efforts of R.S.M. Palmer, Signalmen Maddison, Bird and Wooler fortunately (and very efficiently) rectified what looked like becoming a tricky and unpensionable occasion. Gallons of brandy and a vigorous rub down by the rescue party, and the victim was transformed in appearance from a (should we say it?) frozen drowned rat to his normal (yes, we should!) semi-human state! We are now comparing the relative merits of "line shooting" and "weir shooting," and meanwhile, although it may be "unlucky for some," we think 13 is a good number.

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REBIRTH OF THE 15th SIGNAL REGIMENT



All members of the Corps will be delighted to hear that the 15th Regiment was recently re-formed in Aden. This Regiment, which had a distinguished record in World War II, and later at the time of Suez, now takes over the important duties performed by 254 and 255 Squadrons and 603 Troop.

All wish the Regiment every success in its important role in the Middle East.

We are indebted to the British Army News Service for the following account of the ceremonies marking the day the Regiment re-formed.

AT a parade in Aden on 22nd January Major-General J. H. Cubbon, General-Officer-Commanding Middle East Land Forces, welcomed the Unit mustered under its Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner. Also on parade was the Band of the 1st (Norfolk and Suffolk) Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment, while the square was "kept" by personnel of the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron.

Operational Tasks in 1964

When the Regimental Flag was broken, symbolising the formation of the Unit, despatch riders set out with messages to the Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, and to the Signal Officer-in-Chief. Addressing the troops, General Cubbon said that 1964 was a busy year for the Middle East Command and this had affected the Regiment to a very large degree. He said: "Statistics and figures are really only a part of what this means, but I recall one or two which are very interesting. As soon as the operations on the Dhala Road started last April, from the 21st of that month you formed an improvised Headquarters Signal Squadron and until 15th May you handled under operational pressure 1,680 operational signals, no fewer than 1,000 of which were highly secret. In that short time there was a very high degree of pressure and while you were not organised for this job, you did it at a moment's notice—and did it extremely well.

"The 603rd Troop went off to the East and sustained a very important link with the Federal National Guard and the Federal Regular Army. That went on until December, and I record now my appreciation of that operational task. The 254th Squadron during the year handled over 100,000 signals. That gives some indication of the operational pressures and how much we depend on you." General Cubbon also mentioned the many hundreds of extensions which the Corps had had to install and maintain and the hundreds of miles of cable the installations entailed. He said: "It is reckoned that in 1964 a little short of 4,000 faults were rectified by the Signal Troop. These demands were met with tremendous cheerfulness and ability."

Raised in Cairo in 1940

The 15th Regiment was raised in Cairo in 1940 as 8th Divisional Signal Regiment and during formation was diverted to General Headquarters Middle East as 3rd G.H.Q. Signal Regiment. It served the theatre from Cairo and Fayid until 1955 when it moved to Episkopi, Cyprus. Throughout the Suez crisis it had very heavy commitments and expanded to over 1,000 rank and file, including personnel of all three Services of Britain and of France. It became 15th Regiment in 1959 when all signal units were renumbered, and was disbanded when the rundown of Cyprus was complete in 1963.

254 and 255 Squadrons were formed in September 1959 from the Land Forces Persian Gulf Signal Troop which served Aden and Bahrein. 603 Troop was established in March 1961 as a reserve Signal Troop in Kenya and in 1963 was split to serve Kenya and Aden. The Troop reunited in Aden three months ago.

The role of the 15th Regiment is to provide line and radio communications in the Middle East. For this purpose Regimental Headquarters and Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons are located in Aden, while No. 3 Squadron is permanently detached in Bahrein.

Exchange of letters between the G.O.C. and the Representative Colonel Commandant:

THE WIRE is happy to publish the following extracts from an exchange of letters between Major-General J. H. Cubbon (G.O.C.) and Major-General A. M. W. Whistler (Representative Colonel Commandant).

From General Cubbon

"A note to say that 15th Regiment joined M.E.L.F. on formation on 22nd January, 1965, as you have already heard, with due ceremony. The parade was well staged and, after tremendous preparations, was well carried out.

I took the opportunity of thanking the Royal Corps of Signals in M.E.L.F. for all their splendid work in 1964. In many ways the work of the independent squadrons was outstanding under rugged conditions last year and I quoted some staggering message and line statistics. I will not worry you with them now.

I am delighted that the Regiment has been formed both from my own point of view as representative of the users and also for the much better man-management of the ever increasing numbers of Signals soldiers who seem to come out here!"

From General Whistler

"How very nice to get your letter and to hear, not only that the 15th Regiment got off to such a good start, but that Royal Signals are playing such a valuable part in your Command. I fully appreciate how much your own personal interest and help has influenced this, and would like to say 'thank you' on behalf of the Royal Corps."

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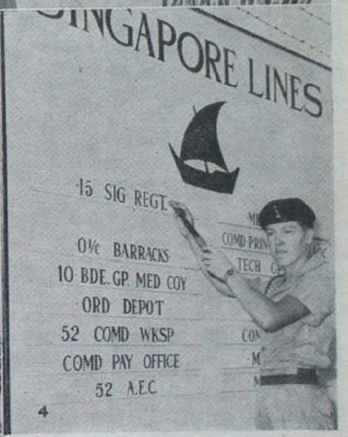
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1


2


3



4


5

1. Accompanied by the C.O., Lieutenant Colonel J. W. Rayner (centre) and the OC. No. 2 Parade Squadron, Major L. C. Clayton (left), Major General J. H. Cubbon makes his tour of inspection
2. The Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J. W. Rayner pictured here congratulating some of the men who work under his command.
3. On his dais beneath the newly-broken flag of 15th Signal Regiment, the G.O.C., M.E.L.F., Major General J. H. Cubbon, acknowledges the salute by the Regiment led on parade by the Commanding Officer
4. Corporal B. Bloomfield replaces the old 254 Signal Squadron sign with the new Regimental Board
5. Lieutenant Colonel J. W. Rayner presents Major General J. H. Cubbon, accompanied by Mrs. Cubbon with a Regimental Plaque



Second Lieutenant Homewood and supporters at Silberhutte

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

R.H.Q., 3 Squadron



Brigadier J. D. King-Martin, D.S.O., M.C. presents the Shield to Corporal R. P. Harrison

The Rhine Area Minor Units Cross-Country Shield has come back to Laarbruch for the fifth year running. Our team, Staff Sergeant Martin, Corporals Harrison, Stevenson, Howard, Smith, Goggin, Signalmen Fry, Richardson, Dickinson and Mawhinney would have been second in the Major Units Competition on the points scored. Well done!

All Contributions Gratefully Received

Scene 1: An airport lounge. *Characters :* 1st man, carrying British Warm seated next to 2nd man with regulation suitcase.

1st man: "Going back from leave?"

2nd man: "Yes—I'm a couple of weeks adrift. I'm not worried though, I've fixed a couple of doctor's certificates which will see me alright at the other end."

Scene 2 : C.O.'s office. *Characters :* 1st man in uniform, seated. 2nd man stands in front of table.

1st man: "I hope you recognise me now."

2nd man: "Sir!"

1st man: "I think a £2 donation to the Benevolent Fund would meet the needs of justice and ease your conscience. Take a good look and make sure you know me next time."

2 Squadron

"Caught not in our beds by the mightiest of woes,
Our labours reveal stations of the R.A.F. torn asunder,
Putting them back together, a source of wonder.
Though rightly proud of boring under road and rail,
Damage to illustrious gardens is another,
And more dreadful,
Tale."

The Station Commander rose to the occasion and the Squadron Commander is hastily attempting to disguise himself as the nearest bushy-topped tree.

The Squadron party returned from the Silberhutte "Circus" in good heart. No bones nor hearts were broken, although it is reported that Private Fritsche was using his knowledge of basic German on one of the colourful local girls, only to find out that she came from Birmingham.

Well, it makes a change from digging up the station.

Congratulations to 21st Regiment who on 10th February won the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Cross Country Championship.



ARMY/BAOR CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION
FINAL 4th DIVISION HERFORD

Team of 22nd Signal Regiment. *Left to Right (Standing):* W.O. I (RSM) P. Lafferty, Lance Corporal Peacock, Signalman Rooney, Corporal Green, Signalman McBarron. Lance Corporal Leigh, Lance Corporal Balfour. *Kneeling:* Signalman Smith, Signalman Day, Lance Corporal Spry (Captain), Signalman Owen, SSI, Ions, APTC

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

The R.S.M.'s Sword. W.O.I P. W. H. Lafferty is leaving us shortly on commissioning. One of Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe's last official functions was to present him, on behalf of the officers of the Regiment, with a sword. The R.S.M. was heard to remark that Mrs. Lafferty was going to have a busy time keeping it "bulled-up," so we are sure it is going to be well looked after. We wish the Laffertys the best of luck in 245 Signal Squadron, Benghazi.

He will not be the only ex-"Thruster" in the Mediterranean area; we didn't think Colonel Wythe could manage without us for long, so Captain Malcolm Bradbury and Staff Sergeant Avery have gone to help sort out U.N. communications in Cyprus.

Back to "Thrusting." The Regiment has stood *en garde* for quite a while now; the usual spate of Christmas and New Year festivities has run its course and we are about to get down to the serious business of "Thrusting" again. "Thrusting?" you may ask. Yes! We in 22nd Regiment go "thrusting." Others may, and sometimes do, go exercising —while others still—well, we don't really know what the other "others" do. Anyway, off we go again into the rather uninviting and cold plains to start a new season. Our chief planner, and Second-in-Command, Major A. J. Jackson, is, however, leaving us at very short notice to take up an appointment in the Ministry of Defence. He is handing over to Major R. H. Gilbertson, whose spell as Officer Commanding 244 Squadron (AS) must be one of the shortest on record, even for that fast-moving Squadron. However, his snap recce by helicopter will be remembered. He rang up for a helicopter (more in hope than anger) at ten o'clock; it was due to land at noon, but at 11.35 it appeared overhead. The sight of the new Squadron Commander and Captain Jock Liddell running down the road, buttoning their parkas with one hand, while trying to stow their haversack rations with the other, was worth watching.

Sapper/Signals Guest Night. On 15th January, the officers of the Regiment were hosts to Brigadier M. L. Crosthwaite, M.B.E., the officers from 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment, R.E., and 35 Corps Engineer Regiment, R.E., at the annual dinner (postponed from the traditional date in November because of a Study Period).

Sports News. Although the Regimental soccer team were beaten 2—3 by the Royal Highland Fusiliers in the 4th Division final of the Army Cup, they have held their own in the Royal Signals Cup by beating 16th and 28th Regiments. 7th Regiment thrashed our hockey players in the second round of the Army Cup, while our rugger team went down in the first round of their Army Cup to the 4th Division Engineers.

The Winter Training Courses at Silberhutte have been popular with our skiers, Signalmen Sixsmith, Martin, Cooney, Kerry and Williamson have learned a lot about ski-ing, marching and survival, on recent courses.

(*Continued on page 98, column 2*)

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FRUSTRATED TAKE OVER BID

HQ UNFICYP OPERATIONS BRANCH STAFF

Front row: Major C. E. Beattie (Canada), Major H. A. Johnstone, Royal Signals, Lieutenant Colonel H. Berg (Denmark), Major P. Hvalkof (Denmark), Major C. G. A. Ridley, Royal Signals. *Back row:* Captain D. O'Shea (Ireland), Major C. S. Galbraith, Royal Signals, Captain I. H. S. Homersham, Green Howards, Captain R. Hurley (Canada)

MUTTERINGS of "Royal Signals take over bid" were heard in H.Q. UNFICYP when no less than three of the four British posts on the operations staff were filled by officers of the Royal Corps. However, one hundred per cent success never was achieved and, with the departure of the three incumbants the "bid" appears to have been abandoned.

Having thoroughly enjoyed their interesting six months tour on an international staff Majors Johnstone and Galbraith have handed over their GSO II appointments to take over command of 261 Squadron (Air Formation) and return to the All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment respectively. GSO III, Major Ridley, has returned to the staff of Headquarters, Northern Ireland District, prior to joining Gurkhas Signals in Malaya.

Letter to the Editor

From Major A. A. Dacre, M.B.E., of the Royal Military Academy:

Dear Sir,

On page 14 of the January issue of THE WIRE, you publish an excellent article, but I have the following ('prosaic'!) comment:

In "Free Lift to Freemantle," by Millichip,
Concerning his Antipodean trip,
You let pass and condone, a mispelling
Not one, but four times, in the telling
Of how he had enjoyed
The welcome, but could not avoid
An extra 'E'
To make in 'FREE.'
Methinks we could hardly blame
If, following a simple rule,
An Aussie lad to Blighty came
and knocked 'L' out of Liverpool.

Yours, ABLE DACRE

[In misspelling "Fremantle" an error we see,
"Let pass" may be, but "condoned"—no sirree!
But misspelling's infectious—we're sure you'll agree,
Like misspelling "misspelling"—in your note to me.

Our apologies to our friends down under for the error brought to light in the above poetic (?) exchange.—Editor].

22nd Regiment (continued)

Our miniature range is now going strong. 2 Squadron won the recent Squadron League, which involved a team of eight firing a standing, kneeling and prone, three-position match, based on the Army Rifle Association Match 87. We selected a Regimental team which is in strict training for the A.R.A. Smallbore Matches to be fired before the end of March, and are giving them some preliminary match experience in the B.A.O.R. Unit Championships.

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SIX PROUD WALKERS

(HERE, indeed, is a novel and refreshing approach to Unit notes. The unknown author by using his imagination sets before us a really interesting human story found within one Unit—a welcome change from accounts of administrative inspections and visits by inspecting officers—Editor.)

Signal Success

To all those of us who have chosen the Corps as a career—and that includes most of the readers young and old—we have probably wondered at times where we were are going. Certainly, youthful readers—those ex-Boys from Harrogate and Denbury in their first man's service regiment—might be wondering and looking for the carrots, however dim and distant they may be. Perhaps too, if those readers hear that their R.S.M. is an ex-Boy they would be inclined to think that such success was an outside chance. "He was lucky" they might say.

In this first "Look at Life" by 28th Regiment we have discovered "Signal Success" on our doorstep. Amongst the many Franciscans serving NATO, we find positive proof in abundance that such success is not so much of an outside chance as it may appear. In fact, tracing their histories, the chance is far from outside and nearer to being a sure bet.

Boys Will Be . . .

In 1942, the Boys' Company in its lines on the top of Vimy Ridge, at Catterick, was a forbidding place. The war was on; the barracks were blacked out at night and austere during the day; down the road drafts from the Holding Battalion marched off to the battle fields of the world; and the sounds of training military men were almost continuous.

For six particular boys, as they got off the bus at Kemmel and trundled, suitcases in hand, gas masks over their shoulders, up the hill, it was the start of their Army career. "What," thought new boys Trelawny, Marsh, Ilett, Walls, Clark and Brown, "is to be my future?" Diffident then, as all new boys, overawed perhaps and certainly hungry, they tucked into the good, rough but wholesome food in the Boys' Company Cookhouse. Thus fortified, they began to relax. Soon they settled down, made friends and were enjoying to the full the active training provided. They were young and keen to get on. And, at that time, keen also to get out and join their brothers or fathers or uncles already fighting the war.

Franciscan Old Boys

Twenty-three years later these same six boys are all together again as Key Franciscans with 28th Regiment. All have done well and taken full advantage of their early training. Now no longer diffident or overawed since they have made, and are making, their mark on the Corps in their own right. And if they are still hungry, it is their own fault. They have "arrived" and we in Royal Signals are glad to have them.

Squadron Command

Boy Trelawny was commissioned in 1947 and now commands a Signal Squadron in the Regiment. With this command he has a close responsibility for watching over the careers of other and younger "ex-Boys." A responsibility to guide them towards the goals he has worked for over the years; his chosen career, a choice he never regrets.

A Tot of the Right Stuff

Boy Marsh became a technician, then a foreman and is now a Major T.O.T. He too has a particular concern for the many Apprentices amongst his first class technicians. In some he can see already the Foremen and T.O.T.s of the 'seventies. And his attitude with them all is, "I got there, why shouldn't they?"

One Way Traffic Officer

Choosing the operating side on leaving Boy Service, Boy Ilett worked his way through Signal Centres to become a Captain Traffic Officer. Now when he supervises Comcen Operators with their pounding teleprinters, he remembers that once he was like that Signalman over there in the corner, having difficulties with a rather long tape.

On Parade

Also starting Man's Service as an Operator was Boy Walls but upon reaching Sergeant branched out on to the Regimental Duty Roster. Now his stentorian voice roars across the barracks and all know that the Regimental Sergeant Major of 28th Regiment is "on parade." And as the new arrivals from Harrogate or Denbury line up outside the C.O.'s office for interview, do they detect the R.S.M. thinking back to his first entry into Man's Service?

Yeoman of Ireland

Boy Clark set off from Ireland to join the Corps and now has boys of his own. Today, his task as W.O.I Yeoman of Signals in 28th Regiment is to watch over the upgrading and trade progress of the new generation ex-Boys serving in the Regiment. But not only in the classroom does he direct their activities. From his stolid position of left-back, he urges the young 28th Regiment hockey players as they sweep through to the 1965 Rhine Area Hockey Final and to the top of the Rhine Area Inter-Services Hockey League.

The Gaffer

Another Franciscan who went "technical" was Boy Brown. Now he is a W.O I Foreman of Signals, the "Gaffer." In his workshops, he passes on advice on that "sticky" circuit problem facing a young Harrogate Old Boy. "I think you'll find C2 condenser is open circuit," he says. It probably is too, because there have been many condensers C2 in his career.

Walk Tall—Walk Straight

These six boys twenty-three years ago, dragging their feet up from Kemmel bus stop, were probably told on arrival to do just this. Walk tall and walk straight they have done—they are still walking proudly—six "Proud Walkers" in Royal Signals and six Proud Franciscans of 28th Regiment. They too, like the pop record of this title, are all at the "top of the charts."

(*Pictures on page* 101)

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The Six Proud Walkers of 28th Regiment













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2. Ex Boy Walls gives forth
3. Ex Boy Clark supervises his operators
4. Ex Boy Trelawny plans his Programme
5. Ex Boy Marsh explains the finer points
6. Ex Boy Ilett checks his records



Signalman I. C. Brown, now in Aden. (See *Aden paragraph*)



Corporal G. S. Spearpoint, now in Catterick. (See *Swaziland paragraph*)

640 TROOP (THE GLOBE TROTTERS)

British Guiana. We welcome back to the Troop our men in British Guiana, Sergeant D. Moat and Lance-Corporal A. M. Brewin. Attached to 607 Troop, they arrived back with brown knees and tales of trips up-country. Lance-Corporal Brewin assures us that he has a crocodile for our trophy room in his M.F.O. (Quartermaster, please note).

Also back from a detachment to the 1st Devon and Dorset Regiment is Lance-Corporal W. Duncan and Signalman M. Bayliss.

However, British Guiana will not be without members of 640 Troop as, in addition to Corporal Pike, who remains out there, Sergeant W. B. Dick, Corporal T. Howarth, Signalmen K. H. Brown, W. M. Wilkie and R. Dryden are now detached to the Lancashire Fusiliers, and flew out early this month. All Scotsmen, much to their chagrin, they joined 1st Lancashire Fusiliers on Hogmanay.

Aden. Lance-Corporal R. C. Marshal, Signalmen P. T. Randall, W. D. Neil, G. Denton, I. C. Brown (see photograph) and G. F. Linnell are all the Linemen and Cable Jointers respectively attached to 254 Squadron in Aden. Signalman G. Denton has now recovered from his flesh wound and we are strongly recommending him for the purple heart.

We are shortly expecting back Signalman P. Allison, our lone technician with 1st Royal Scots.

Cyprus Again. Sergeant R. G. Lee, Corporal R. A. James, Lance-Corporal J. Mills, Signalmen J. Balmer and F. Harrison have just joined 1st Loyals in Cyprus. We were just about to proffer a welcome to Signalman Harrison, who has recently returned from a detachment with the York and Lancester Regiment in Swaziland. However, "hello and goodbye." Also in Cyprus, attached to 262 Squadron are Lance-Corporal V. Horsefield and Signalman K. E. Salt.

Swaziland (B.F.P.O. 640). Returning, perhaps for a little longer than Signalman Harrison, are Sergeant Stogdale, Corporal D. A. L. Griffiths, Corporal G. S. Spearpoint (see photograph) and Lance-Corporal W. Whiteman. We did catch a glimpse of Lance-Corporal S. Mortimer, but he has now been detached to 43 Royal Marine Commando at Portsmouth.

Lusaka. Back from a year in Lusaka is Sergeant E. Brookes. We wish him the best of luck on his Yeoman of Signals course at Catterick. Lance-Corporal W. Jennings has returned also, but has disappeared on an upgrading course at Bovington.

Kenya. Still appearing, reluctantly, from disembarkation leave, after being detached to 618 Troop, in Kenya, we have Corporal J. V. Lupton, Lance-Corporals F. C. Rayner, F. Sandiford and B. W. Shaw, Signalmen F. G. Heath and J. A. Sharman. Part of a party which earned the Presentation Trophy from 618 Troop and all Royal Signals at H.Q., British Land Forces, to the Regiment in thanks for assistance during the emergency in East Africa in 1964.

Brunei. After successfully running a radio operator upgrading course, Sergeant M. St.C. Inglefield is now detached to 4th Regiment, Royal Artillery, on their way to Brunei. We hope—and he doesn't—that he will return to run the next one.



Stand 2 of the Staff College Demonstration. *Left to Right:* Captain R. Bell, Lance Corporal W. Duncan, Signalman J. Balmer, Sergeant C. J. Walton

30th Regiment

BLANDFORD CAMP

1965 started "normally" with the Staff College Demonstration; a full report is given below. Preparing and recovering College, Camberley, on 18th-19th January, 1965.
from this, our largest demonstration of the year, took almost the whole of the month of January. Still, it proved well worthwhile, as the demonstration was highly successful and went almost without a hitch. It did get somewhat hectic during the last night's preparation, when at one stage it became highly dangerous, especially for the stand officers, to stand in one place more than a few seconds.

Demonstration

A demonstration of signal equipment was given to the Staff College, Camberley, on 18th-19th January, 1965.

The demonstration consisted of three stands, two in the Sandhurst Hall and the third on the Anzio Square.

Stand 1 consisted of a display of channelling and terminal equipments, and was split in two halves, one working to the other over an SR C41 RR link. This stand was manned by Major Armstrong, the Second-in-Command, and Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Davis with members of 1 Squadron.

Stand 2 showed a display of field radio sets, including the controversial A13, which created more than usual interest among the Infantry visitors to the stand. We were lucky in having Sergeant Stickley to demonstrate the set. He was one of the N.C.O.s who carried out the original trials in the Malayan jungle and was able to answer a lot of the more searching questions.

Stand 3 consisted of a static vehicle display, including an Armoured Fighting Vehicle 432, Command Vehicle, an Air Contact Team (provided by 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment) and a most impressive array of EW equipment from 3 Squadron.

Four members of 251 Women's Royal Army Corps Signal Squadron, Aldershot District Troop, assisted us with the demonstration. Second-Lieutenant Young, Duty Signal Officer Aldershot, manned the BFO which was providing the chimes



to indicate each programme change. Corporal Butlin, Lance-Corporal Davis and Private Apsey acted as guides for each party, escorting them from stand to stand. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience of helping Major Ainsworth, who now has some keen volunteers for the Corps Display, Quicksilver.

The demonstration was a complete success. So much so in fact that the Regiment has received letters of congratulation from both the Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Commandant of the Staff College. We hope that our efforts will not go unheeded by the Staff Officers of the future.

Golf

To the golfers of the Corps, a few words on facilities to be found at Blandford may well be of interest. One mile to the south of the new School of Signals building is Ashley Wood Golf Club with an interesting 9-hole course, and having a new Standard Scratch Score of 65 for 18 holes.

The longest hole is only 378 yards but this apparent asset to good scoring is amply off-set by the five par 3 holes. The shortest par 3 is 180 yards being guarded by a long ditch immediately before the green; the longest is 235 yards and the green is not visible from the tee.

The present Blandford Camp golfing fraternity feel that it is a good test of golfing ability and decidedly well worth the annual nine guineas subscription.

243 SQUADRON, BULFORD CAMP

Mr. S. E. Butt, B.E.M., Honoured

During the past two months, the Squadron has survived the rigours of the annual Administrative Inspection and the Christmas festivities. During the inspection, the former supervisor of the Bulford military telephone exchange, Mr. S. E. Butt, B.E.M., was presented with the Imperial Service Medal by Brigadier A. McGill, D.D.E.M.E., H.Q., Southern Command. Mr. Butt was supervisor of the Bulford Camp exchange for 30 years, and was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1963. The photograph shows Brigadier McGill with Mr. Butt and Major (Retd.) Jack Carr (the Squadron Administrative Officer). On the left of Brigadier McGill is the present Supervisor of Bulford Military Exchange, Mr. A. Hampson.



The Squadron continues to be involved in the winter recruiting campaign, mainly in the form of window displays, cadet force training, and providing public address equipment for numerous sporting events in the Command.

The Officer Commanding, Major J. L. McKellar, has accepted the Secretaryship of the Corps Golfing Society.

New roles include basic driver training

Two new roles have been assigned to the Squadron, the first being basic driver training, and the unit is at present involved in running its first course for Drivers, Royal Signals, BIII. Secondly, the Foreman of Signals, Staff Sergeant J. Lawrence and Staff Sergeant P. Donnelly are now permanently detached to Blandford, where they have formed the nucleus of the S.W.S. Project Troop for the School of Signals.

To return to the Christmas festivities. Twenty-one families, 34 children, equals about 1.619 children per family, equals about as cheerful a group as has ever gathered at 243 Squadron H.Q. for a Christmas party. But will someone explain the circumstances, always noticeabe at a unit Christmas party for children, namely, the amount of food LEFT after the festivities. How does one persuade the little perishers to eat? Could it be that the interest, for once, is in something other than food?

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TSR2 in peril?

Should you happen to see a shattering headline in the newspapers to the effect that the TSR2 has been "shot down," our Wives' Club .22 shooting team, which met for the first time ever on Monday, 1st February, 1965, disclaim all responsibility.

252 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 1

A Visit to one of our Affiliated Submarines

In the four months which have elapsed since our notes last appeared in print, two notable personalities of the Squadron have left the Hong Kong scene to face the rigours of an English winter. They are Major A. A. G. Anderson (who departed in late September for the higher realms of the Joint Services Staff College), and Captain B. F. Strange (who left us just before Christmas to join an Air Formation Signal unit in U.K.). We wish them both every success in their new appointments, and at the same time extend a welcome to their successors, Major J. W. Ingledow, as Squadron Commander, and Lieutenant G. M. Finney as O.C. Radio Troop.

In early October, dodging between typhoons, the Squadron was happy to entertain the crew of H.M. Submarine *Alliance*, one of our two affiliated submarines. A week of friendly sporting rivalry culminated in a conducted tour of the vessel for all members of the Squadron and their families, followed by a cocktail party on board. Those of you who have not enjoyed a party aboard a submarine, will have to believe us when we say that the atmosphere is intimate, if not secluded; keeping one's drink balanced on a periscope-handle is, in itself, an absorbing occupation!

Next in chronological order came the opening of the new Signal Centre, on 20th October. A description of the new centre forms the subject of a separate article in this issue, and we would merely like to record here, our congratulations to Captain E. G. Barrett and Operating Troop on a fine achievement.

Honours and Awards



C.R. Signals Hong Kong, Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Winn, presenting the silver tray to Mr. Li Chung on his retirement

High in the "Honours and Awards" stakes during the last quarter came the Island SWS Troop (Works)—and may we add, rightly so. On 31st December they said goodbye to Mr. Li Chung, a civilian cable-jointer who had served with the Corps in Hong Kong for thirty-six years. The occasion was honoured by a ceremonial presentation to Mr. Li Chung of an inscribed silver tray with an embossed "Jimmy."

Hard on the heels of this ceremony came news of the awards of G.O.C.'s Testimonials to two further members of the Troop, Mr. Chan Chuen and Mr. Li Ki. And last (but not least) we are glad to record that the Troop Commander, W.O.I (F. of S.) N. A. V. Ribchester, was appointed to a Short Service Commission on 12th January. He leaves us shortly for a year's tour in Borneo, relieving Lieutenant (T.O.T.) V. de Witt who will rejoin us again for the conclusion of his Far East tour.

We must also mention a record spell of "All Signals" weddings. Our congratulations and best wishes on their recent marriages go to Corporal Peter Stanger and Private Davena Stephens; Lance-Corporal Vic Shuttleworth and Private Doris Knowles; and finally to Lance-Corporal Clive Hinton and Lance-Corporal Pat Hamilton. In every case the brides and 'grooms were members of the Squadron. W.R.A.C. Records are finding it difficult to keep the W.R.A.C. Troop up to strength!

1965 looms ahead. In Chinese custom, it is known as the "Year of the Snake"—traditionally a lazy year, but unlikely to be so for the sixty-odd Hong Kong other ranks of this Squadron! Already we are gearing-up for a full programme of Joint Service I.S. and other exercises; these, together with sporting activities and the inevitable typhoons, are likely to keep us well on our toes throughout the summer. However, there's no harm in hoping: "Kung Hei Fat Choy," or, for English readers, a happy New Year!

327 SQUADRON, PORTSMOUTH

It is now fifteen months since we adopted our new role and underwent yet another reorganisation. 321 Troop W.R.A.C., commanded by Captain J. Wood, W.R.A.C., is now part of the Squadron and loses its identity.

During this time priority has been given to the training of comcen operators, and we are extremely fortunate to have as our Training Adviser, Major N. Robinson, of 10th Regiment.

Last June saw us encamped at St. Martin's Plain, Folkestone, accompanied by our "twin," 325 Squadron (Plymouth). The most memorable feature of the whole camp was Exercise "Cornplaster," which really lived up to its name! The winners of this cross-country endurance walk was the team led by Sergeant Prowse (325 Squadron). This year (May) we return to Crowborough, which we last visited in 1962.

Social events feature prominently in Squadron activities and a dance is held each month. Their popularity among the locals is demonstrated by the number who attend. The annual dinner was held in September and the children's party in January. Our thanks go to the Social Committee, under Corporal Laing, for their untiring efforts to make these occasions so successful.

It is with reluctance that we bid "farewell" to Captain G. A. "Tiny" Low, M.B.E., our P.S.O. since 1960, who retires after eleven years' service with the T.A., making a total of 43 years with the Corps. Everyone who has come into contact with him has benefited in some way, and his understanding of Army matters have saved us many a headache. He was dined-out by the officers of the Squadron on 23rd January, and presented with a silver cigarette case to mark the occasion. All members of the unit wish him a long and happy retirement. We welcome in his place Captain K. Jordan, on his first appointment to the T.A.

633 TROOP, B.F.P.O. 12

Read below of one of the Corps' more remote Troops. Only eight strong, they would appear to more than pull their weight in the local life of British Honduras.

Although the strength of our Troop is only eight all told, we are a very proud lot and have decided to let the Corps know of our existence. (*We thought they were pretty keen Corps types when they offered to pay for their* WIRES *to be sent by air mail.—Editor*).

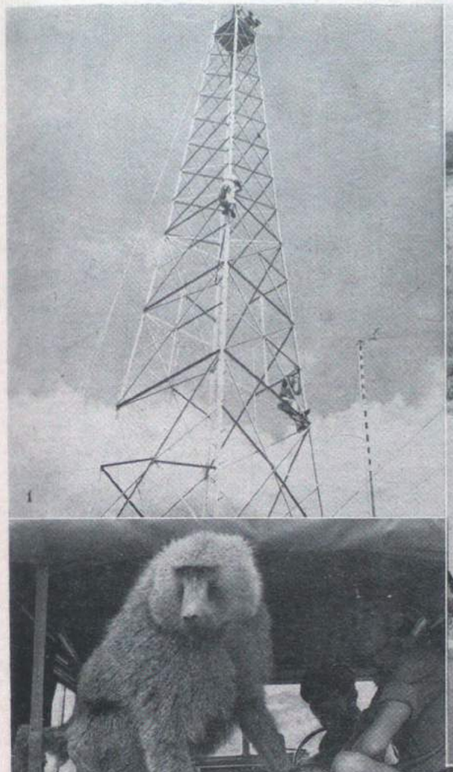
First and foremost, a few names. The Troop has on strength at the moment Yeoman French, Corporals Cadman and McNeil, Lance-Corporal Bruce and Signalmen Forbes, Dryland, Wood and Knott, and our task is to provide communications for H.Q., British Honduras Garrison to the outside world. We work a great deal with the Royal Navy, and this tends to make our operators just a little faster than their counterparts in other units (we think!). We are also responsible for internal military communications, and this gives us our excuse for our monthly exercises. It was during one of these exercises that Signalman Dryland nearly shot the farmer's donkey, mistaking it for a tiger. (He, of course, denies it). It sounds even funnier when told of the weapon he was about to do it with—a .177 air rifle.

As far as sport is concerned, we have ample opportunity in most sports, and are very lucky to have in this camp the only fresh-water swimming pool in the country. Signalman Wood is our football enthusiast and is a keen listener of the G.O.S., especially on Saturday, when the football results are broadcast.

Talking of broadcasts, one of the spare-time jobs of the Yeoman is to present a 30-minute programme of Forces' requests over the local radio station. Inevitably, the Troop is not short of requests on the programme and have been named "The Crazy Gang," after the nicknames they use when sending in requests.

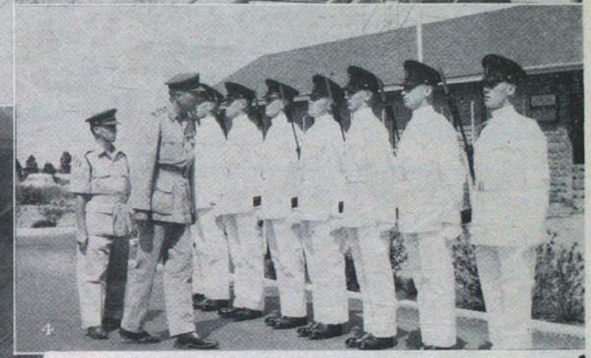
Another part-time job that the Troop is heavily involved in is the production of the Garrison weekly newspaper *Sailfish*. All news and sports items are faithfully recorded by Corporal McNeil (Sports Editor) who can be found most days twiddling the dial of our faithful 88 receivers for information from the outside world. Signalman Dryland is the cartoonist and we would very much appreciate it if Royal Signals Records could find us another cartoonist TG Operator to replace him when he goes. The *Sailfish* must have its cartoons.

618 Troop say Goodbye to East Africa: Pictures of an Eventful Past











1. "Monkey Business" by personnel of 618 Troop up a Mast 105! Apart from providing Radio facilities this also afforded an uninterrupted view of Nairobi
2. 210 Squadron Line Detachment with a background of "Rondavels" in a typical East African setting.
3. More "Monkey Business"—Members of 210 Squadron on Safari to a Game Park "collected" an interested body
4. 236 Squadron (COMCAN). Quarter-guard at Eastleigh, Nairobi, Commanded by Major J. F. Blake, Royal Signals
5. 1 Signal Squadron, Kenya Army, Captain Mike Chandler at M.T. Stables

In February, 1965, the last Troop of Royal Signals left East Africa, having begun as part of 1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R., and passing through the following phases since 12th December, 1964.—First 618 Signal Troop, then British Land Forces Kenya (B.L.F.K.) and ending as 618 Signal Troop, British Army Rear Element, Kenya (B.A.R.E.K.).



1. Lance Corporal Fisher and Signalman Watson replenishing a generator. 2. Major P. H. Ridlington briefs NCO's on the last stages of the exercise. Left to right: Lance Corporal Kitchener, Corporal Farmer, Corporal Hatton, Lance Corporal Williams, Major P. H. Ridlington. 3. Corporal Taylor beginning one of the many herculean labours involved when motoring across the desert. 4. Local Arabs giving a helping hand blowing up tyres while Lance Corporal Fisher gives expert advice in fluent Arabic

PUTTING 650 TROOP ON THE MAP

We have all read recently some very good articles spotlighting Signals in the Middle East, SEATO exercises in Bangkok, operators in the Radfan, etc. Now we think it is time we "got in on the act" and put 650 Troop on the map.

A few months ago, an apt title for this article would have been "Our Men in Bahrain," but today this is hardly true, and our exercise areas include most places you can think of associated with the Land Forces, Persian Gulf. This does not include those gentlemen whom, by courtesy of "Movements," manage to spread 28 days' LUKFREE leave into 57 (the record to date). Not forgetting those put down simply as "at sea."

When we are all "at home," we live on one of those sun-drenched islands which one sees featured in all the travel advertisements, covered with waving palm trees and miles and miles of sand. But do not be too envious, remember the heart cry of the lonely airmen in "South Pacific"—we ain't got them either.

So that's Bahrain

For those whose geography is not too hot, Bahrain is a small island in the Persian Gulf. Like most of the area, its only real source of income is oil; in this case the refineries being more important than the actual production of the crude oil out of the ground. Bahrain is a strictly Moslem country, ruled over by Sheik Isa Bin Sulman Alkhalifa.

Although Bahrain has many limitations, its biggest compensatory factor is the amount of sport that can be played. It is no unusual sight to see football, rugby, cricket, basketball, and even athletics all going on at the same time, whilst sounds of revelry from the swimming pool come echoing across the sand. The Army also own a small fleet of sailing dinghies which provide excellent sailing throughout the year. 650, although a small Troop, fields football, hockey and basketball teams, and on one occasion fielded two rugby teams. We also work "in our spare time."

120 Degrees in the shade—if any!

In June, Major D. W. W. Cooper lead a sortie into the Trucial States with our brand new D11 vehicles and our recently-acquired Mark 7 Land Rovers. We left Bahrain in "penny packets," by courtesy of "Light Blue Airlines" and the Senior Service, and eventually all collected together in Jebel Ali, the 3rd Parachute Regiment training Camp, about 30 miles south of Sharjah, the Headquarters of the Trucial Oman Scouts. Here we got our first taste of life in the desert and a temperature of 120° in the shade, if you can find any shade! Major Cooper decided that this "base wallah's" life was not for him, and departed for the mountains with Corporals Rendle and Griffiths, visiting the T.O.S. Squadron bases of Manama and Musafi. This was the last we heard of him until he returned into 62 set range. This period was also the most noteworthy, as we "acquired" our first subaltern, Second-Lieutenant J. F. Budd, who arrived on temporary attachment and whom, by various means, skullduggery, etc., we managed to keep until December, when he departed, with all our best wishes, to England and a "Q" Course.

Major P. H. Ridlington arrived in August to take over the Troop, and, in keeping with the new spirit of 650, routed himself from Germany via the U.K. and Cyprus, and after a quick look around departed on a 'recce' to Sharjah. He was next seen one week and 1,500 miles later.

The stage was now set for the Troop's first real expedition into the desert, and on 26th October, the majority of the Troop flew to Sharjah in three Beverleys; the Royal Navy's

invitation to H.M.S. *Bastian* and a short sea cruise unfortunatelly having to be rejected at the last moment.

The problem facing us was how to learn desert navigation, driving and general living in ten days, in order to be able to drive right across the Trucial Oman States to the exercise area. The country in between varied from soft, shifting sand to barren, rocky mountain passes; no direct route existed, and we could only carry limited water and petrol. So one can imagine that the offer of an escort from "C" Squadron, 10th Royal Hussars (P.W.O.) was most gratefully received, but, with a little trepidation when we discovered the route they proposed to take involved five hours of loose sand and dunes and a narrow dried-up river valley, which was very steep and rocky. The first stage was comparatively easy and was accomplished within 24 hours, including an overnight stop and two hours in pumping tyres, let down to 8lb. in order to get through the sand. But the second stage included another river wadi, down which no British troops had ever driven, and was only used occasionally by Land Rovers.

'The Point of No Return'

This proved to be a hair-raising drive, and morale was not improved when we reached the 'point of no return' to be told on the radio that the Escort Squadron Leader considered the going too difficult for his "A" Echelon, which included the recovery vehicles, and that he had sent them back to go round via the coast. Also we were to watch the next half of the journey as his Ferret scout cars and unladen Mark 9 Land Rovers were having considerable difficulty as the "track" had disappeared. Having no option, we ploughed on, often having to stop to remove large boulders or build a decent track for Land Rovers to get over some particularly awkward stretch. But at last, to everyone's surprise, we reached the mouth of the wadi with no springs broken, punctures, or any serious damage, and were soon motoring across the gravel plain to the coast.

Four days later the rest of the force arrived, consisting of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron, with 601 Troop, Royal Signals, and 3rd Parachute Battalion Group, and the exercise proper began. Rather ungratefully we turned on our erstwhile friends, the Hussars, who had now adopted the "Red Shamag" and were fighting as the enemy. At the end of the exercise the operators returned by air, a long and tiring journey by Beverley whilst the drivers, under Lance-Corporal Kitchener returned in comfort by sea.

Now it was our "stay-at-homes" chance to wander, and Signalmen Manners and Theobald departed on a patrol on H.M.S. *Chilcompton*, our "chummy ship." The Troop now has two Painters and Scrapers, Class I, to add to the Sergeant-Major's pool.

'Bribery, Corruption and Kidnapping of Girls'

The wanderlust slightly quenched, our thoughts turned to home and Christmas. This was to be celebrated by the real opening of the "650 Club" and a grand dance to be held in Mercury House, where we live. But how do you hold a dance without girls? As I have said earlier, they are an almost unobtainable commodity in Bahrain. But nothing is impossible when one sets one's mind to it, and the determination of the Yeoman (in the person of Staff Sergeant Leitch), bribery corruption, threats, sheer cunning and a "kidnapping" by Signalman Theobald, ensured that girls were there. The Troop's own group, "The Vikings," were inveigled into playing for free—but who wouldn't with the prospect of four days' fatigues over the Christmas break as an alternative! Corporals Hatton and Williams, the two lead guitarists are still nursing sore fingers, whilst Corporl Barron and Signalman McEwan, the rhythm guitarist and drummer respectively, are still muttering dark curses about slave labour. Nevertheless, they managed to keep the dancing going until 2 a.m.

The 18th is also to be remembered as the day we were joined by our first R.E.M.E. Craftsman, who promptly "flogged" over a hundred rupees worth of raffle tickets in aid of the Troop fund. This was no mean achievement on Pikes' behalf, as we had already achieved our target before he had arrived.

Despite all efforts to the contrary, this had developed into somewhat "Old Style Notes," but we hope it will encourage the articles we have been promised on a "Naval Patrol" and "The Night Life of Aden," not to mention "The Oman Desert." These should help 650 Troop to earn a respected place in THE WIRE. (*The Editor awaits them with interest!*).

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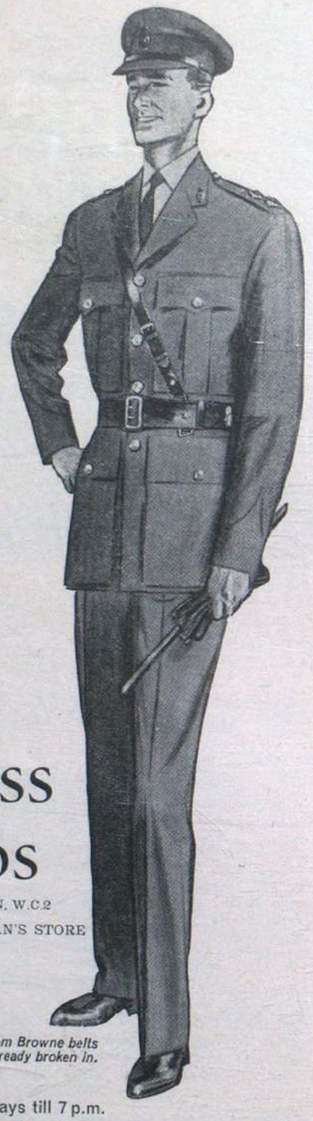
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47th REGIMENT MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

What Does "D" Squadron Do?—Primary Training. The short answer to the perennial question we get asked by so many visitors to the Middlesex Yeomanry.

Now, led by Captain F. Ruthven, "D" Squadron is responsible for the induction and primary military training of all recruits to the Middlesex Yeomanry. The training course lasts seventeen weeks and consists principally of general military training, but includes basic signal knowledge, as an introduction to trade training, which is subsequently undertaken in our newly-formed Training Wing, which the recruit joins on passing out from "D" Squadron.

Within the primary training programme, great stress is placed on activity, leadership and environment, and in this connection, the Squadron is fortunate in being able to undertake most of its week-end training at the Guards' Depot, Pirbright, where we understand "the environment is most conducive to activity." But in all seriousness, we would mention that in spite of the toughness of this recruits' course, "D" Squadron has the highest training attendance rate in the Regiment.

"D" Squadron's work is concerned with both the key aspects of manpower planning—the attraction factor and the retention factor—which loom so large when considering manpower problems of the Reserve Army.

As a result of considerable research work undertaken by the Middlesex Yeomanry into manpower problems of the Reserve Army, we now have the necessary knowledge to tackle the problems concerned, which is being done with marked success through the medium of "D" Squadron and our newly-formed Training Wing.

We recognise three distinct channels of recruitment: "Campagin" recruitment, "Chance" recruitment, and "Colleague" recruitment.

Of these, the most profitable is "Colleague" recruitment, for although the second slowest channel for recruitment, it is associated with the lowest wasteage rate.

Promoting this channel is stimulated by publicising the fact that every member of the Regiment is expected to bring in one recruit per year, and that no one can be considered for promotion unless he has done so. Recruiting achievement is recognised by the award of a merit symbol, in the form of a miniature Regimental badge for wearing in a lapel.

64th REGIMENT (T.A.), SHEFFIELD

Soccer team goes from success to success

Looking back through past numbers of THE WIRE I see that we must not forget the untiring efforts of Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Cottage in pushing our soccer team from success to success! We can now reiterate this with even stronger emphasis. He has succeeded in inspiring our team to such heights that they recently won the 49th (W.R. & N.M.) Div./District Football Association Cup Competition by defeating the 3rd Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire (T.A.) by 5—1. We are not members of 49 Division in fact and were automatically entered for the cup on a territorial basis by entering for the UKTA Cup. This being so, we suspect that the 3 PWO were more than a little upset at having lost the cup after holding it for the last three years.

Our goalscorers were Lance-Corporal Peter James (2), team captain Corporal Bill Gambles (2) and Signalman Michael Smith (1). The latter two have been nominated for the National T.A. XI, and Bill Gambles having been in the national team last year is fairly sure of a place once more, having played a good game and been watched at it by the Chairman of the TASA.

Much of the credit for our success must also go to Officer/Cadet Dennis Finnegan, Sheffield United Reserves' leading goalscorer, who stands looking placidly on while the team perspire profusely during training sessions under his eye.

We now go forward to the quarter finals of the T.A. Cup for which we are at home to the Suffolk and Cambridge Regiment on the 21st February.



Standing, Left to Right: Signalman P. Smith, Corporal I. Thompson, Corporal E. Colley, Craftsman R. Ludlam, Signalman M. Smith, Lance Corporal J. Christopher. *Front, Left to Right:* Signalman G. A. Baggaley, Signalman J. Dziewior, Corporal W. Gambles, Lance Corporal P. James, Corporal F. Swift

Regards from Colonel Millo!

Our previous Adjutant, Major R. W. Millo, left us in October to command a regiment in the sunnier climes of Singapore. He will no doubt be glad to know that he has now definitely made his mark in the very highest circles of the political field if not yet in military circles. At a recent dinner night with the Hallamshire Battalion our Commanding Officer was introduced to the Deputy Secretary of State for Defence (Army), Mr. Fred Mulley, who, incidentally is the M.P. for the constituency in which R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron have their being. He immediately said "Oh! yes—regards from Colonel Millo." Colonel Millo's methods of communication may not necessarily be fast but they are certainly 'through'; at the highest level!

Lord Mayor attends Dinner

We haven't managed to see many of the members from 2 Squadron in Nottingham, 3 Squadron in Glasgow or our detachment in Glossop. However we were glad that the majority of officers managed to visit us for the Annual Mess Dinner in October, when we were also pleased to have with us the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, our Honorary Colonel, Colonel J. W. Batchelor, C.B.E., J.P., the C.S.O. Northern Command, and several other senior officers from military and civil spheres.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess has not been idle and under the enthusiastic leadership of R.S.M. Knight they have transformed a very dismal and unused billiard room into a bright and pleasant lounge bar, aided with many thanks, by help from the West Riding T. & A.F.A. To the members who have put in all the hard work it must be gratifying to find the place now full after the evening training periods instead of the previous four or five members only who used to appear. They also held a successful annual dinner for which the 3 Squadron members made the long trek.

Perhaps the bug is catching on. Our very able President of the Entertainments Committee, Lieutenant King-Smith, has been drawing up plans to modernise the Canteen, and has been well aided by the gift of an excellent billiard table from the R.A.F. Norton who are closing down. The Officers' Mess has also been recently redecorated so we feel that our welfare is well under control.

Looking ahead we now have a highly organised training course going for all our trades which we hope will culminate in the upgrading of most members of the Regiment when we go to camp in June, this year to Chickerell near Weymouth.

We cannot close without offering our sincere congratulations to Sergeant Wright of Sheffield for his award of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate.

● **HAVE YOU placed an order for regular monthly copies of THE CORPS MAGAZINE WHY NOT DO SO NOW**

66th REGIMENT, (T.A.) BELFAST

Mixed Regiments—and all that

We often wonder who invented these Army definitions such as "mixed regiments," "married families" and "other ranks." Last year the Director of Public Relations of the Army said it was time we stopped talking about "other ranks." We agree, and would like to see some of the other catchphrases pass into oblivion, but how does one explain "other ranks" in a "mixed regiment"? It is not as simple as it first appears, without becoming pendantic. Any suggestions?

We are glad to have W.R.A.C. in our Regiment. They lend tone to it and keep the men on their mettle as far as turnout and discipline are concerned. They also make excellent comcentre and switchboard operators. We would be hard put to it to recruit enough men who could compete with the girls in these trades. We often wonder why there are no cipher operators in the W.R.A.C., either regular or T.A. The Navy used "WRENS" in World War II; perhaps it is because of the rapid "wastage"—another endearing word.

We believe in principle on integration—if that is the right word—of W.R.A.C. in the Regiment, rather than forming them into a separate squadron. However, having recently reorganised on a functional basis to ease training problems (squadrons by trades) we now find we have presented O.C. 1 Squadron with a complement of 90 per cent W.R.A.C., much to his alarm. He has even given up having his handful of men on parade for fear of embarrassing them. What does one do?

SPORT

Royal Signals Golfing Society

Fixture List for 1965

APRIL
- 28 York Golf Club ... at Strensall

MAY
- 3/7 Army Meeting ... at Sandwich
- 16 RMCS Shrivenham at Frilford Heath
- 19 RMAS ... ... at Camberley

JUNE
- 2 Royal Engineers ... at Hankley Common
- 23 RASC ... ... at North Hants Golf Club

JULY
- 21 RAPC ... ... at Burhill, Walton-on-Thames
- 22 Royal Artillery ... at Sunningdale

AUGUST
- 19 REME ... ... at East Berks

SEPTEMBER
- RAOC (being arranged by RAOC)

OCTOBER
- 6 Ironsides ... ... at Hankley Common
- 8 RAMC ... ... at New Zealand Golf Club
- 27 Staff College ... ... at Camberley Heath

Will any officer who has not received a letter from the Secretary and who is interested in playing in any of the above matches, please forward his name, address and official handicap as soon as possible to: Major J. L. McKellar, Royal Signals, 243 Signal Squadron (Southern Command), Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

GOLF MEETINGS

The following are the dates of the Golf Meetings for 1965:—

29/30 April	Spring Meeting	at Pannal
14/15 September	Autumn Meeting	at Woking

Corps Football

Results:
Played on 18th February.
R.A.P.C. 2, Royal Signals 11.
Played on 20th February.
R.A.S.C. 3, Royal Signals 5.

Corps Hockey

Royal Signals 2, R.M.C.S. 1.
Royal Signals 4, R.A.S.C. 0.
Royal Signals 3, R.A.M.C. 1.

Association Notes

CHESTER BRANCH HOLD SUCCESSFUL DINNER

Friday night, 29th January, saw the annual dinner of the Chester Branch, Royal Signals Association. Nearly 140 members and their guests sat down to a beautiful meal at the Crosville Club. At the conclusion of the loyal toast, the President, Mr. E. C. Lavis-Jones, asked the company assembled to rise and observe a minute's silence as a mark of esteem and honour to the late Sir Winston Churchill, K.G., O.M., C.H.

The toast to H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, was proposed by Mr. J. Charlton, the Welfare Officer.

Captain R. D. Hardy, a Vice-President, who also acted as Toastmaster, proposed the toast of the Royal Signals Association, and in his remarks pointed out that the Branch had been functioning since the war, and for the last 18 years had maintained a steady membership, with an average of 16 members attending each monthly meeting. He then thanked the Chairman, Mr. P. Haigh; Secretary, Mr. R. Hinge; Welfare Officer, Mr. Charlton; Chairman of the Social Committee, Mr. Thirling, and his committee for the work they had done during the past year.

In passing, Captain Hardy drew the attention of members to the fact that a tree had been planted, on behalf of the Chester Branch, in front of Helles Barracks, Catterick, the new home of 11th Regiment, who will be well remembered at Saighton Camp for some years.

Colonel J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, H.Q., Western Command, and a Vice-President of the Branch, will be leaving Chester towards the end of the year. The proposer of the toast wished him good luck in his new appointment and said that Colonel Brett's company had given the Branch great pleasure.

Replying, Colonel Brett said that he had been ordered by Bob Hardy to make this speech, but as another speaker was in a better position to reply to that particular toast, he would tell a story. The story was applauded by the company.

The next toast was that of "Our Guests," proposed by Mr. "Pip" Haigh, Chairman, who said that we were delighted to welcome such a large gathering and always looked forward to their company, mentioning in particular, Brigadier P. N. P. Hobson, D.S.O., General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, who had come from London for the dinner; also W.O.I S. Francis, R.E., the Hon. Secretary of the Royal Engineers Association, which is, of course the "Mother Corps."

Brigadier Hobson, in his reply, gave a resumé of the activities of the Association in general, all over the world, which was appreciated by the members.

Turning to the second part of his reply to "the Guests," the Brigadier said it always gave him pleasure to come to Chester and that the Branch was very high on the list of successful provincial branches. For the remainder of the guests, he thanked the Branch and was sure that they got the same pleasure in coming.

The decks were then cleared for dancing, which continued until 1 a.m. Mr. Faircloth, as usual, carried out the duties of M.C. in a very competent manner. Before the company departed, Mr. Thirling thanked the Manager, Mr. Oates and his helpers for the catering and other services, and to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" followed by the Grand March (to the tune of the Corps March, "Begone Dull Care"), the revellers departed, looking forward to the 19th annual dinner on 28th January, 1966. D.V.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The annual dinner of the Aldershot Branch will be held on 1st May at the Masonic Hall, Farnborough, Hants.

Tickets can be obtained from Mr. A. V. Ient, 11, Gloucester Road, Aldershot.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

The 19th Annual Dinner of the Southampton Branch of the Royal Signals Association will be held at Blighmont (East) T.A. Centre, Millbrook Road, Southampton, on Saturday the 8th May, 1965, at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets at 10s. are available from Mr. W. F. Worsdale, c/o 2 Squadron, 63rd Signal Regiment T.A., Blighmont T.A. Centre, Millbrook Road, 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.

CROYDON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The Croydon and District Branch held their annual dinner at the Norbury Hotel on 6th February. Fifty-four members and guests attended. The Branch Chairman, Mr. L. J. Rebbeck, briefly reviewed the branch's activities during the past year. The President of the branch, Captain D. Hunneyball, proposed a toast to the guests, to which the guest of honour, Major R. Nebel, C.O., 1st Cadet Bn. Queen's Surrey Regiment, replied. The members were also pleased to welcome three members of the Aldershot Branch among the guests.

HARTLEPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Mr. B. Howells writes:

Readers should note the correction of the title of the Branch hitherto referred to as the "West Hartlepool and District R.S.A." Members of the Branch met on Friday, 15th January, in West Hartlepool on the occasion of the 5th Annual General Meeting. Officers re-elected:—Chairman: Mr. 'Ted' Waite, M.B.E.; Secretary: Mr. 'Stan' Irvin; Treasurer: Mr. 'Bob' Paxton. Mr. Nicholson was unanimously elected as President with Mr. Gendinning and Mr. Hopwood as Vice-Presidents.

Mr. 'B' Paxton was able to report that the Branch was, by some miracle, still solvent after a very active year and it had been decided to follow up on the successful ladies' social night held on Friday, 8th January, with a dance at the Staincliffe Hotel, Seaton Carew, in March or early April. Members agreed that it was much more preferable to hold the event at this class of hotel rather than in hotels less attractive just for the sake of limiting expenses.

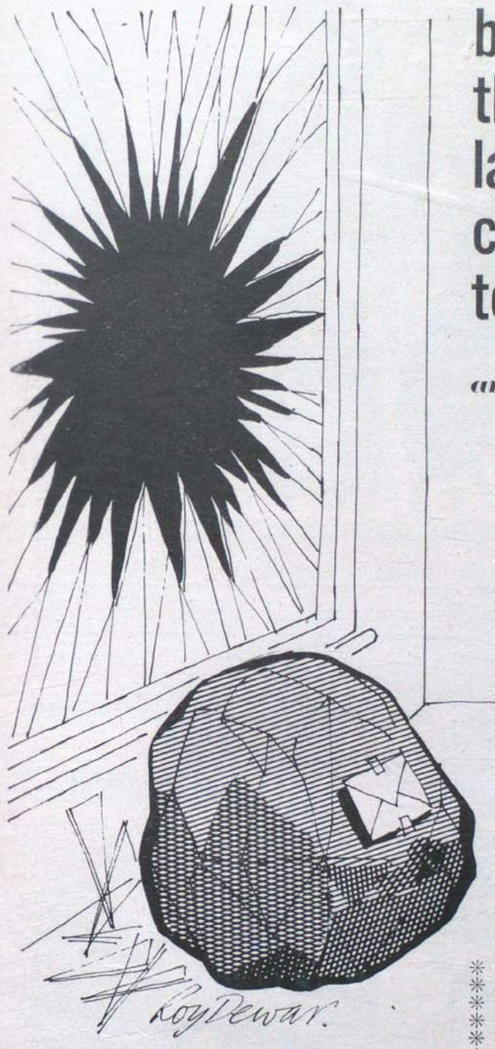
Amusing comment was made too on the apparent incorrect dress of a Royal Signals Major depicted in a television programme, and this led to a light-hearted letter being despatched by the newly elected P.R.O. for the Branch (Mr. Howells) to the television company concerned—primarily with an eye on any subsequent publicity for the Branch!

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during January, 1965:

	£	s.	d.
24th Regiment Officers' Mess)	1	1	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) ...	4	0	6
14th Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	7	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	4	2	0
205 Squadron	6	0	0
216 Squadron	2	5	6
243 Squadron	2	6	6
Signals Wing, School of Artillery		13	6
Signals Wing, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	1	10	0
607 Troop	4	8	6
57th Regiment T.A.	1	5	0
63rd Regiment T.A.		9	0
325 Squadron T.A.		3	0
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	2	14	0
54th Regiment T.A. (3 Squadron)	3	0	0
53rd Regiment T.A. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) ...	10	0	0
52nd Regiment T.A.	3	1	4
2nd Regiment (Officers' Mess)	2	11	7
7th Regiment (Wives' Club)	30	0	0
21st Regiment	15	0	0
22nd Regiment	204	16	5
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	4	2	9
Various individual donations		16	4
Total Receipts ...	£308	14	5
Expenditure during January, 1965	£614	7	6

(Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).



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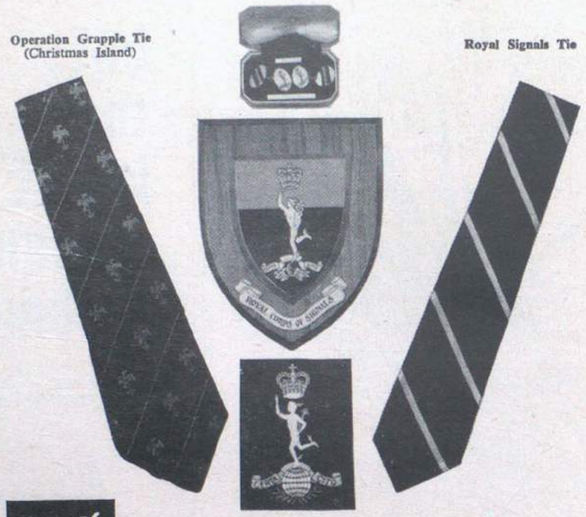
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SILK 19/6

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SILK 9/6
GOLD WIRE 32/6 45/-
WALL SHIELDS 32/6 – 50/-
CAR BADGES 35/- – 39/-
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OPERATION GRAPPLE TIES 8/8 9/6 11/6 14/6 16/6

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Royal Signals Tie



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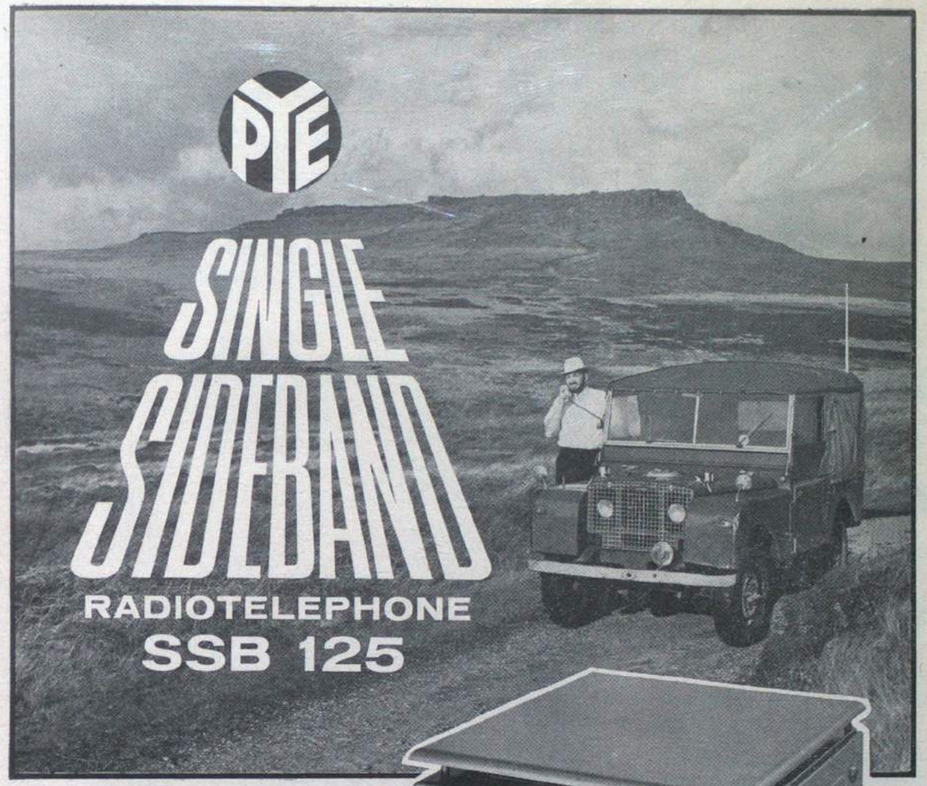


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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

APRIL/MAY ● 1965

Vol. 19 *(New Series)* **No. 5**

Her Royal Highness
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
The Royal Corps of Signals
1935 to 1965



Our Colonel-in-Chief as Her Corps will best remember her — on one of her many visits to Units of Her Corps.

A SENIOR officer of the Corps, who knew her well, writes in tribute :

It was with a sense of profound shock and deep sorrow that we learnt of the death of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief and Patron of the Royal Signals Association. She had been part of the corporate life of the Corps for more years than many of us can remember; it is indeed difficult to realise that she is no longer with us.

In 1935, during the last year of his reign, King George V announced, on the occasion of his birthday, on 3rd June, and in commemoration of his Jubilee, the appointment of his daughter, The Princess Royal, to be our Colonel-in-Chief. The news that we had been so honoured was received with great pleasure by all ranks. That she was, amongst her many other accomplishments, an expert horsewoman, gave us, a mounted Corps, an added satisfaction.

Her first major visit to the Corps was in 1937 when, on mid-summer's day, she visited Mons Barracks, Aldershot, the home then of three of our major Signal Units, A Corps Signals and the 1st and 2nd Divisional Signals. She inspected the three units on parade, watched demonstrations of signal equipment in operation, visited the Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' messes and the Regimental Institute. She completed her memorable day by visiting the families of other ranks in their married quarters, and showed a genuine interest in their problems, an interest that was to lead directly to many improvements in married quarters in Aldershot and elsewhere. Being a naturally shy and reserved person, that day must have been a daunting occasion for her, but from it sprang an association that ripened and flowered into a full and lasting affection.

The visit was followed by others throughout the length and breadth of the country, to barracks and billets, to hutted camps and tented areas, as she saw how her Corps was preparing itself for the war that was soon to come. During the war years, as far as her other official duties permitted, she continued her visits to units and camps in wartime Britain. She interested herself particularly in the welfare of families of prisoners-of-war, and as she herself was the mother of one, she could well appreciate the tensions and trials of those who were faced with a similar anxiety. She became the Patron of the Royal Signals Comforts Fund and later of the Royal Signals Association.

After the war when the Corps began to settle down to the routine of a peacetime way of life The Princess Royal took up the task where it had been left off six years before, of renewing and enlarging her contacts.

Over the years she visited a large number of regiments and squadrons, both of the Regular and Reserve Army, at home and abroad. She undertook a long tour of Germany in 1958, and visited units overseas in Austria, Cyprus, North Africa, the West Indies, till gradually there were few left in the Corps who had not at one time or other been present on the occasion of one of her visits. And these were no formal, superficial inspections. Although the Corps has to deal with what must have seemed to her complicated drills and complicated bits of equipment, she acquired a very shrewd idea of what we were trying to do, and, in consequence, asked the type of questions that kept everyone on their toes.

But it seemed that above all she enjoyed her visits to Catterick. Perhaps it was that Harewood House was her home and Catterick was our home, and that both were in Yorkshire and only 40 miles apart, but it was there that we always saw her relaxed, happy and smiling (whatever the weather), enjoying her day out, as it were, amongst so many of her friends that she had come to know so well. And it was from Harewood House that every year she sent out all over the world her personal Christmas cards, and often, too, small Christmas presents, much to the delight and surprise of the recipients.

As Patron of the Royal Signals Association, she always maintained a lively interest in its object of keeping serving and retired men in touch with each other; in its benevolent work and in helping to find employment for those who had been discharged. She twice visited the old offices of the Association in Eccleston Square to bring herself up-to-date with its activities, and paid an early visit to the new Regimental Headquarters in Cheltenham Terrace. She also presided at two Annual General Meetings of the Association at Catterick.

She will always be remembered as our first Colonel-in-Chief. As the years pass, she will live on in the memory of many thousands of officers and men of her Corps for her abiding interest in its affairs, her willingness to share in its world-wide activities, and for the keen pleasure she gave to all on her many visits. Perhaps I may be allowed to quote from the Memorial Service, held in Westminster Abbey, at which the Corps was represented by the Master of Signals, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association and many others :

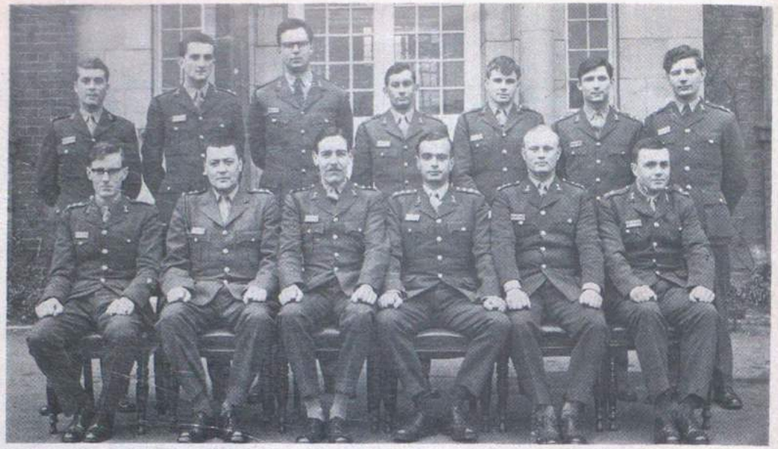
> "We thank thee for all that thou hast given to this nation by this thy faithful servant, by her works and by her example; for her Nursing, her Guiding and her Special Service in both World Wars; for her love of the countryside and its pursuits, her knowledge of the arts and her artistic skills, her love of music; for her devotion to Yorkshire and the mutual affection between her and its people; for her steady devotion to duty, her quiet and unobtrusive fidelity."

Just as we in the Corps are mourning her passing, so also are our sister Corps of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and Rhodesia of all of which she was Colonel-in-Chief. The deep sympathy of all ranks of the Corps has been expressed by the Master of Signals to Her Majesty The Queen and to Lord Harewood.

It was my custom, when taking leave of her, to say "Au Revoir, Ma'am," as I always looked forward so much to seeing her again. When I took my leave of her less than two months ago, I expressed that same wish once more. Little did I know; indeed little did any of us know, that it was to be "Goodbye, Ma'am" so soon after that.

L. de M.T.

No. 3 Royal Signals, Officers Communication Course



Back Row: (left to right) Lieutenant J. McD. Edgar, Lieutenant P. R. Brewis, Lieutenant R. C. Hood, Lieutenant K. B. S. Kent, Lieutenant J. G. M. McLuckie, Lieutenant M. A. Orwin, Lieutenant R. C. Etheridge

Front Row: (left to right) Captain D. C. N. Genders, Captain J. C. M. Baril, Captain D. T. Burton, Captain J. P. Goldney, Captain G. J. H. Grist, Lieutenant P. C. Burns

No. 3 Royal Signals Officers' Communications Course reports :

Another long Officers' Course has started at the School. This is No. 3 Royal Signals Officers' Communications Course, which assembled on 8th February, 1965, and lasts until 6th November, 1965.

As yet the course has not really had time to completely make its mark. However, we hope this will soon be rectified.

Most of us know each other well, having passed through the School on 50 and 51 "Q" Courses. By and large the School has not changed since those days except possibly in the organisation and titles of the departments. The plastic name-tags are also a great improvement—especially on the H.Q. Mess waitresses!

In addition to providing two members of the School Rugby team the course has been represented in other sports. Two of our number—Captain John Goldney and Lieutenant Kelvin Kent—as members of the School team, represented Northern Command in the Army Inter-Command Squash Championships against Southern Command at Larkhill. Unfortunately they lost by three games to two. Another member of the course, Lieutenant Jim McLuckie, has represented the Corps at hockey whilst Captain Douglas Genders is likely to be a member of the Corps Rifle Team at Bisley this year.

At the time of writing, the course has just entered Basics Group and is undergoing an intensive indoctrination course in ohms, ergs, cosecs and e's. Things which we and, we think, the instructors hope we shall know more about by the end of the course. We will let you know how we fare.

Commendation for Royal Signals Corporal

For his courageous action in saving a fellow non-commissioned officer from injury and possibly from being killed, 33-year-old Corporal Colin McMillan, serving with the Royal Corps of Signals in Aden, has been awarded the Commendation of the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harington. Corporal McMillan is a cable jointer with 15th Regiment.

On 28th November last, Corporal McMillan was in Ma'alla, one of Aden's principal shopping areas, when a grenade exploded, killing one and wounding a number of British Servicemen. He was standing only a few paces from another N.C.O. when the grenade landed nearby; pushing his friend into an alcove, Corporal McMillan only managed partly to shield his own body and was wounded in the leg and back when the bomb disintegrated. Despite his injury, he helped those more seriously hurt, and remained calm throughout.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

The Diplomatic Wireless Service of the Foreign Office have vacancies for experienced

Radio Operator Technicians

between the ages of 20—45 years

Qualifications

Hand morse sending and receiving at 25 w.p.m. Candidates must be capable of maintaining basic W/T equipment, and the ability to touch-type will be an advantage. Conditions of service include unreserved acceptance of overseas service and shift duties. Families normally accompany husbands to overseas posts, where accommodation is provided. Adequate allowances are paid whilst overseas.

Starting pay at age 25 and over £921 rising to £1,246 (National rate) per annum.

All first appointments are on a temporary basis and candidates must be prepared to undergo a medical examination.

Candidates and both their parents must have been British subjects at all times since birth.

Write, giving age, qualifications and experience, and quoting O.T.65 to the Personnel Officer, Diplomatic Wireless Service, Hanslope Park, Wolverton, Bucks.

FAREWELL TO MAJOR "PADDY" CUFFE



Major "Paddy" Cuffe

We held another of our memorable Hail and Farewell lunches in the Officers' Club, Episkopi, on Friday, 12th February, to celebrate (or commiserate) on the comings and goings of our officers and their families. This little write-up is not an ennumeration of those still serving, whose movements will be promulgated in the usual manner, and to whom we said a sincere Hullo and Goodbye. It is to place on record the appreciation we feel for a family, known, loved, and respected by a great number of us. "Paddy" and Moira Cuffe.

"Paddy" Cuffe joined the Corps in 1941 in Chungking, after being ten years on the General Service List, and served us well and truly for twenty years until retiring with the rank of Major in 1961. But he hadn't had enough, and since then he has continued to lend the value of his wide experience in a civilian appointment.

Starting in China and ending in Cyprus, his journey has taken him through France, Germany, Belgium, India, South Africa and Malta and he and Moira have left a little bit of themselves in each place, but particularly Malta, where they hope eventually to enjoy their well earned retirement.

In a brief appreciation, Colonel Grigg, the C.S.O., reminded us that "Paddy" has always shown a keen interest in producing amateur plays, and whilst serving with COMCAN in Cyprus had kept up the good work and given a great deal of pleasure to the entertainment starved families in Episkopi.

"Paddy" gratefully accepted a small Cyprus Silver Bowl, embossed with local "memories," which he said they would both treasure as representing a period in their lives which has been full of happiness and dear friends.

We shall miss them both, and we hope that they will have a long and happy retirement, and a continued close association with all of us.

JOHN DOBSON

Many who served in Catterick, particularly officers, will have met John Dobson, Manager of the Catterick Camp Branch of Lloyds Bank. They will certainly recollect his cheerful personality when dealing with them as clients and his warm friendship for those whom he numbers amongst his closer acquaintances.

John has always identified himself very much with Camp activities and, because of his occupation, has frequently found himself elected to be honorary Treasurer of a number of extra-mural committees. This cross he has borne in his usual willing and cheerful manner. Now, after 10 years' service to the Army in Catterick, he moves on to Bristol with effect from the 8th June, 1965. He will then be delighted to hear from his many friends at: c/o Lloyd Bank, Redland Branch, Bristol.

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

			1965
Radio Technician (Heavy) ...	Class	II - I	19th October
Radio Relay Man	Class	II - I	19th October
Clerk Technician	Class	II - I	5th October
Staff Operator	Class	II - I	19th October
Radio Operator	Class	II - I	5th October
Driver, Royal Signals	Class	II - I	19th October
Radio Operator	Class	III-II	5th October
Electrician Driver	Class	III-II	12th October

Obituaries

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. S. WIGHT, T.D.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Stevenson Wight, T.D., of Lynnburn, Stocksfield, Northumberland, died in Hexham Hospital on the 30th January, 1965, after a short illness. He was 73.

A native of Glasgow, Bob Wight joined the London Scottish at the age of 16. He served with that Regiment in the first world war until receiving a commission in the Sherwood Foresters. Later, after being wounded, he served in the Northumberland Fusiliers.

In 1930 he rejoined the Territorial Army as Company Commander of No. 3 Company, 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals, Gateshead.

In 1939, when he was then Second in Command of 50th (N) Divisional Signals, he was given the task of forming the Regiment's second line unit—23rd Divisional Signals, and continued to command this unit when it became the N.C.O.'s Training Battalion, Harrogate.

He later exchanged appointments with Lieutenant-Colonel (now Brigadier) T. T. J. Sheffield, T.D., as Commanding Officer of 50th Divisional Signals, and in 1941 took the Regiment out to the Middle East and after service in Cyprus, Iraq and Syria, he was posted in 1942 to Command G.H.Q. Troops Signals. This unit was based near Cairo and it was in this appointment that Bob Wight became well-known to many members of the Corps who enjoyed the hospitality of his unit whilst in transit from the Western Desert.

A keen gardener and golfer, he was President of the Stocksfield Branch of the British Legion, and Chairman of the Stocksfield Branch of the Durham Divisional Conservative Association.

He leaves a widow and two sons—both of whom served in Royal Signals, throughout the war.

MR. W. H. WOOLLEY, CHAIRMAN LIVERPOOL BRANCH

During its early years Royal Signals attracted to its ranks, and lost, a large number of men who made a considerable success in a subsequent career.

"This Signalling," the easy but most excellent discipline of the Corps, its reputation in sport, together with the way in which Junior N.C.O.'s often held command of a detachment, in isolation, for months or years, these advantages exist today.

During the 1920's the iniquitous 'extra year' transformed a seven and five engagement into eight years with the Colours of which seven were spent in India or Egypt. Here existence was monastic, marriage was impossible below the rank of Sergeant. Promotion was slow. The outstanding became Corporal. A majority at age of 25 or 26 sought a less arduous career and as aforesaid they often made a great success of it.

Such a man was Corporal W. H. Woolley who transferred to the reserve in 1929 and joined the Wallesey Police Force. Such was his quality that he was promoted Inspector after fourteen years; he served twenty years in that rank. Throughout this career he was a "tremendous figure in the police swimming and life saving world."

He was a staunch member of the Association in its Liverpool Branch of which he had been Chairman since 1954. He ruled his Branch with wisdom and understanding; was early to realise the ineffectiveness of the monthly meeting. Liverpool was always most strongly represented at successive 'Catterick Reunions' and the annual Hot Pot Supper attracted about 100 members.

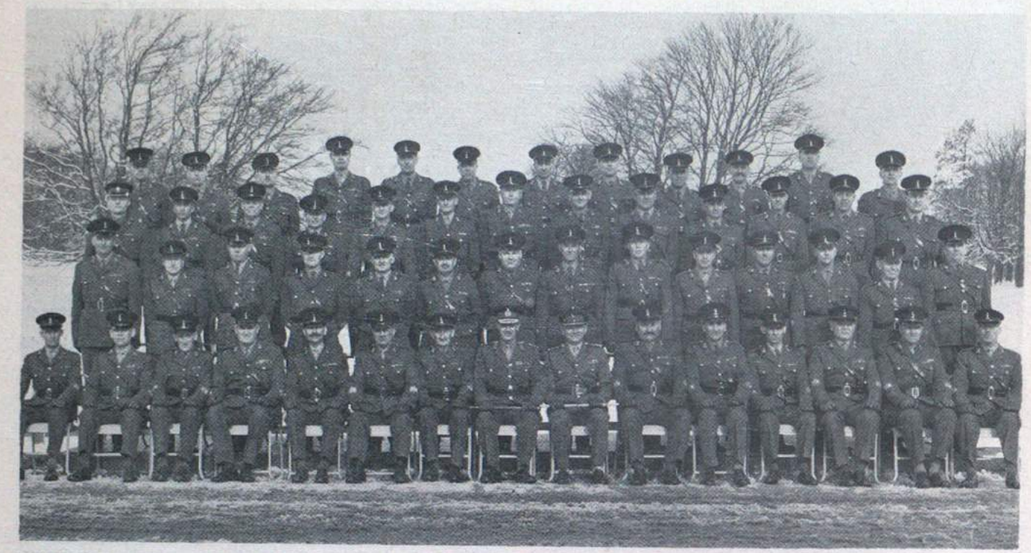
He was the second representative of a Branch to serve on the Central Committee of the Association 1957 to 1960—where his wise counsel was valued. On receiving the Agenda for each meeting he gave it considerable thought, selected three or four items of which he had especial knowledge, set out on paper his considered argument and spoke succinctly and cogently. At the Branch Representatives Meetings he spoke seldom but when he did it was decisive.

The best of companions he was respected by all who knew him and it was to the regret of many when the onset of high blood pressure caused a slowing up of his Association activities as well as premature retirement from the Police. He died in mid-March at the comparative young age of 60.

Famous as a Policeman and a swimmer he gained the silver medal of Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society for saving a boy from drowning in 1934. He was twice honoured nationally for his life saving work. A typical 'Signalman' of his day he made a considerable mark in the affairs of the Association wherein he will long be remembered.

THE CONVENTION OF REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS

CATTERICK CAMP 1965



Back Row: **R.S.M. C. D. Evis, R.S.M. R. A. Margerrison, R.S.M. R. Marriot, R.S.M. J. R. Woodvine, R.S.M. J. A. Peck, R.S.M. K. G. Wright, R.S.M. R. R. Bullock, R.S.M. W. A. Barnes, R.S.M. P. J. Walls, R.S.M. C. Young, R.S.M. R. Adams, R.S.M. P. Harrison**

Third Row **R.S.M. E. Summers, M.B.E., R.S.M. T. E. Knight, R.S.M. K. S. West, R.S.M. A. A. J. Reed, R.S.M. J. E. Cox, R.S.M. C. W. Palmer, R.S.M. R. E. Oliver, B.E.M., R.S.M. E. W. Redman, R.S.M. J. J. Bingham, R.S.M. M. Crossley, R.S.M. J. D. Hutchinson, R.S.M. D. Langston, R.S.M. R. W. Kay**

Second Row: **R.S.M. W. E. Lea, B.E.M., R.S.M. W. J. Harrison, R.S.M. E. W. Firth, R.S.M. P. McNaughton, R.S.M. M. J. Giles, R.S.M. K. H. Attwell, R.S.M. C. Hall, R.S.M. W. Tasker, R.S.M. T. Crampton, R.S.M. A. F. N. Crabtree, R.S.M. C. A. Baalham, R.S.M. G. E. Parfitt, R.S.M. D. W. Rees, R.S.M. F. A. May**

Front Row: **R.S.M. G. Schofield, R.S.M. V. H. Stephens, R.S.M. W. T. Leeson, R.S.M. P. Chilvers, R.S.M. J. J. Gerrard, B.E.M., R.S.M. C. Nutton, R.S.M. S. J. R. Dunlop, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., R.S.M. E. C. Jones, R.S.M. W. J. Warren, R.S.M. I. D. C. Currie, R.S.M. T. J. Licence, R.S.M. D. C. Newton, R.S.M. J. Crich**

AS in previous years this Convention, the fourth, was held in the North Hall and officially started on Monday morning, 1st March. By then, however, there had been many private talks and discussions, some between friends who had not met for twelve months and others who last saw each other as Junior Sergeants.

The "B.A.O.R. Contingent," who had held their own Convention in Germany during the previous week, arrived in Catterick on Friday, 26th February. They spent the weekend getting acclimatised to some unusually mild and sunny Catterick weather, and making good use of the few hours in finding their way round the new Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of 11th Regiment.

Greeted by snow

By late Sunday evening all fifty-two R.S.M.s had arrived from as far East as Cyprus. Last year forty-seven R.S.M.s attended; of these only twenty-two came again this year, which indicates some turbulence in this exalted rank! The mere sight of such a body of men proved too much for our Catterick winter sunshine, and just to make sure everyone knew that there was such a commodity, snow fell for nearly twelve hours, making movement extremely difficult. Two, at least, of the assembled company arriving by car, ended up the wrong way round, beside a fence, luckily missing it—but only just.

However, all gathered safely in North Hall where a welcome was given by Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., Commander Training Brigade, who then introduced the Signal-Officer-in-Chief. General Bradley, whose first Convention this was, set a brisk pace and pattern with his "State of the Union" address, leaving no doubt that the Corps is in really good heart and giving some idea of his practical plans for future improvements. Afterwards the S.O.-in-C. personally met every R.S.M. and had a series of discussions with them in small groups.

The photograph with these notes was taken without mishap to those in the back row, balanced rather precariously several feet above the snow! This was followed by a talk by the Officer I.C. Records. As ever he was in great form with the facts and figures of the various promotion rosters, making more than one R.S.M. wonder however such a large job was carried out by one man.

Guests of the Officers of the Corps

As guests of the Officers of the Corps, the Convention was then entertained to lunch in the Headquarters' Mess, complete with the orchestra and Corps silver. As on previous occasions, this was one of the major highlights of the visit and one much appreciated by every R.S.M.

The temper of the meeting thereafter was one of rosy satisfaction and well being, but alertness and mental reaction were in no way impaired. The afternoon presentation on "Future Communications Problems and Equipment," given by Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. D. Maunsell and Major D. J. MacIntyre, was extremely interesting and of great value, and discussion flowed freely afterwards .

During that evening many R.S.M.s attended the inter-Troop boxing competition between 4 and 5 Troops, 11th Regiment, and witnessed some very good novice boxing. Several R.S.M.s said how splendid it was to see that recruits coming into the Corps showed so much spirit and physical courage in the early part of their training. The evening ended(!) with a social held in the School of Signals Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where, once again, many friends met for the first time for years, with much reminiscing and talk of old times.

A very interesting planned discussion

The second day started with a presentation by Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. P. Sampson, Royal Signals, and Captain E. St. V. Troubridge, Royal Marines, on "Communication and Logistic problems affecting a Regimental Sergeant-Major in Limited War." Many thought that this was the most interesting "planned discussion" they had had so far. The solutions produced by syndicates to the various questions posed, proved, by the widely differing answers, how complex and difficult are the problems affecting the R.S.M. in the modern era and how necessary it is for him to keep abreast of developments.

Colonel D. G. Jones, Inspector of Trade Training, followed with a talk on Corps Trade Structure, showing the various trends and ways in which trades are being streamlined to meet communications development, and of modern methods of trade training. Discussion followed, in particular, on what the Corps needs in operating trades. Time did not permit reaching a conclusion on such a complex subject; it sufficed to show, however, that the general view was that the Corps needed to return to the "old type" operator who was capable of a variety of operating skills. How exactly to produce this wizard was not decided!

It was good to see Brigadier (Retd) P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O. He gave a talk on Corps domestic organisation and an account of the activities of Regimental Headquarters, with particular reference to the Welfare side We all thank the two ladies who contribute so much to the Welfare work at R.H.Q. and look forward to more accounts in THE WIRE of their activities.

Discussions until the small hours

The Convention Dinner was held during the evening with Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., Colonel D. G. Jones, Colonel P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., and Major C. Mitchell as guests of the Regimental Sergeants-Majors of the Corps. The setting in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of 11th Regiment was completed by the silver, kindly loaned by the Officers of the Corps, and by the Corps fanfare trumpeters. Adjourning after the dinner, the party settled down to more memories and discussions and continued until the realisation that the Convention was not yet over came to those assembled, and a halt was called in the wee hours.

Like all good soldiers, those attending the Convention arrived five minutes before the start on Wednesday morning, and immediately went into an open session on the problems of individual R.S.M.s. Much was discussed and solutions to many of these problems were found, though dealing with those current in the Territorial Army proved difficult and, in some cases, almost insurmountable.

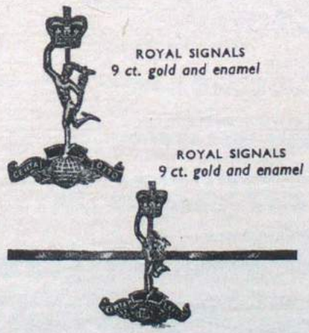
Much good humour, commonsense and excellent company

The Convention was over for another year. Summing up, the Brigade Commander reinforced how vital it was for all to be alive to modern thought and ideas, also expressing the wish that perhaps next year, the R.S.M.s from Aden and Singapore might be able to attend. Wishing all "Bon Voyage," the journey back to Units began, leaving Catterick a much poorer place after so much good humour, commonsense and above all, excellent company.

One last thought—with wide scale coverage from Press and television, Great Britain really had a good look at the 52 R.S.M.s at the Convention, but one wonders what happened to the hundred or so negatives that were not used. Perhaps hanging on a newspaper office wall, as inspiration and example!

(One newspaper headline read "R.S.M.s of the space age, equally at home with a computer or on their parade ground assemble at Catterick!—Editor.)

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Personal Column

22 Special Air Service Regiment

Many will have read, with sorrow, of the loss of two members of the Signal Troop of 22 S.A.S. Regiment during a canoeing exercise off the coast of Wales on the 19th March. The two soldiers concerned were Corporal R. Richardson and Signalman P. O'Toole. A correspondent from the Regiment writes:

Ralph Richardson first came to 22 S.A.S. in February, 1960, as a member of the Signal Troop. He soon made his mark, qualified for S.A.S. service and joined 'A' Squadron in January, 1961. During the past four years, Ralph proved himself to be a sound operator in any theatre. His well-developed sense of humour quickly brought situations into their correct perspective. His tragic death will leave a gap in the ranks of those who are always there, ready to go.

Signalman "Paddy" O'Toole had been with the Regiment for two years and during that time showed himself of generous character and unfailing good humour to all with whom he came into contact. In his troop he had become through hard work an invaluable and highly trained member and his loyalty and endurance were proved on many tough and dangerous tasks.

It is sad that he should lose his life while training. However it is a measure of the man that the training he was employed in was hard and demanding yet "Paddy" as always remained his calm and cheerful self and his courage was an inspiration to the men involved in the unfortunate accident.

The deep sympathy of all will go to the relatives of these two soldiers in their sad loss.

Deaths

BASHFORD.—Sergeant G. W. Bashford, of 235 Squadron, at Malta, on 4th March. Sergeant Bashford had served in the Corps since 1947, and was a Life Member of the Association.

WOOD.—Ex-Corporal W. Wood, on 16th February. He served with the Corps from 1941 to 1945; he was an annual member of the Association.

BRITTON.—A. G. Britton, suddenly at Loughborough Hospital, on March 6th., at the age of 52. He served with the Corps from May, 1928 to December, 1934. He was a Life Member of the Association and a past Chairman of the Loughborough and District Branch.

MELHUISH.—Major J. B. Melhuish on the 22nd March. He was commissioned in Royal Signals in 1940 but had to relinquish his commission on medical grounds in 1945. He previously served with the Leicester Regiment and was seconded to Signal Service in 1918.

Marriage

HAINES—LEUNG.—Sergeant L. T. W. Haines, 253 Squadron, to Miss Yip Mei Leung, at Kowloon, Hong Kong, on 27th February, 1965.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

April 1965

W.O.I (F. of S.) J. A. Parkin	...	To 16th Regiment
W.O.I (R.S.M.) W. J. Warren	...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II L. J. Madley	...	,, 42nd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II P. Harrison	...	,, 66th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II R. Young	...	,, H.Q., 20 Armd Bde Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. J. Hoe	...	,, 2nd Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) G. Moore	...	,, 210 Squadron
W.O.II T. G. Richardson	...	,, 11th Hussars Signal Troop
W.O.II K. R. Kreckeler	...	,, 46 Squadron R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.)
W.O.II R. G. Wood	...	,, 217 Squadron
W.O.II F. G. Wilson	...	,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II W. Murphy	...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II A. E. Kingham	...	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. E. Paternoster	...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. H. Nelson	...	,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Staff Sergeant J. Harvey	...	,, 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) E. D. Nixon		,, Federal Regular Army Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant E. R. T. Pearce	...	,, H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.
Staff Sergeant G. A. Christie	...	,, Junior Leaders Regt. R. Sigs.
Staff Sergeant J. Bell	...	,, 63 Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant K. Cowburn	...	,, 53 Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant P. S. Paine	...	,, 249 Squadron
Staff Sergeant F. T. Rawlings	...	,, 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. Hughes	...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant S. Braithwaite	...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant P. C. Perrin	...	,, 261 Squadron
Sergeant D. W. R. Monteith	...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant R. Morris	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant A. Bone	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant P. Donohue	...	,, 21st Regiment
A/Sergeant R. T. Roberts	...	,, 263 Squadron
A/Sergeant D. E. Hicks	...	,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant P. W. Todd	...	,, 224 Squadron
Sergeant J. Q. Hazard	...	,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant D. T. Wearm	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. S. Mancais	...	,, 17th (Gurkha) Sig. Regt.
Sergeant P. Kinsley	...	,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant K. Sixsmith	...	,, 208 Squadron
Sergeant F. A. Mabbott	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant J. K. Hurn	...	,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant B. D. Mallett	...	,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant G. W. E. Hope	...	,, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.
Sergeant A. McHugh	...	,, 11th Hussars, Sig. Tp.
Sergeant D. E. Crump	...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant W. H. Leslie	...	,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant W. Bell	...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant G. E. W. French	...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant P. D. Spratt	...	,, 228 Squadron
Sergeant J. R. C. Wheatley	...	,, 2nd R.T.R. Signal Troop
Sergeant J. T. Cross	...	,, 530 Troop
Sergeant T. S. Adams	...	,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant J. M. Huggins	...	,, 247 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. J. Waring	...	,, 3rd Cdo. Bde. R.M.
Sergeant A. C. Smith Taylor	...	,, 519 Troop
Sergeant G. V. Kay	...	,, 502 Troop
Sergeant F. C. Kavanagh	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant M. A. H. Taylor	...	,, School of Signals.

Corps Band Engagements 1965

May 16th to 29th inclusive—BOURNEMOUTH

The Band plays in the Pine Walk Gardens at 10.45 a.m. and 2.45 p.m. each day, except 19th, 22nd, 26th and 29th, when the afternoon performance will be given at Fisherman's Walk, Southbourne, and will begin at 3.15 p.m.

May 30th to June 12th inclusive—EASTBOURNE

The Band plays on the Grand Parade Bandstand, Royal Parade, which is adjacent to the seafront, and the Bandstand is situated opposite the Cavendish Hotel.

Times of performances are as follows—Sundays 10.45 a.m.—2.45 p.m. 7.45 p.m. Weekdays incl.: Saurdays 2.45 p.m.—7.45 p.m.

June 13th—REGENTS PARK

The times of performances are 3 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Exact location of where the Band is to play cannot be given, as there is no bandstand in the park, and Bands play in different places each Sunday.

June 14th to 19th inclusive—ST. JAMES' PARK

Performances are given in the North East area of the park, the exact location being quite close to the Guards Memorial.

Times of concerts are:—12.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

June 20th—BATTERSEA PARK PAVILION, 3 p.m.
CLAPHAM COMMON, 7 p.m.

July 4th to 10th inclusive—EASTBOURNE

Times of performances are as follows:—Sundays 10.45 a.m.—2.45 p.m. —7.45 p.m. Weekdays incl.: Saturdays 2.45 p.m.—7.45 p.m.

July 11th—GOLDERS GREEN, 3 p.m.
FINSBURY PARK, 7 p.m.

July 15th—HORSHAM

Details of this engagement will be forwarded when they are received from the engaging body.

July 18th to 24th inclusive—EASTBOURNE

Times of performances are as follows:—Sundays 10.45 a.m.—2.45 p.m. 7.45 p.m. Weekdays incl.: Saturdays 2.45 p.m.—7.45 p.m.

July 26th to 31st inclusive—DUNFERMLINE

Performances are given in the Music Pavilion, situated inside Pittencrieff Glen. Times of playing are: 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

August 1st to 15th—KIRKCALDY

Times of playing are: 3 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Location of the concerts are Beveridge Park and Ravensclaig Park. The exact location for each concert is given in the local Press nearer the date.

August 16th until 22nd inclusive—EDINBURGH

Band plays on the Ross Bandstand in Princes St. Gardens. Times of performances are not yet known.

August 29th—September 12th inclusive—FOLKESTONE

The Band plays on the Leas Cliff Bandstand if the weather is fine, if not the concerts are given in the Leas Cliff Hall. Times of performances are as follows:—Sundays, 2.45 p.m.; Weekdays, 10.45 a.m. —2.45 p.m.; Saturdays, 2.45 p.m. Sunday, 12th September, 10.45 a.m.—2.45 p.m.; Leas Cliff Hall, 8 p.m.

September 19th—October 3rd inclusive—EASTBOURNE

Times of performances are as follows:—Sundays, September 19th, 10.45 a.m.—2.45 p.m.—7.45 p.m.; Remainder of the Engagement: 10.45 a.m.—2.45 p.m.

Promotions

February, 1965

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To S Sgt.	19168524	A/S Sgt.	Bowman, D.	3214	1050 Adm

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To S Sgt.	22524310	Sgt.	Hughes, J.	1080	1660 Adm

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23684405	Cpl.	Gallagher, B. J.	4830	8846
	23502272	Cpl.	Willis, L. T. B.	4950	6330
	22713664	Cpl.	Stewart, J. D.	4955	6970
	23684541	Cpl.	McKnight, R. L.	4960	9114
	23515135	Cpl.	Emslie, G. W.	4980	8405
	23515140	Cpl.	Hunt, J. C.	4990	8706
	23251399	Cpl.	Davison, W.	5020	6780

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	23234550	A/Sgt.	Simpson, A.	11630	18840
	22973159	Cpl.	Kingdon, D. A.	12010	6600
	22821074	Cpl.	Horton, N. M.	12020	6868
	23220413	A/Sgt.	Nicoll, J. R.	12030	11880
	22569706	A/Sgt.	Markwell, G. S. L.	12040	14600
	23481380	A/Sgt.	Porter, R. G.	12050	15840
	23599530	Cpl.	Moore, C.	12060	16504
	22569357	A/Sgt.	Plumbridge, A. L.	12070	16800
	22983807	Cpl.	Atkins, F.	12080	17700
	22296998	Cpl.	Hamilton, P. J.	12110	19040
	19054079	Cpl.	Travers, P. E.	12120	19344
	22161502	Cpl.	Canner, W. H.	12130	19490
	2549285	A/Sgt.	North, D.	12140	19494
	23707698	A/Sgt.	Scrutton, J. A.	12150	19870
	23735983	A/Sgt.	Albon, J. G.	12160	20730
	23254881	Cpl.	Langley, G. C.	12170	20950
	22776120	A/Sgt.	Wilcox, D. I.	12180	21440
	22845326	Cpl.	Bland, R. C.	12190	21850
	23597337	A/Sgt.	Harbord, B. V.	12200	21760
	23534550	A/Sgt.	Brownlie, H. B.	12210	21840
	22537878	Cpl.	Carter, P.	12230	22780
	23515175	A/Sgt.	McGloin, P. O.	12240	23040

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22515331	Cpl.	Wallace, W.	4090	600
	22776002	Cpl.	Rose, G. M.	4160	1754

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	22983720	Cpl.	Homewood, C. E.	2820	3606
	22813966	Cpl.	Kennedy, D. W.	2830	3644
	22522391	Cpl.	Connery, D.	2850	530
	22977897	Cpl.	Esplin, A. C.	2860	604

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.II	580	1500

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	660

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

S Sgt.	800

TECHNICAL ROSTER

Sgt.	440	2380

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

Sgt.	2240

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	124	7390	9450	9960	11640

Radio Show, 1965 – Territorial Army Stand

Colonel E. W. Milner (Chief Signal Officer, 53 (W) Div./District) writes: "I am in the early stages of organising for the fifth successive Radio Show, a Recruiting Stand for the Territorial Army—with a particular emphasis on Royal Signals. In the past many Regiments have gained very appreciably in the recruitment of young men and women at the Show itself and as a direct result of the T.A. being at Earls Court. We have also developed a close liaison with Companies in the Radio Industry who in turn are ready to give their support to the Territorial Army whenever they are asked to do so."

The Radio Show this year is due to open at Earls Court on Wednesday, 25th August, and will close on Saturday, 4th September. Regiments and Independent Squadrons of Royal Signals T.A. are invited to assist with the staffing of the Stand. Young men and women, with good "selling" personalities are particularly required as well as Officers, Senior N.C.O.s and P.S.I.s. The foremost requirement is enthusiasm coupled with a good knowledge of the T.A. and a smart appearance.

Regiments and Squadrons are invited to ask for further details from: Colonel E. W. Milner, O.B.E., T.D., Inniscrone House, Queen's Road, Datchet, Bucks.

* * *

Wanted for Wales. The Chief Signal Officer (T.A.) for Wales is anxious to get in touch with former members of the Corps—Regular or T.A.—who are resident in Wales or close to the border of the principality, who would like to be considered for positions on the C.S.O.'s Staff in a spare-time T.A. capacity. Vacancies exist in the ranks of Major, Captain and senior N.C.O.s and attendance per year is required for approximately one week-end every two months plus annual camp of either 8 or 15 days. Applicants should have relatively easy access to Cardiff, Brecon, Wrexham or Colwyn Bay. Appointments will be for a period of two years in the first instance. Former members of the W.R.A.C. may also apply. Applicants should write in the first instance to: Colonel E. W. Milner, O.B.E., T.D., H.Q. 53 (W) Div./District, The Barracks, Brecon.

Why not call in?

YOU'LL GET A BIG WELCOME HERE!

King's Arms, Redmire, near Leyburn, Yorkshire.

This very pleasant village 'pub' is in the capable hands of Lieutenant-Colonel 'Bill' Edwards and his wife Joan. Bill was, of course, an ex-boy of pre-war vintage and the Corps spirit is very manifest in this cheerful hostelry so well situated in a delightful Yorkshire dale not far from Catterick Camp. Bill and Joan have accommodation for guests and this is well worth bearing in mind by married visitors to the annual Catterick Reunion held at the end of June each year. Since taking over the King's Arms, Bill and Joan have carried out many improvements.

Fox Hotel, Brotherton, Yorkshire.

Many members and ex-members of the Corps will no doubt have seen advertisements in the neighbourhood of Brotherton concerning the Fox Hotel, but not many may know that 'Mine Host' of this excellent hostelry is an ex-member of the Corps and, in fact, an ex-Boy of 1913 vintage—George Stone.

Brigadier A. C. Cox, Colonel D. G. Jones and Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Swallow happened to call there on their way to an Army Rugby Cup match at Ranby Camp, Retford, and were given a very warm welcome by George Stone who was obviously delighted to see them.

The hotel stands on an old part of the Great North Road at its junction with the Tadcaster Road, half a mile north of the power station at Ferrybridge and a matter of yards from the present A1 dual carriageway.

It is very easy of access, affords ample parking space and provides good food and a hearty welcome especially to any 'old' or 'present day' Signals who care to call.

Why not 'drop in' next time you are passing.

Butchers : Grocers : Game Dealers
our aim in all Depts.:—
Superb Quality
CHAS. JACKSON & SONS
63, 64 and 66 SKINNERGATE
Established 1894 **DARLINGTON** Telephone 2955
Sixty Years Satisfactory Service
"WE BUY THE BEST" "WE SELL THE BEST"
DAILY DELIVERIES IN YOUR DISTRICT

Far Away Places

WHO says the Corps doesn't get to the far ends of the earth. Read below of two examples. Would you expect to be responsible for setting up a 62 set in a remote district of Nepal in the shadow of 20,000 foot Himalayan peaks?

Would you expect to be a member of a three-man radio relay station on an island off North Borneo with the comforts of a refrigerator and daily fishing trips with your local neighbour, Ali?

You probably wouldn't—but such things are all in the day's work of our far-flung Corps.

Life on the Hill

By Corporal M. J. Milburn, of 266 Squadron

THE hill is called "Blueberry," and is on the island of Labuan, North Borneo. In the opinion of the present crew, Corporal Cairns (head cook and shipwright), Signalman Barnes (Dr. Kildare?) and myself (linguist and vet), (ex-7th, 2nd and 4th Regiments respectively) it is the best radio relay posting going.

Our detachment consists of a 1-ton K9, C41 vehicle, 40ft. marquee, and, of all things, an English-Electric 'fridge.

Fishing with our neighbour, Ali

A normal day at Blueberry begins with breakfast—egg, bacon, tomatoes or grapefruit juice—whichever one prefers. That is with the exception of the budding detachment fisherman, who leaves with Ali, our neighbour, at 05.00 the same morning. The fishing trips are pre-arranged the day before, and are one of our favourite pastimes. Ali calls the fisherman at 05.00 and together they go down to the kampong (village). The trek to the Kampong is about a mile through the Ulu (jungle) and for the first time it is quite eerie, for at 05.00 it is still dark. On arrival at the kampong, which during daylight is very picturesque, Ali gets his boat ready and sets off on a five-mile trip out to a small island where his fish-traps are situated. He then dives into the fish-traps and proceeds to spear the fish with a 2ft. needle-sharp spike. Having completed the catch, he sets off to the fish market and eventually back to the hill, all the time accompanied by our bloke. The kampong people are all very friendly, and if one visits it during the day, one gets greeted by lots of kids shouting "hello." The kampong is situated on the sea's edge and consequently all the houses are on stilts, about 8ft. high. When the tide is in the water can come as high as 6ft.

Crabs, Squids, Lobsters, 'Chitchats,' but no snakes

Another good pastime is crab fishing—a tasty one as well. One night the "head cook" came back after one of these little jaunts with about 20 crabs. Immediately the No. 3 was lit, large pot produced, crabs boiled until pink and then a tasty snack was had. To vary our diet of 'Compo,' fresh fruit, crab, turtle eggs (very nice), we occasionally have a meal prepared by Ali's wife. This can consist of either crab, squid, lobster, or plain fish, depending on Ali's catch, also rice.

We also have a small menagerie comprising seven dogs, two chickens, various 'chitchats' (house lizards), occasionally a rat or two, but, fortunately, no snakes. If ever life does get a little dull, it always gets livened up with an 'Ulu' fire. Great sport this!

The roads here are badly affected by rain—and when it rains, it rains? If the roads are impassable—and most of the time they have been—then an R.A.F. "chopper" brings our supplies. Digging out bogged 3-tonners is another of our pastimes; not a particularly favourite one.

Those are but a few of things which occur on or around the "hill." So you see one never gets bored at "Blueberry."

(O.C.'s note: They also communicate!)

Pension Problems in Distant Nepal



Corporal Namu Pun with his 62 set at Pokhara 1965

The question of how one collects one's pension is presumably a fairly simple choice between going to the local post office once a week or waiting with expectancy once a month for a cheque to drop through the letterbox—if ever one thinks about it at all. Yet for thousands of Gurkha soldier pensioners living in the hills of Nepal, the problem of collection is a very real one. There is rarely any alternative to a long hike through the hills on journeys which, for some men, may take fourteen days.

There are the two British Gurkha recruiting depots at which men may collect their pensions, but in addition, in recent years, it has become the practice to establish for a few weeks a pension-paying post in the little town of Pokhara in West Nepal. As Pokhara is the centre of one of the largest recruiting areas, the establishment of this post means that for pensioners in the surrounding districts the time involved in journeying for one's pension can be reduced in many cases to two, three or four days. It can be imagined what a boon this is for elderly gentlemen.

The Most Isolated Post of the British Army?

It is at Pokhara, therefore, in the months of December and January every year that what must be one of the most isolated posts of the British Army is set up, and from there one of the remotest radio stations in the Army Signals network is established.

Pokhara lies in a beautiful, fertile valley, renowned for the succulence of the oranges grown there, 2,500 feet above sea level. The valley is encircled by hills and dominated by the Anapurna Massif and the peak of Machhar Puchar—the fish tail mountain—which rises to well over 20,000 feet. Pokhara town is served by a small air strip from which DC-3 aircraft of the Royal Nepal Airline Corporation provide scheduled

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Pension Problems in Distant Nepal

Continued from previous page



Carrying equipment in to the pension paying post. The last box weighed 150 lbs.

flights to the South Nepal town of Nautanwa and to the capital, Kathmandu. For those who prefer not to fly, the only other means of entry to the valley and town is by foot, and from Kathmandu this takes about nine days.

Five miles to the north of the airstrip and the town lies the site of the Pension Paying Post. It is located on a grassy island around which a fast-flowing river has cut a deep gorge into the rock. It is here, during pension paying time, that about 15 tents and a couple of antenna masts are erected and business gets under way.

A Faithful 62 Set does its stuff

To establish a single No. 62 set station may appear to be a simple enough task, but it does involve a few problems not normally encountered by signal officers. It was fortunate, therefore, that this year Lieutenant Keith Turner, who only a week or so before had arrived in Nepal from 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron in Hong Kong, was able to benefit from the valuable experience of Lieutenant Kelvin Kent, whom he was relieving as the Gurkha Signals Officer in Nepal. Preparations for establishing the radio station included the air despatch of equipment to Pokhara airstrip, whence it was taken by porters along rough tracks and up steep gradients to the post. Fuel for the 300-watt charging plant had to be brought up from the Gurkha Recruiting Depot at Paklihawa by porters who marched for seven days. Finally, all was assembled and with a shrug of the shoulders for what had been forgotten communication was established with other stations on the British Gurkha L. of C. net.

For six weeks Corporal Namu Pun, the operator, and Corporal Hukumbahadur Sing, the radio technician, maintained contact beneath the shadow of the high Himalayas in this unusual Corps commitment before packing up and returning to base.

OUR JUNIOR LEADERS ARE AN ASSET TO DARTMOOR

IT is all too common to see letters in the Press concerning the so-called evil of the Military Occupation of the Dartmoor National Park. In fact, of course, there is considerable co-operation between the Services and the National Park Committee, and those who write to the Press seldom understand that Service units in the Dartmoor Area render assistance in many ways. Not least amongst such Units is the Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Signals, who now have quite a long list of good deeds done.

On Friday, 12th February, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., accompanied by his Adjutant, Captain C. Rayner, and the O.C. Montgomery Squadron, Major J. W. Joyner, Royal Signals, paid a visit to Cranmere Pool to leave a new Visitors' Book in the box established there. By tradition there has been a box at Cranmere Pool since the end of the 19th century where visitors leave and collect letters franking them with a special stamp, The new Visitors' Book replaces a tattered and torn book which has now been sent to the Plymouth City Library to join earlier books.



Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., Royal Signals, signs the new Visitors Book at Cranmere Pool, Dartmoor

Cranmere Pool is a desolate spot, not always easy to find, and the new book will establish a Regimental link with the oldest of all Dartmoor boxes. This book is now the third to be presented by a Commanding Officer at Denbury, the other two being at Fur Tor.

Another Dartmoor Deed completed by the Regiment was the demolition of an old engine house left derelict beside the track from Bittaford Bridge to a long since disused clay works at Redlake in the centre of the South Moor. This building was considered to be an eyesore by the Dartmoor National Park Committee and the task of demolishing it was willingly undertaken by the Officer Commanding Junior Leaders' Regiment. An account of the demolition by the O.C. Montgomery Squadron to whom the task was given as follows:—

Exercise "Knock Down"

"Surely it wasn't true! Volunteers were required to go out and destroy a building! To really smash it up and no barrack damages! But it was true and the demand to join S.S.M. Wilson's destruction party was high.

The expedition left Denbury on Friday evening, 29th January, 1965. It was dark, very cold, it was snowing and blowing a gale but there were still more volunteers than vacancies. The building was an exceptionally strong granite engine shed a short distance along the disused china clay-work track from Bittaford Bridge. The tools were picks, shovels, sledge hammers, a piece of rope and a ten-ton jack. The destroyers were forty Junior Leaders from Montgomery Squadron led by S.S.M. Wilson and Sergeant Bumby. On arrival, the first problem was to get set up; no easy task with a gale force wind, frozen ground and very little light. But with the combined efforts of Junior Sergeants Rock and Byrne and after using the picks and sledge hammers, tent pegs were driven in and the flapping canvas made secure.

The next morning nobody complained that the 07.30 reveille was too late, after all you can't work in the dark; but there was a smashing time ahead and whilst Junior Corporal Darling commenced to cook breakfast, the rest descended on the tools determined to knock down the building in the first few minutes. They were soon to discover that Dartmoor granite has a resistance of its own.

Junior Sergeant Rock grabbed a sledge hammer and commenced to attack a cross wall he had had his eye on from the start. Disintegration was painfully slow.

Junior Signalman Gordon claimed the jack and after some

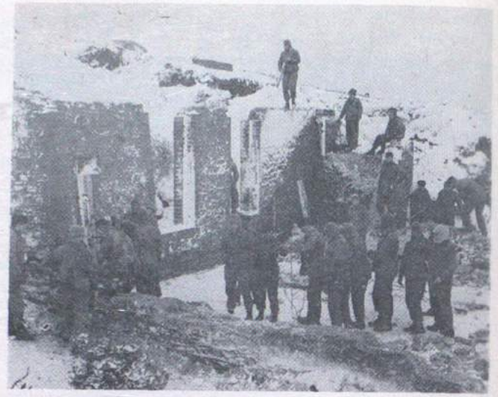
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basic instruction from S.S.M. Wilson, he soon got the idea and commenced to crack the main walls by exerting full pressure near the base.

It was hard work and few could make any impression with a pick, and when it came to swinging a sledge hammer, it was all a question of choice. Swing and miss and find yourself sailing after the hammer; swing and hit and risk breaking your wrist for the pleasure of seeing a small piece of granite chip off the stonework.

One by one, sections of the outer wall were demolished. It wasn't until mid-afternoon when, with one section of wall left, that Gordon had his greatest triumph. This particular piece of wall had resisted all efforts, even the sledge hammer just bounced off. He used his jack at one end of the wall and after very patient work he succeeded, and we were all amazed to see the wall totter and fall with a great crash. The job was over and the tired party broke up to shelter in the tents from the biting wind.

Departure was found more difficult than expected, as the 3-ton truck got stuck in a snowdrift on the way up to the site. A rescue party led by Junior Lance-Corporal Campbell eventually freed it. It wasn't until about 19.30 hours that they arrived back at Denbury after a very hard 24 hours out. At least they were back in time for Church Parade, even though the girl-friend had missed her Saturday out."



Montgomery Squadron Demolition Squad prepare to drop the first section of wall

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

The Regiment returned to Denbury on 8th January after a welcome Christmas and New Year break. The weather was kind, and instead of the usual snowy landscape, Haytor lay basking in sunshine. This did not please 18 Junior Leaders who had saved up, persuaded Dad to save up, or even managed to borrow from the Bursar, to finance a ski-ing expedition to Scotland, led by Lieutenant Bruce.

In fact, as the skis did not arrive until the morning of departure, there would have been no chance to practice anyway. The party left on 26th January, displaying brand new skis and boots (watched by 600 or so envious pairs of eyes).

Within a day or so of their departure, however, to the delight of all, except R.S.M. Leeson, who had ideas of a drill parade, down came the snow. Denbury lay under a thick carpet, and though the playing fields were unusable for the regulation ball games, there was plenty of ammunition for the equally traditional exercises in ballistics, always popular under such conditions.

. . . taking their boots to bed

This change in weather happened to coincide with Montgomery Squadron Term 3 Adventure Training fortnight, and with another out-of-doors exercise, Exercise "Knock Down," laid on to assist the Dartmoor National Park Committee. Both continued, despite the weather Montgomery Term 3 boys now feel qualified to undertake an Arctic expedition; at least they appreciate the necessity of taking their boots to bed as the alternative to the pain of putting on frozen boots the next morning.



Junior-Signalmen Burgus and Chaplin, both of Javelin Troop on Term 3 Adventure Training, show how to use two tents to form a windbreak for cooking in comfort

One member of the party was faced with frozen socks as well—his first problem being to get the socks out of the boots.

500 runners bore down on Denbury Cross

The termly Inter-Troop Cross-County Race took place on Wednesday, 10th February, just after the snow had gone. The ground was still soft, however, and to avoid damage to the lawn bordering the square, the start and finish were moved to the Top Playing Fields and the Recorders were put in the cinema.

At the start, the 500 runners, having failed to ram the C.O., who stood to the side, bore down on Denbury Cross and its surrounding flower bed, nobly defended by S.S.M. Wilson. He held his ground and the bed survived as the runners swept past on either side to continue out of the south gate and on round the course.

Beaufighter Troop won the race with a record average finishing position of 147. Iron Troop were second with 175, and White Swan third with 178.

J/Signalman Drew won the race in 23min. 40.5sec., for the sixth time in succession. This must surely be an unbeatable record: to be 16th in your first term, and then to win every race until your seventh and last terms takes some beating.

Local goats get in on the act!

The finish was enlivened by a herd of goats which joined in for the last mile. They entered the camp through the Officers' Mess gate, completed the final circuit and crossed the finishing line in great style amongst the leading runners. Once over the line they trotted smartly through the extra long finishing pen and after entering the cinema, reported to Sergeant Bumby at the Francisca Troop table. Lieutenant Hallchurch hurriedly drove them out to collect their finishing discs, but despite his protests, the P.T. Staff refused to issue them on the grounds that they, at least, could tell goats from sheep, and Q.M.S.I. Pictor duly disqualified them under A.A.A. rules for being inadequately clad. After waiting hopefully outside, watching more favoured runners gaining discs, they trotted off to the Education Wing, where it is rumoured that they all received a change of hobby from the S.E.O. The Orderly Officer eventually managed to get them locked up in No. 1 Drill Shed, where they spent the night doing what comes naturally. The next morning when the O.C. Alexander Squadron inspected his Drill Shed he was heard to mutter in horrified dismay: "Goats! Goats! Give me a little bull any day, it's far less baffling.

Hockey Triumph

Wednesday, 17th February was a great day for the boys' hockey team, when they played the Junior Leaders Regiment, R.A.C. in the second round of the Army Junior Hockey Cup at Queen's Park, Paignton. It was an exciting game, which started badly for Royal Signals when J/Signalman Day of Kohima Troop was badly cut above the eye and had to retire to be stitched up. At half-time the score was 0—0 and the R.A.C. boys were pressing hard.

The second half was even harder, but just at the critical moment, with about 10 minutes to go, Havlin scored a beautiful goal and after a good forward run through from the half-way line. This, by some miracle, was to be the only goal, and extra time, which would have almost certainly been too much for the tired ten was avoided. Thus, the defeat inflicted earlier in the term on the Rugby XV by the R.A.C. at Bovington was avenged.

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

Whilst it must be admitted that at present Uniacke Barracks looks rather like something out of the Great War Series, it is heartening to see the rebuilding under way at last.

Drivers do their bit

Despite the winter, Trade exercises fill the term and it seems that there is always someone out. This, of course, throws a considerable strain on the drivers who, in the best tradition of Signals drivers the world over, do much more than drive. Among other skills, cooking is perhaps the most appreciated. Outward Bound exercises have now been centralised and confined to the summer months, a sensible plan even if unwelcomed by the more hardy apprentices.

Salute to the Loates family

Leaving the School and Corps this month is Staff Sergeant Loates who has given a long and distingushed service to the Corps and to this Unit in particular. He has given unfailing support to both the hockey and cricket teams, and has taken a great interest in all the activities of the apprentices. He is to become a Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London. As the Corps loses him, it gains another Loates, his son, who, as reported in the last issue has, just passed out so successfully at the Depot. Whilst at Harrogate with his father, Signalman Loates was a keen member of the School Angling Club.

Much in the sporting line

The School Rugby team, composed of a mixture of aged Permanent Staff and energetic apprentices, is still in the Northern Command Cup. The team has had a successful season, losing only one match, that against 20th Medium Regiment R.A.

At soccer, the School 1st XI has represented the School in Division II of the Catterick Military League, the District Cup and the Northern Command Cup.

The team, a mixture of permanent staff and apprentices, at present heads the League table. It was narrowly beaten in both the semi-final of the Northern Command Cup and the quarter-finals of the District Cup.

The cross country team have been having an excellent season. The Under 18 team finished fourth out of sixteen teams in the Army Junior Championship. This is the best we have ever done and shows a steady improvement. In 1963 we were thirteenth and 1964 seventh. Our individual runners were placed between sixteenth and fortieth in a field of 128 entries. In the Northern Counties Championships the team was fifteenth out of 45 entries. In the National Championships the team came in the first thirty out of 123 entries, and when it is remembered that all but a few of the teams are from the major athletic clubs in the country, it will be appreciated that this is a very creditable performance. In this meeting A/T Ross was placed 90th out of the 800 runners and A/Ts Stanley and Lee were in the first 200.

Our hockey team, a mixture of permanent staff and boys, grimly battled its way through a bye and two walk-overs to reach the final of the Army Cup (Northern Command, Division) inter-unit knockout competition. Both 19 Company (Transporter) R.A.S.C. and 3 R.T.R. (who are off to B.O.A.R.) provided the walk-overs. In the final at Catterick we had a good game against 8th Regiment who had the edge on us and deserved their win.

Mountaineers to the fore

Not a team game, but nevertheless a well-supported and good character-building activity, is climbing. Our enthusiasts find their way into either the Mountaineering Club, or the Mountain Rescue section of the field club. Both are extremely active clubs even in the winter, when they seem to find some perverse pleasure in seeking the most inhospitable places to spend their week-ends. The Mountaineering Club has been to the Lake District—rock-climbing on Great Gable, to North Wales—ridge-walking on Tryfan, Brisley Ridge, Glyders, and rock-climbing on Milestone Buttress, and has, of course, made regular week-end and Wednesday trips to the local Milestone outcrops. They have also done the Three Peaks walk and had a pleasant week-end snow-climbing on Pen-y-ghent. Several visits from experienced members of local clubs have provided the opportunity to improve techniques.

The Mountain Rescue Team have to cover a wider field and must qualify in such things as first aid and semaphore, as well as climbing and casualty handling. They have conducted several searches and casualty withdrawal exercises on the Yorkshire Moors. They have also been rock-climbing locally, and snow-climbing on Pen-y-ghent.

JUNIOR TRADESMEN'S REGIMENT, RHYL

Due to a generous hand-over period, opportunity has at last arrived to compile a report from this Regiment! Although not a Royal Signals unit in entirety, it is felt the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl, plays an important role in the life of the Corps.

Formed in January, 1962, the Regiment was given the charter to produce Drivers, Clerks, Driver/Radio Operators and Radio Operators for all arms and Services. Subsequently the trade of Medical Assistant was added to the training requirement. The establishment of the Regiment was set at 800 Junior Tradesmen, and this ceiling was reached in April, 1964. From the Corps aspect, the Regiment was initially training Radio Operators and potential Staff Operators, the latter requiring teleprinter training at Catterick before going to Man's Service. However, due to the interest shown by the Inspectorate of Trade Training at Catterick, and by the Chief Signal Officer, Western Command, the Regiment obtained teleprinters last year, and also gained the services of a Sergeant Staff Operator. It is now, therefore, possible to post all Junior Tradesmen direct to a unit on completion of training.

Twelve per cent intake are for Royal Signals

The Royal Signals strength of the Regiment at the present time is three officers; this strength will shortly revert to the establishment of two, with the completion of hand-over between Lieutenant J. E. Barnes and Lieutenant R. A. Knox-Johnston. Both officers on strength act as Platoon Commanders, manage a hobby, and also have instructional responsibilities—Lieutenant Knox-Johnston in the Signals Wing and Lieutenant G. D. Birch in the Expedition Training Wing. There are three sergeant instructors, Seregants P. A. Noble and G. Coatsworth in the Signals Wing and Sergeant D B. Smith in the Clerical Wing. All have the dual role of being instructors and platoon sergeants, as well as assisting one of the Regiment's many hobbies. Lance-Corporal R. L. Clements and Signalman D. C. Elliott repair and store the Signal Wing equipment and Signalman F. C. Morris acts as a company storeman. Intakes of Junior Tradesmen vary, but normally 12 per cent of any intake are Royal Signals. At present there are 106 Royal Signals Junior Tradesmen under training, 30 Staff Operators and 76 Radio Operators. In April, 1965, three Staff Operators and 21 Radio Operators will pass into Man's Service.

There are three intakes each year and consequently three outputs. Junior tradesmen arrive in the Regiment already allotted to their Regiment or Corps, and within their first month are selected for a trade. The normal course of training is spread over four terms, the terms being equal in length to the normal school term. Boys should be 16½ years on entry and 17½ years at pass out. However, younger boys are accepted, and spend their surplus terms to the normal course in a special wing known as Rhyl Wing.

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The Regiment is organised into three training companies and an intake/continuation company known as Cambrian Company. On arrival in the Regiment a boy joins Cambrian Company, where he spends his first eight weeks doing basic training and education. At the eighth week he passes off the square and moves from Cambrian Company into one of the training companies At the end of his third phase of training, that is the eighth week of his final term, a Junior Tradesman takes his trade test and then moves back to Cambrian Company for the final six weeks of his course, for continuation training. It is hoped that this final training will equip him more fully for Man's Service.

Efforts well worth while

During the three basic phases of training, a Junior Tradesman concentrates on education and military training in his first phase, starts trade training in his second phase, the total periods being divided approximately in thirds between trade, education and military training, and finally his last phase of training is loaded with a trade bias, two-thirds of his time being spent on trade and one-third split between education and military training. Throughout the course, a boy attends the hobby of his choice three evenings each week, and, of course, plays sport regularly, one afternoon during the week and one afternoon at the week-end. Religious instruction is given in the education periods and attendance at church is compulsory on Sunday and one other morning during the week. On passing out, it is expected that a Junior Tradesman will have gained his BIII trade, his intermediate certificate of education (equivalent to A.C.E. 2nd class) and passed at trained soldier standard his weapon training. In addition, it is hoped that the expedition training, tactical training, first aid training, driver training and fitness achieved, will set the boy favourably amongst his fellow men in man's service. Opportunities for advancement abound, and the boy with the right attitude and ability can take advantage of the facilities available to obtain senior certificate of education (A.C.E. 1st class), or even G.C.E., and gain in character by making full use of all extra mural activities. Except during trade training, Junior Tradesmen are integrated to the fullest extent. In this way it is hoped that a boy will appreciate the tasks of other Regiments and Corps and other trades. Royal Signals boys can be recommended for A Class training as Special Operators or Telegraph Operators. Approximately five per cent pass on to this training

To date, all Royal Signals boys have been posted to units in B.A.O.R. Some favourable comments on their progress have filtered back, which makes the effort here appear to be very worthwhile. From the Permanent Staff angle, service with boys' units means long hours of work and a good deal of patience, but there is reward in seeing the end-product and the knowledge that some future stalwarts of the Corps may pass through your hands. There is, of course, the added advantage of working with all arms and gaining a better understanding of "the other side of the fence."

1st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 32

At the beginning of the month everybody had just two events in mind: the forthcoming "Interior Economy Inspection" and the Divisional Study Period at the beginning of March. The former event is now over and done with and at the time of writing we have just finished the latter. **In passing it is worth mentioning that Major-General the Hon. Fitzalan-Howard in his address after our Administrative Inspection said that it was the best administrative inspection that he had ever known and the Quarter Guard (under Sergeant Gaze) was certainly the best he had seen.** (*High praise indeed from one who has been Brigade Major, Household Brigade.—Editor.*)

Our greatest field of success at the moment would appear to be at football. The Regiment is currently at the top of the 1st Divisional Major Units League. We are now in the final of the Morrison Cup against 22nd Regiment, due to be held at Herford on 21st March. Watch out 22nd!

During February we have said goodbye to Major Charles Robertson who is off to Bahrein, Mr. Brock to Catterick and W.O.II Laing to Aden. We wish them all the best in their new posts. In the same breath we extend a hearty welcome to Major Ian Simpson, Second-Lieutenants Thorne and Urquhart and W.O.II Womwell.

The next few weeks will see the end of the recruit basic trade training. W.O.II (Y. of S.) Hayes will breath a sigh of relief when the last student leaves the sacred halls of learning and will immediately remove the sign on the training school door, "1 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt. and Trg Regt." That so many people have either received Class III basic training or been upgraded to Class II is a credit to W.O.II Hayes, Staff Sergeant Winfield, Lance-Corporal Cartwright and the many guest instructors. The next 'term' will be upon us all too quickly and the staff are already full of new ideas about taking over from Catterick completely.

'Ham Club' Reopened

The Regiment has reopened the 'Ham Club' after a few years of silence. The Unit call of DL 2 VR should soon be on the air. Meanwhile listen out for Staff Sergeant Derek Leese DL 2BJ and Captain Peter Reader DL 2AB. The Club is growing daily and contacts are many on 80, 40 and 20 metres. A new SSB transceiver (NCX5) is on order and should provide good DX QSOs. The Club is at present 2 metre mad and our 6 over 6 slot antenna really does FB on the local Bremen net. Listen out for us and we wish all Unit Ham Clubs gud DX and 73s.

3rd REGIMENT, BULFORD CAMP

On the whole a quiet month for all in the Regiment with the emphasis on Individual Training. With two courses for Telegraph Operators from A.III to A.II (and one to confirm those already Class III Standard) under an instructional team led by Captain E. Mulley, Yeomen Glendinning and Cassling and Sergeant Blay.

A good system for running commentaries

This year 1 Squadron were asked to provide the communications for the 3rd Division Cross Country Championships, the Southern Command T.A. Championships, Southern Command Championships and to make a contribution towards the Army Cross Country Championships. The communication system for the commentary was based on a C42 set working to a set in the PA truck, the output of which was fed into the PA equipment. The PA equipment was kindly lent by 243 Squadron. This system is most effective and reliable. It is strongly recommended to anyone who has the task of providing communications for horse shows, cross countries and similar events. Line takes far too long to lay and is too inflexible. For these series of events Air Support Troop provided the mobile stations: Corporal Norton, Lance-Corporals Macaleenan, Pope, Hardiman were the crew commanders.

Although communications went well, our worthy team of runners in the Divisional event managed to come fourth only,



MOTOR RALLY
Sergeant Brudenall with the winning team from 2 Squadron

but it was a good effort and particular mention must be made to Second-Lieutenant Ingham and Sergeant Bradley who did much to organise and train the team.

2 Squadron win it

The camp circuit was disrupted, queer shapes and obstacles appeared on the parade ground, and the barracks took on a distinct Monte Carlo atmosphere for the Safe Driving Competition cum Rally organised by 3 Squadron. After meeting a series of difficult inspectors, checkers, marshalls and so on, several teams managed to cross the start line! And the winning team emerged from 2 Squadron with the R.M.P. detachment runners-up. The individual winner was Corporal Phyall of "C" Troop.

Three Squadron having recovered from the backwash of Unit Equipment Inspections, have now got the bit between their teeth and are repairing vehicles and radios at a speed hitherto unknown. Major Adams in his new and extra appointment of "C.S.O. Airhead" went to Northern Ireland to recce a forthcoming exercise. He reports that the "little people" are most hospitable in spite of their devious ways.

Integration helped by mutual understanding

For the past two years Divisional H.Q. Squadron has remained very quiet and set about the task of integrating the old Divisional H.Q. Company into a Squadron of the Regiment. It is no use pretending that this has been an easy task but thanks to good co-operation between the Staff and the Regiment we have at last arrived at a very satisfactory solution with a high standard of understanding on both sides. However, a wrong word or move by either side can still draw a few caustic remarks!

Perhaps we have been helped in arriving at our present solution by a very big exercise in North Africa and a spell in Cyprus as H.Q UNFICYP. There is nothing like a little discomfort to bring heads together to sort out problems.

We have come to the end of an era as both the Squadron Commander/P.R.I., Major J. Evans, S.W.B., and the Second-in-Command/Messing Officer, Captain I. W. Dunkeld, Royal Sussex, are about to leave us. We wish them well in their future appointments and thank them for their patience in putting up with all this Signals 'Mumbo-Jumbo.'

Confidence !

This month finds us in the finals of the Divisional Rugby Cup and Basket Ball Cup—both of which have been measured up for their respective shelves in the C.O.'s office—the confidence we have justifying such moves.

Sergeant Blay who reached the Southern Command Individual Boxing Finals, unfortunately lost his bout, and is now awaiting admission to the Military Hospital at Aldershot to have his broken nose put straight.

By normal messing standards it is not surprising to record that our cooks won the Divisional Cookery Competition in February. Congratulations and well done to all concerned.

Hockey this month has been exciting and exhausting (for the more aged). We played a splendid series of three matches against RTR in the Army Cup. We had two replays on account of draws and only won the third match by a penalty flick in the last few minutes. In the next round of the Army Cup we met SME Bordon and were beaten 1—0 on the coldest and wettest day in memory. The team reached the final of the Divisional Cup but were beaten 3—2 by 5 D.G. in another splendid game watched by an enthusiastic crowd. With the departure of 5DG for B.A.O.R. we now represent 3 Division in the Southern Command Cup.

Comings and Goings

This month we have said farewell to Lieutenant Dudley who left us for 30th Regiment and to AMF (L) Troop complete under the command of Sergeant Lomax who have left to join their Battalion at Gravesend. Sergeant Dunn ceased to enter the gates of the M.T. and is now in the land of comfort—B.A.O.R.

On the credit side we welcome Major (Q.M.) W. E. Parks who comes to take over from Major (Q.M.) E. A. Carn on retirement, and Second-Lieutenant Spillane to 1 Squadron. Sergeant Cutler joins us from 1st Regiment to help keep us 'on the road.' Congratulations to Sergeants Halliwell and Rickard on their recent promotions.

And so to the crystal ball—the visits of Major-General and Mrs. Swainson followed by Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., both draw near, and we wait to receive such distinguished visitors with the pleasure they rightly afford. The once "little speck in the ball" showing the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club once again marching from Church, is growing more each day as we get nearer to 15th May and again for such distinguished veterans—the best carpets are being prepared.

Serious note

We would close this month on a serious note. Reports reaching the Regiment confirm that several people took us too seriously about the cost of the Regimental History recently published—which you will recall we estimated at 5 gns. a copy. That estimate was based on "reading matter" only—and if anyone would like a copy we shall be pleased to despatch to any part of the world at the cost of the postage only!

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

We sigh with envy at the news of those regiments who have had subsidiary titles bestowed upon them. We, who can trace our origins back only fifty-one years to "A" Corps Signal Company, R.E., have as yet no title hallowed by tradition. In our un-thrusting, professional way we are content to be known by our reputation as "The Communicators."

* * *

The exercise season is again upon us almost unnoticed. Starting earlier (February) and finishing later (December) than ever before, individual training bids fair to be confined to Easter, Whitsun and Christmas with Trade Tests on Sunday afternoons.

"36 Hours of Sheer Hell"—Exercise "Comic Opera"

We always said we were capable of existing indefinitely at sub-zero temperatures, and Exercise "Comic Opera" certainly put us to the test. Thirty-six hours of sheer hell! Gosh! It was rugged. However, our indimitable spirits, new sleeping bags and parkas saw us through and allowed us to chalk up a win against the Staff who got warm feet at the last moment and failed to appear.

Even the Officers' pistol shoot, that most hardy of annual events, took place to the surprise of all who took part, in the most inclement weather. The Commanding Officer took the honours of the day with a bare pass (icing up of his Walther PPK Special—*he* said) and Major Akass qualified by reason of an unidentifiable twentieth hole in his third—not to be used—target.

The Winter Warfare courses at Silberhutte are well subscribed, and the habits of the ski slopes are spilling over into daily routine. The drivers' slalom course between 2 Squadron and the Officers' Mess is coming along nicely; the 'gates' could do with being just that fraction wider, but on the whole a very creditable performance by one and all.

With R.S.M. J. T. Gerrard back at the helm, the acting R.S.M. can return to his Squadron and take over from the Corporal who has been managing, in the absence of all Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants to prepare for Admin. Rumour has it that Mr. Gerrard, in anticipation of the legislation afoot regarding haircuts, is cultivating a Beetle-moustache.

Hockey

We are still waiting to play 28th Regiment in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Hockey Cup. Two regiments of the Corps through to the semi-finals. Good show. A report on this match will appear later.

Arrivals and Departures. Welcome to all who have joined us during February, including Staff Sergeant Edgar, Sergeant Storey and Sergeant Magowan, and welcome back to Staff Sergeants Champion and Rowlands who have returned from detachments in FARELF and Cyprus respectively. Goodbye and good luck to Sergeant Gooding and all other departures during the month.

Congratulations and best wishes to Lance-Corporal Hartley who was married to Miss Maureen Walker on 29th January, 1965, in Edinburgh, and to Signalman Hodgson on the birth of his daughter Debbie on 1st February, 1965.



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30th Regiment

BLANDFORD CAMP

The Regiment hit two high spots during the month of February: a visit from the new Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., and a Civil Defence exercise lasting four days.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief visited Blandford on Thursday, 23rd February and spent the morning with the Regiment. He intended to see as much as possible in a short time, and covered a great deal of ground.

Exercise "Fill Dyke"

R.M.A. writes.—Exercise "Fill Dyke" was our annual Civil Defence exercise. It was held during the week-end 13th/14th February as the culmination of a short, but concentrated, period of Civil Defence training for the entire Regiment. On this occasion we were fortunate in having the assistance and co-operation of a number of the local Civil Defence workers. Our pictures show both volunteers and members of the Regiment taking part in rescue operations.

3 Squadron

L.W.M. writes.—The Squadron said farewell to Major N. R. F. Mackinnon at a 'smoker' held in one of the local hotels. We wish him well in his sunshine posting.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. W. V. Hutley and many other old hands have also left and are sadly missed. One new Squadron Commander, Major M. C. Barrett, has settled down to the tasks ahead. Other new arrivals are Captain L. W. Moran, W.O.II B. Fisher, Staff Sergeant Matthews and Sergeant French. We hope they have a pleasant stay with us.

Corporal Hodge and his wife have started the difficult task of running a Garrison Youth Club. Signalman Blackwood assists in running the Garrison Boy Scout Group.

Our congratulations and best wishes for the future go to Corporal Wood and his wife on their recent marriage.

640 Signal Troop (U.K. Garrison)

B.C.H. writes.—February has passed quickly for those in Blandford and will be missed by few. News has been received from our more fortunate members abroad and a few individuals have slipped quietly away via London Airport to join them.

The main effort of the Troop, though the painters and decorators probably won't agree, is on training. May be one day someone will return from abroad having taken a Military Proficiency Course!

Cyprus

Sergeant R. G. Lee, commanding the Signal Troop attached to the 1st Battalion the Loyals, has written in to give us his news.

The Troop have wasted no time settling in with the Battalion which is on airfield protection duties as part of the United Nations in Cyprus.

Lance-Corporal Mills found a vacant place in the Royal Air Force Nicosia Rugby side, and played full-back when they won the Island Cup.

Corporal R. A. James, our technician, has been kept extremely busy. Due to the shortage of sets and the long waiting period in workshops, he has been doing second line repairs.

Signalmen Balmer and Harrison are helping out on the 24-hour-per-day Battalion Control Net.

Unficyp

We hope soon to receive a report from Sergeant P. G. Blakelock who has left for 644 Troop in Cyprus after only two months in 640 Troop. We wish him well on his first emergency tour.

Recently returned from Cyprus is Signalman K. E. Salt who has spent two six-month tours with 262 Squadron.

British Guiana

Sergent Moat (see page 137) and Lance-Corporal A. Brewin have recently returned from British Guiana. Lance-Corporal Brewin managed to catch the eye of the Public Relations man and get his picture in a local Leicester news-

THE WAY OF LIFE AT 30th REGIMENT















S.O. IN C's VISIT

1. General Bradley inspecting the Guard and . . .
2. Later enjoying a well earned drink in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, after a very busy morning with the Regiment.

FISHING

3. Did you see that one jump? Members of the Regimental Angling Club taking part in a 6 hour "Sea Match." They did well in overcoming adverse conditions but . . .
4. The young son of Staff-Sergeant Hook, pictured with his father, seems to think he can do better from the beach.

EXERCISE "FILL DYKE"

5. Realism simulated by this Lance-Corporal had its own reward
6. And he was soon in the hands of this attractive Civil Defence Worker; then quickly away to hospital (7)



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paper. This was due to a casual meeting with a Lance-Corporal Yearby in the Headquarters. Whilst discussing their common interest, soccer, they discovered that they were born only 10 minutes' walk from each other; brought up in the same town, and they spent their leisure time in the same Working Men's Club.

A small world, as 640 Troop have been finding out during the last two and a half years.

Fishing

T.B. writes.—The Regimental Angling Club held a 6-hour "Sea Match" at Shell Bay, opposite Sandbanks, Poole, on Sunday, 31st January, 1965. Some sixteen club members participated on a rather cold and bleak day. Prizes were won by Corporal Thomas (first), W.O.I (Yeoman of Signals) Finister (second) and Staff Sergeant Hook, Royal Army Pay Corps (third). Whilst the catches were not heavy the prizewinners did well in overcoming adverse conditions. We extend our thanks to W.O.I (Foreman of Signals) Jenkins who, against his better judgment, gave us photographic cover.

Stop Press

The marriage of Lance-Corporal C. M. Gorton to Miss D. A. Murnane took place at Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Cecilia Church, Blandford, on Saturday, 27th February, 1965.

The Ever Readies get busy with 15th Regiment

A follow-up to the successful Exercise "Ever Ready III," carried out in Aden last year, Exercise "IV" in the series got under way this month when men of the Territorial Army Reserve were flown out from the United Kingdom by Royal Air Force Transport Command to join various Army units in the Middle East.



Above: **Lance-Corporal J. Shorney** (*right*) **of 345 Squadron and Lance-Corporal Wardle loading a lorry. These ever-readies have been putting in 14 days training with 15th Regiment**

Below: **In the photograph Lance-Corporal Bell of 64th Regiment** (*extreme left*) **is checking an installation equipment with men of the 15th Regiment**

Going Places with the Ever Readies

THE following is an account by Corporal C. Taylor and Lance-Corporal B. Peakman, two TAER Volunteers from the 48th Regiment who, with a party of 100 others from various units and arms, spent two weeks in Aden on Exercise "Ever Ready IV" with the 15th Regiment.

"The exercise started, as far as we were concerned, from Coventry Station on Saturday, 13th February, at 9 o'clock in the morning. On arrival at Chippenham Station we were met by coaches which took us to Lynham where we had a meal and at 20.00 hours, 100 of us boarded a Brittania of R.A.F. Transport Command.

Almost too much food and drink

Our first stop was Cyprus, six flying hours away from England and during the 8,500 odd miles the R.A.F. flew us, the food and drinks came up to us almost too often. At Cyprus we were given a hot meal while the plane refuelled and 1 hour and 20 minutes later were were off again on the next leg of our journey to Bahrein where we landed seven hours later. Once again a meal was waiting for us and two hours later we took off for Aden where we touched down at 6 o'clock Sunday night (Aden time). Waiting at the airport were the vehicles from the different Units from all over Aden.

There were 12 of us to join the newly formed 15th Regiment; a Captain Griffiths met us and took us out to Singapore lines where we were given our bedding and shown to the Banda we were to occupy during our two weeks stay.

Monday morning we were up at 5.30 a.m. and on parade at 7 a.m. We were all linemen and we were welcomed and given a short talk by the O.C. Line Troop; he told us he was splitting us up in pairs and sending us out with different detachments all over Aden and that he would arrange a tour of the installations at Little Aden later in the week.



Corporal Taylor (*left*): and Lance-Corporal Peakman on the job in Aden

Cigarettes and whiskey and . . .

We were given the rest of the day off to get our kit up to scratch and have it altered by the Arab tailor in the camp.

Work finishes every day at 13.00 hours and we were given a 12-seater Mini Bus with driver from 14.00 hours to go to the beach or to do some shopping; this we found extremely useful as the driver knew the best beaches and also the best shopping centres. (Cigarettes were 9d. for 20 and whiskey 13s. a bottle, so no grouses).

Although it was the cool season the temperature when we went to Little Aden was 110 degrees on the beach. We did no sun bathing but we went rock climbing and after an hour we were like lobsters and more than a little sore.

The two of us from Coventry were put on a job first week in camp with four regulars who were jointing a 244 pair U.G. cable and although we have never done this type of work we found it very interesting; the actual digging and filling of trenches was done by Arab labour.

The food in camp was the best we have known in variety and presentation. We both gained a few extra pounds in weight even in that climate.

The Bandas were air conditioned, with six to eight beds in each, and a supply of iced water and lime juice were always on tap.

A washerman and two Arabs came in every day to make the beds, clean up and polish our boots and kit and of course our khaki drill was washed, starched and ironed every day for which we paid 10s a week.

A large Automatic-Telephone Exchange is being installed at Waterloo Barracks by the 15th Regiment and some civilian technicians and we had an interesting hour being shown around.

We played the Line Troop Regulars football on their bullet-hard ground and with the aid of three of their own men managed to beat them 4—3; there were many bruises and grazes next day.

So ended an enjoyable two weeks

The two weeks flew by and after a 6-hour delay on Friday, 26th February, because of a cracked window, we took off at 21.00 hours for our return trip taking the same route back with everyone looking brown and fit. Landing at Lynham at 15.00 hours on the 27th we had to pass through the Customs. Cameras and watches were very cheap in Aden so quite a few notes changed hands before the 100 of us were cleared and three coaches took us to our nearest station. So ended a very enjoyable two weeks in which we learnt a lot and saw a lot and hope to do something similar next year."

8th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Driver Training Organisation Off to Good Start

Many readers will not know perhaps that on 1st February responsibility for all Driver Training passed to this Regiment from 24th Regiment. This has meant the raising of a third Training Squadron, which now embraces the training of Drivers, Electrician Drivers, Linemen and Cable Jointers, under the able command of Major W. J. (H. and C.) Perry. (H. and C. is not hot and cold, but Hockey and Cricket—or Highland Country Dancing if you prefer!).

Major T. I. McL. Robinson has joined us from 11th Regiment to take over No. 1 Squadron. The Driver Training organisation has got off to a good start and have shown already what a well conducted asset they are to the Unit. We bid them welcome and hope they will be happy with us. Perhaps one source of contentment for them with their being excused from our normal monthly exercise—"Geordie Jimmy II"—about which we now produce a report by one of us who "was there."

EXERCISE "GEORDIE JIMMY II"

For those past members of the Regiment who have exercised with us before, for those future members of the Regiment who have heard dubious tales of nights spent on the moors under a combination of snow, wind and rain, and for others whose memory of Catterick is of never ending trade training interspersed with drill parades, we bring this slightly more than factual account of part of Civil Defence Exercise "Geordie Jimmy II." Firstly, a little background . . .

For exercise purposes the Regiment was divided into three groups, each of two Companies each comprising six Platoons. Every fit member of the Regiment was included, and a lack of Officers and Warrant Officers within the Regiment to provide sufficient Platoon Officers more than adequately filled by No. 57 "Q" Course from the School of Signals. The first four Companies were to travel to Morpeth for training and practice in the Rescue, First Aid and Welfare roles of the Civil Defence, and "E" and "F" Companies to Newcastle and Blyth for training and practice with the Fire Service. The remainder of this account deals almost exclusively with the fortunes of "F" Company.

Alarm Clocks set for half-past three

Having prepared ourselves with the necessary parades and briefings on Friday evening we settled down prepared for an unaccustomed very early start to the Saturday; most of us with three alarm clocks!

The alarm clocks, which gave us a certain measure of confidence the evening before, hurled us violently out of bed at half past three on Saturday morning. However, by half past four most of us had collected our shattered wits for a Muster Parade on Baghdad Square. It speaks well for the organisation that at half past four in the morning in pitch darkness all was found to be correct and the Company as a whole repaired—a word I use advisedly—to the cookhouse for breakfast.

Out again with our kit at half past five, we awaited the arrival of three coaches. On their arrival we loaded kit, embussed and were on the road by six, and asleep by five past! Here possibly it should be admitted that "F" Company were lucky; all other Companies travelled in three-tonners.

"E" and "F" Companies arrived in Fenham Barracks, Newcastle, at half past eight, "F" Company still asleep. There we debussed, moved our kit into overnight accommodation and presented ourselves in front of a very impressive array of fire fighting equipment lined up on both sides of the square.

After a brief introductory speech from the Chief of the Northumberland Fire Service the Companies moved to opposite sides of the square, one Platoon to each of six types of equipment laid out for our benefit. The equipment varied from the high speed layers of six inch hose from the back of a vehicle and inflatable rafts fitted with pumping engines called Bikinis, to Auxiliary Fire Service fire engines.

The Water Spectacle was really something . . .

Throughout the remainder of the day we moved in rotation until all of us had experience of each of the equipments, and time came for the equipment to be packed and made ready to move off to Blyth Harbour on Sunday morning. This involved employing the collapsible water tanks called Dams (I don't know why unless people keep falling into them), and it was decided to do this by means of a 'Water Spectacle' whereby hoses were shortened and placed, with the men controlling the nozzles, pointed inwards, around the outside of a large circle, the idea being that the water jets should be directed together into the air so that the water would fall within the circle.

May I pause here so that everyone has 'got the picture.' A large circle with twelve manned hoses spaced around the edge and facing each other across it, backed up by roaring fire pumps and eager hands ready to turn the pressure on.

Nozzles were already beginning to droop and sights to be aligned when the order to start was given; we were treated to a water spectacle that moved swiftly out of the vertical into the horizontal—never had the water repellant properties of the combat suit been better tested!

Mopping up operations completed the day's training, and we were joined by the remainder of the Regiment from Morpeth, who dispersed to their accommodation and tea. After 18.00 hours exercise conditions were relaxed and we were all free to change into civilian clothes and go 'on the town' if we wished.

For those Officers and Sergeants who remained a combined Mess had been set up, and the evening was quietly enjoyed by all including the inevitable card schools and a very 'high powered' bridge four which included senior representatives of the Administration, Operating and Technical sections of the Regiment; a very keenly contested game.

The second phase of the exercise on Sunday was the putting into practice of the lessons learnt on Saturday, and after a short Church Service the Companies left Fenham Barracks for their respective exercise areas.

"F" Company reached Blyth Harbour and set to work according to a pre-arranged plan by the Company Commander, Captain (T.O.T.) D. A. Martin, and soon all equipment was correctly in use with a minimum of supervision from the attendant firemen, including trips around the harbour by powered raft. The project successfully completed equipment was shut down, dismantled and packed away. **Strangely enough, no one suggested a Water Spectacle!**

There was a small moment of panic when an incoming coaster was sighted, but a quick look and short discussion confirmed that the lowered water level was due to the tide and not our efforts!

As Technicians they make Very Good Firemen!

Finally lunch was served at Blyth and in a few final words the Deputy Chief Fireman said how pleased they all were with the weekend and expressed his admiration at the way the equipment had been mastered after so little training. The Force Commander, Major A. W. McL. McKinnon, then thanked the firemen for their assistance and patience throughout the weekend, which they had given up voluntarily for our benefit.

Then back in the coaches to sleep and Catterick Camp.

As an aftermath of the exercise the current Regimental 'O.K. phrase' is 'appliance,' and we are still not quite sure what to make of the remark—**'As technicians they make very good firemen!"**

10th Regiment, Hounslow

R.H.Q.

Our efforts in assisting the Training Brigade are over. Major Norman Robinson and Staff Sergeant Mortlock have completed the 18-week Comcen Operators' Course. They obtained all the necessary equipment, organised the lecture rooms, prepared the training programme and supervised the instructors from within the Regiment. To show that our standards were right we requested a Trade Testing Team representative from Catterick. Our students were well up to standard and we congratulate Signalman Pritchard on achieving the best all-round performance and results on the course; good luck in his posting to 7th Regiment.

Triumph in District Football Knock-out Competition

The Unit Notes for January forecast the final of the London District (Minor Units) Knockout Competition. The day arrived and our opponents were H.Q. Eastern Command. As both Units share Messing, NAAFI, etc., and knew each other well, the pairing promised an interesting and exciting final.

From the kick-off the Regiment attacked and were soon one goal in the lead.

Pressure continued but H.Q. defence held out well, and their efforts to clear, always directed towards attack, enabled them, after about twenty minutes, to draw level. Another break through gave them a 2—1 lead, and stimulated excitement as the efforts of both teams to play good constructive football could well produce goals for either side. The see-saw continued with the Regiment equalising and H.Q. going into the lead at 3—2 at half-time. The second half opened with the same promise, and eventually the Regiment's defence conceded another goal, 4—2 down, and not much time left. It seemed that the Regiment had tried and failed but both sides refused to permit the game to deteriorate into 'kick-out' negative football and both still fought for goals. A rally gave the Regiment a goal and the stimulus for an all-out effort to level at the whistle to 4—4. After such a tremendous game it would seem that extra-time must be an anti-climax especially when H.Q. established a formidable lead at 6—4 with twenty minutes of extra time to go, but tenacity paid dividends and a penalty for hands brought 6—5, then to 6—6. The crucial goal could have well gone to either side but the Regiment made it 7—6 and finally 8—6, bringing to an end one of the most exciting and well-played finals that one could wish to see.

Both sides under cup final pressure played clean, constructive football and produced a game of very high sportsmanship and effort.



A SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL TEAM

Back row: Signalman Stuart (*reserve*), Signalman Gibney (*trainer*), Signalman Goodall, Lance-Corporal Helsby, Sergeant Hayden (*manager*), Corporal Hutchinson, Lance-Corporal Patterson, Signalman Lawrence, Signalman Heslop, Signalman Probert. *Front Row:* Signalman Knight, Lance-Corporal Anglesea, Captain Farmery (*footbal Officer*), Corporal Hardman (*captain*), Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis (C.O.), Corporal Whawell

Regimental Social Evening

It is with some trepidation in England that one attempts to arrange an evening's entertainment for the Regiment. Competing with the fireside TV, the inevitable baby sitting problems for families, Bingo halls and local pubs is difficult enough and with hirings spread between Wembley and Surbiton it only aggravates the attendance problem.

However, the enthusiasm with which the Regiment set about preparing for the evening and the pleasant surprise of the amount of support given by the families and all ranks was very encouraging.

The evening opened with a series of tombola games with lucrative payouts, followed by an excellent buffet, during which a first class cabaret was performed, the star turn being Lance-Corporal Coltman with his breath-taking broken glass face-washing and bare-footed glass crushing act; this he followed with fire eating and finally a yogi-like turn of sticking hat pins through his cheeks. Lance-Corporal Coltman's sister, known as Simba, appears on the TV show "Stars and Garters," and it is hoped that we will be able to persuade her to come to our next all-star show. Mrs. Joan Cheetham very kindly sang to us, having first taped her own accompaniment as she had no pianist, and Corporal Cheetham mimed to "Jerry Colona." We hope to find more talent at our next get together.

The evening ended with dancing to taped music, but we hope that at the next Regimental evening our own "Beat Group" will perform.

11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP



Group Captain J. T. O'Sullivan, O.B.E., Commandant R.A.F. Regiment Depot, Catterick taking the pass off parade at Catterick

Except for the usual intake and pass off of recruits and the ebb and flow of transitees to and from the warmer climates of overseas postings, this month, for the Regiment, has been exceptionally quiet. In this respect even the normally bitter weather was absent, and one was lulled into the feeling of false security that Spring was just around the corner. This feeling, however, was dashed on the last day of the month when blizzards enveloped the hardy souls in occupation of Helles and Bourlon Barracks. For the second time in the space of a month we were visited by the 81st Regiment (A.E.R.) for a weekend training period during which Major I. B. C. Jones, representing the Bath and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association, consolidated the planting of the tree (a "pink shidara sakura" to the gardening connoisseur) which they very kindly presented to us last summer to improve the landscaping of the new Barracks.

Best Recruits



Signalman W. Bowden



Signalman R. R. Brown

Passing off as the Best Recruit on 12th February was Signalman William Bowden.

His home is at Southport, and he enlisted at Liverpool on the 3rd December in order to make a career of the Army.

He attended Meaols Cop Secondary School in Southport and played most sports.

His ambition is to see as much of the world as he possibly can.

We wish him well as he goes for training as Com. Cen. Operator.

Passing off as Best Recruit on Friday, 26th February, was Signalman Ralph Rayment Brown. He enlisted in his home town of Derby on the 21st December, 1964, because he likes to travel, he wants security and to obtain a good trade.

He attended the Hurbert Strutt Grammar School, Belper. He was a member of the School R.A.F. Cadet Force for almost four years reaching the rank of Sergeant. He likes all sport but is particularly interested in throwing the javelin.

His most admirable ambition is to be a Warrant Officer Class One.

He now leaves us to learn a trade of Signals Technician in which capacity we wish him well.

Visit by Group Captain J. T. O'Sullivan, O.B.E., Commandant R.A.F. Regiment Depot Catterick

On Friday, 26th February, the Regiment was visited by Group Captain J. T. O'Sullivan, O.B.E., who is Commandant of the R.A.F. Regiment Depot at Catterick. He took the Pass Off Parade and appeared quite impressed with the standard of training our recruits reach in so short a time. During the parade he presented Sergeant D. R. Daniels with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Rugby

The Regiment has enjoyed its most successful period this season during February.

We started off by travelling to Edinburgh to play The Cameronians and see the Scotland v. Wales match. The match against The Cameronians was a hard clean game and for the first time this season we found a goal kicker in the form of Corporal Harris who converted a try and penalty award. The Regiment won 8 points to nil. We then received a severe beating by a very strong R.A.F. Topcliffe team which included R.A.F. players. The Regiment lost 35—3. Once again Corporal Harris was our goal kicker. Our next match was against 24th Regiment which we won 11 points to three. Scorers: Corporal Harris (penalty), Captain Lawrence (2 tries), Sergeants Atkins (goal).

The team is now playing better than at any other time this season with the three-quarters running reasonably straight and the pack which has settled down well winning a fair percentage of the ball.

Sergeants' Mess Notes

The month of February has been rather quiet in the Mess. A very enjoyable games evening was held on the 25th February against No. 6 Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course, the results of which are still in doubt. Whispers had been heard, that the course had been practising for the "boat race" but it was to no avail. The stamina of the Mess team, driven on (who said whipped) by R.S.M. S. J. R. Dunlop was once again proved, and our record of not being beaten in this event remains intact. (Future Courses please note). In the winter games league, the darts team, ably led by Sergeant Ron Clarence, are poised on the brink of winning the trophy for the first time. In the final match of the season Staff Sergeant Ted Morrill made a round trip of 130 miles to 'hurl his arrows' against the enemy (School of Signals). The result, he lost by two legs to one and his 1,771 bounced. Such is the price of fame. However, the Mess triumphed by four matches to three.

Congratulations to Sergeants Atkins, Horton and Brackston on their recent promotions.

Finally we welcome 55 R.S.M.s of the Corps who are attending the annual R.S.M.s Convention. We hope your short stay in the Mess is a happy one.

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . to be read by the Corps

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21st REGIMENT CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Winners: Rhine Area and BOAR Minor Units Championships. *Back Row:* Staff-Sergeant Martin, Corporal Howard, Signalman Fry, Signalman Oyedepo, Lance-Corporal Smith, Signalman Richardson. *Front Row:* Lance-Corporal Goggin, Major Walker, Lance-Corporal Stephenson. *Not Present:* Corporal Harrison, Lance-Corporal Dickinson, Signalman MawHinney

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

A Goal is Reached

Although we have missed being knee deep in snow so far this year—apart from these lucky people who have been wearing out skis at Silberhutte, the season of stores checks and inspections is upon us once more.

The cross country team has gone from strength to strength. After winning the Rhine Area Minor Units Championship and providing most of the R.A.F. Laarbruch team in league fixtures, the day of the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Championship found us holding the cup we have always just missed in the past. We have been runners-up in the B.A.O.R. Championships for two successive seasons, and it is to the credit of the team, particularly Staff Sergeant Martin and Lance-Corporal Smith who have been members of the team in all three championships, that at last their goal has been reached—Well done.

The B.A.O.R. Championship was not without its trials and tribulations. Only nine runners were on the starting block when the gun went, Signalman Fry was working on Z time and was nowhere to be seen. Some minutes later he was spotted by Major Mike Walker, the team captain, who flashed across the Square, dekitted him of his track suit and sent him on his way a full three minutes behind the rest of the field, saying, "Unless you can pass 50 runners, don't come back, just keep running." He did, bless his heart—Well done, Fry!

2 Squadron

The Silberhutte Saga continues, but enough of that. In the Inter-Troop soccer final, "D" Troop were trounced by "L" Troop in revenge for their hockey defeat, but were uplifted by Major Terry Canham who has been known to command "L" Troop, congratulating them on a hard, clean game of soccer.

After doing exceptionally well on an Outward Bound Course in Norway, Sergeant Richardson has gained a new accolade by persuading all eighteen of his trainee linemen to pass their trade test. These chaps never had a course number, but were known as "School Bulge" and lately as "Richardson's Fleet of Foot."

Football

The Regimental XI still have mixed fortunes. In the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Cup, after surprisingly beating 13th Regiment 2—1 in the quarter finals, we were well and truly walloped 5—1 by 1st Regiment on a mud-patch of a pitch at Verden. Although the score was 1—1 mid-way through the second half, 1st Regiment always looked the more dangerous and three goals in 10 minutes sealed the issue. Signalman Lynch got our only goal. Signalman Rowlands has captained the team well; he never gives up and perhaps if some of the other players performed with the same grit and determination we might do better. Signalman McCready has three times been selected to represent Rhine Area at wing-half and is to tour Holland with them over Whitsun. A gifted ball player he should become a well-known name in Corps soccer.

Now that Spring is here can Summer be far behind?

An experience of Family Camping

(By W.O.II D. W. Gunstone, 7th Regiment)

PERHAPS this is the time to write about how many soldiers in B.O.A.R. spend their holidays, and how my family, by accident rather than by design, became campers.

Early last year, my holiday plans fell through and while discussing my ill-luck with a neighbour he suggested we go camping. In fact he practically forced us to go camping!

"I have a brand new tent," he said. "We can't use it this year so take it and enjoy yourselves."

Three weeks later the great day dawned, warm and bright so we loaded up the car. I reckon that no 1-ton G.S. has ever had the load that our little 997cc. engine had to cope with. Every space was crammed tight, and the load on the roof rack looked as big as the car itself. I took the precaution of having one of the children on permanent rear window lookout to shout if we dropped anything.

The Jacket was Hanging in the Wardrobe, but . . .

At Paderborne, some 35 miles from home, my wife asked me where my jacket was. Well, I knew where it was—still hanging in the wardrobe at home. Luckily I had put all of the cash and necessary documents in the hip pocket of my trousers, so as the weather looked good we pressed on.

At three o'clock that afternoon we ran into a fierce storm — thunder, lightning, falling trees and pitch darkness. We were all scared to death, and were worried about how wet our kit on the roof rack was getting. Luck was with us, for on arriving at Marborg, we found a reasonably dry patch of ground, and discovered that the rain hadn't penetrated.

It is quite an experience trying to put up a frame tent for the first time with a dozen or so experienced campers intently watching your progress. We made it though even if the tent pegs did appear to be hinged in the middle. I'm sure the space we occupied was clear because of the rock under the surface. After a late meal we had decided to stay longer than just overnight. The thought of taking the tent down and re-loading the car next day was just too much. We spent a couple of days exploring the town and found it very interesting although being built on the side of a very steep hill, made walking hard work.

The next leg was through Frankfurt to Heidelberg where we planned to base ourselves at Hirschhorn on the River Neckar. Here was a beautiful camping ground in a long, wooded valley and with plenty of site amenities. The other campers were very friendly, they even helped us put up our tent, and gave us a few tips. By now we could recognise the experienced camper, his tent would be bleached by the sun. We spent some interesting days in the surrounding beauty spots. In Heidelberg we visited the castle when the annual Floral Display was at its best. We even found a secluded natural swimming pool which gave pleasant relief from the extremely high temperature.

The Rhine Valley and a Floodlit Castle makes it all worthwhile

Leaving Hirschhorn we drove north through Dromstadt and joined the north bank of the Rhine at Mainz, and for the first time saw something of the famed Rhine Valley, the forest covered hills, vinyards and old castles were really worth seeing. We eventually stopped a few miles past the Lorelei Rock at a small village called St. Goarshausen. We found this to be the most interesting site of all. Our tent was pitched on the river bank only fifteen yards from the water, and we had an uninterrupted view up and down stream. It was very pleasant sitting in the tent porch during the evenings, watching the varied river traffic and listening to the music being played on the pleasure boats as they passed with their loads of holiday-makers. At night a castle high on the hills overlooking the river opposite to us was floodlit and its reflection on the water was quite a sight. We made a point of visiting and looking around Koblenz a few miles away and again found the road alongside the river a very pleasant route.

After a few days the weather began to change and got a lot cooler. We finally decided to return home when a high wind tried to turn the tent inside out. We re-packed the car, headed for the Autobahn at Bonn and made good time back to Herford.

Looking back we agree that experienced or not, it was worth it, and we are going to try again. The essentials are a lot of planning beforehand and a strong sense of humour—to be able to laugh with other people at your own mistakes. As a holiday it's dirt cheap, with site fees about 7s. 6d. all in per day. Those who say that camping holidays are Regimental exercises without shift work couldn't be further from the truth. Summer is coming, why not see for yourself?

Boeing to British Guiana

by Sergeant D. Moat

"DID I tell you how I was deported from New York last year? You see I was returning from British Guiana and not having a passport . . ." My thoughts were far away as Sergeant Drugan and others gripped me about the forthcoming trip to British Guiana with the Devon and Dorset Regiment. An unusual posting to be sure but apparently old stamping ground for many members of 640 Troop. No time to worry now, just a last minute dash to get ready in time.

How the Modern Soldier Travels

Wednesday, the 29th July, 1964, found Lance-Corporal A. Brewin and myself boarding a Boeing 707 at London Airport with some fifteen other Royal Signals personnel. The route out took us via New York, Antigua, Barbados and Trinidad; the stops all being short except for Trinidad where we stopped overnight in the luxury of the Bel Air Hotel. At last we touched down at Atkinson's Field, the only airport in British Guiana, and stepped out for our first look at South America.

Solid grip from the Old Man

At the airport reception we were met by armed members of 607 Troop and judging by the weapons carried it looked like being an exciting stay. As it turned out we had no cause for worry; the carrying of weapons is the usual practice, purely as a precaution. A 28-mile trip by road found us in Georgetown moving into billets. Some in Marriners, the home of the Garrison Battalion, but others in a private house rented by the Army.

The first three days found us learning new jobs; this we suffered to the accompaniment of a solid grip from the two 640 Troop old hands, Signalman Bayliss and the late Corporal Griffiths. It was hard for the lads as they were not long out of training, but they quickly found their feet.

Our jobs included the local S.D.S. and Atkinson's S.D.S.; a 56-mile return trip twice daily with collecting points en route; and the collecting and delivering of the Governor's messages. The latter involved quite some work before the elections. We also manned the Signal Centre and Force Control. I took charge of the M.I.C. link and Force Control.

After the third smash in his Land Rover, it was decided to make the Padre a passenger and give him a driver. This duty fell upon Signalman Bell but unfortunately his luck ran out as well. He lasted two months until one day whilst he was driving a tree jumped out in front of his path. The Padre sustained two black eyes and the driver returned to the Troop.

Electrical wiring and even gold prospecting

Once everyone had settled down in their jobs, the Officer Commanding, Captain Templeman-Evans, gave me the task of giving the lads something different to do to make the most of our six months stay. Adventure training, river trips, hunting; it was only too easy but then I came up against a problem. Although everyone wanted to go places they were rather reluctant to pay and so the answer was a type of working holiday.

A training camp at Takama needed wiring for lighting purposes, and four soldiers set out under Sergeant Marlaborne. They travelled on the only railway in British Guiana from Georgetown to the River Berbese, and finished their journey to Takama by boat. This job lasted for three weeks, and the personnel were changed half way through. Needless to say it was well done, but no generator was ever found to provide power.

Another interesting trip was up country in a local diamond trader's 'plane, to a spot 150 miles upstream of the Kaieteur Falls. It lasted a week and only three were allowed to go, but we did manage to make a further trip later. On their return, the temporary prospectors agreed that it was an adventure they were unlikely to experience again. They had walked miles through the jungle with the portknockers (native prospectors), lived on native foods and, although they had not found any diamonds, the three of them had found enough gold to make a wedding ring for one of their future wives.

The only blow to morale was that nothing could be laid on for the seniors. They had to be content with the stories told by the adventurers on their return.

And so we say goodbye

Christmas and New Year came, and with it the building of a new bar under the house. Many an "Auld Lang Syne" was sung in the new facility.

Three days before our return flight we handed over jobs to our reliefs. On 22nd January we were homeward bound with they "Tatey Ogey Boys" (Devon and Dorset's). Our route this time? Via Bermuda and Northern Ireland, on to London Airport.

Nigeria Army Signals

W.O.II (F. of S.) M. R. Davies writes:



General Sir Gerald Lathbury, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., The Quarter Master General making the presentation of a silver 'Jimmy' statuette to Major A. O. Eze, the Chief Signal Officer, Nigerian Army Signals

At an impressive ceremonial parade, held on Saturday, 23rd January, 1965, at Arakan Barracks, Apapa, and attended by the Hon. Minister of State for the Army, The British High Commissioner, Heads of Services and many distinguished guests; General Sir Gerald Lathbury, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., the Q.M.G. presented, on behalf of all ranks of the Corps, a silver statuette of "Jimmy" to mark the close association of the Corps and the Nigerian Army Signals since 1946. Major A. O. Eze, the Chief Signal Officer, Nigerian Army accepted the gift on behalf of all ranks of the Nigerian Army Signals. It is indeed a sign of proud association that the Nigerian Army Signals have adopted the blue lanyard and the Royal Signals "Stable" belt as part of their dress.

The Squadron is now commanded by Captain M. R. Muhammed. Since our last notes to THE WIRE, we have said goodbye to Majors J. R. E. Cross and D. J. D. McKail, W.O.II Charles Dossor (who has very kindly assisted many of our students in Catterick), Staff Sergeant Jim Briggs, Staff Sergeant Steve Bresslof and Sergeant Mac Woodcock. Sergeant Mike Taylor left us just before Christmas and we wish him luck on his Foreman of Signals course in July. I shall have the honour of being the last member of the Corps to serve in Nigeria. When I depart on 1st April, complete Nigerianisation of the Army will be completed.

I am sure that all members of the Corps who have served in Nigeria will join me in wishing the Nigerian Army Signals "good Signalling" in the years to come.

Students of the Nigerian Army Signals will still be attending courses in the U.K., so that news of Nigeria will be available in most of the training centres for some time to come.

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WHY NOT DO SO NOW

Amateur Radio Teleprinter at G3LPC Bampton

A Teleprinter is Scrounged

HAVING contacted 104 countries during 1964, it was decided that for 1965 we would turn our hand to something a bit different. Anyone can pick up a microphone and talk, and as we are generally short of wind, we decided to make an all-out effort for RTTY. There was, however, one major snag which, since the beginning of 1964, had not yet been overcome. A TELEPRINTER. We had promises from several people. Even on the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society meeting this point was brought up, and a number of suggestions were made, but by late November there was still no printer.

The writer (G3LQC W.O.I Evans), getting just a shade despondent about all this, decided to employ one of his lost arts of high power scrounging. Having never been beaten at this art, there were great hopes when a certain *gentleman* of a certain organisation approached, bag in hand, to check the Squadron printers. He was approached in a jovial manner and such words as "Cup of coffee, old chap?" "Cigarette perhaps," "How's life?" that the poor fellow, thinking he had suddenly been promoted or something, smiled and said, "What are you after?" — "Oh, nothing, old chap; just wondered though, since you asked — you couldn't fix us up with an old printer, could you?" Loud guffaws, man rolls on floor laughing.

Well, to cut a long story short, eventually he did. However, drunk with success, another source was tapped. An American *gentleman* with a WO call sign was tackled about a certain supply of teleprinter equipment available in this country. This information I had gleaned casually talking to odd people. "Yes," he might be able to oblige. Sure enough, one night there was a knock at the front door and the deal was settled, real "Plane Makers" style. I would get a complete set-up of teletype and auto-head going, out of this car load of "junk," the G3LPC could have the rest, to sort out a set-up for the Station Club. The surplus would have to be returned. So now we are fully operational on the teleprinter/teletype side with a tape puller. However, when we let our American friend take his gear away we will not have a perf, so equipment at Boddington had better be checked regularly from now on.

Our "Shift" was Rough

Now we were ready to start and a simple reactance keyer was installed in the VFO (variable frequency oscillator), the master oscillator of the transmitter. This seemed to function O.K., "a bit of drift, but that does not matter," and with reference to the ARRL Handbook set mark low and shift at 850 c.p.s. speed between 45 and 50 bauds to cope with American and British standard speeds. On 30th November at 16.00 hours GMT we put out our first call to K8YEK in Troy Michigan, tuned up our Marconi HR 14 CFS receiver and stood by. To our surprise he returned, but reported difficulty in holding our signal steady and our shift was rough. Well, the unsteady signal could be accounted for, but the rough shift was another problem. This was eventually found to be RF and AC pick-up in the keying lines. K8YEK's remarks were "I expect you feel like a hole in one ball," and we did.

Jubilant with success, the copy of our first contact (which honestly now looked like a load of Chinese scramble) was rushed to all departments. "Very good," "Yes, excellent." Thinks "Humour him and he'll go away." So the rough note was cleaned up, but then our American friends started in "You're drifting," "Your keying is reversed," "Please go mark high," so a relay and volts were installed and our keying reversed to mark high—everyone now seems happy on that one. We were still left with the drift and when finally IIAHN Lucca Italy commented, "You are drifting so much and in all directions it is impossible," we decided we would tackle this problem right away. However, it did not have to come to this because on Saturday, 12th December, the master oscillator just did not "oscil" any more. The feed back capacitors were changed and a new 6AV6 fitted, and that was it. As stable as a rock. Now, if drift is reported, we smile and just think "It's that bloke's receiver." But this has only happened once since the fatal Saturday.



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The Score Stands High

The Corp Signals Radio Club VE3SIG have picked us up regularly with good print and hope to contact us soon. And apart from that, in just over a month the score stands at 14 United States, Italy, Libya and Canada. A report via K3GIF stated that we were being printed well in South Africa, but they could not raise us.

The 14 States so far are: Arizona, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Philadelphia, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin; and up to 6th January 50 RTTY contacts, most of good, solid 5's copy.

We realise that service-wise we are about 20 years behind and CFS has been and gone, but when we consider there are only something like 200 RTTY "hams" in this country, and most overseas contacts report not working England before, we feel quite pleased with ourselves at G3LPC.

200 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 41

Champion Cooks

Pride of place this month must go to Sergeant G. E. Howard, A.C.C., Lance-Corporal R. L. Duff, A.C.C., and Lance-Corporal P. J. Walker, A.C.C., the champion team in the 4 Division Cookery Competition, a preliminary to the Army Championship. On Tuesday, 16th February, the four leading teams in the Division met in the 4th Divisional Engineers Cookhouse to decide who was best. 4 Divisional Engineers' team were the reigning champions of the Army and two members of last year's team were still competing. Right from the start it was apparent that this was going to be a close fight with a very high overall standard. Those of us watching were pleased with the way our team was performing and it was obvious we were not going to be disgraced. However, when the result was announced and we were pronounced the winners by one point from 4 Divisional Engineers, the celebration was on. We are now eagerly awaiting the results of the other Divisional competitions to see who qualifies for the B.A.O.R. finals in April. Our photograph show the prizes being presented.

Farewell and Welcome

This month we say farewell to Captain J. Hayward, R.A.C., our Administrative Officer, and W.O.II (F. of S.) G. Moore. Captain Hayward is off to rejoin his Regiment in Tidworth and we wish him and his family well. His problems have been many and varied in the cause of integration and we feel sure that the thought of life in Tidworth must have been something of a comfort to him in the midst of his struggles to balance the Imprest Account, keep Traffic Accidents straight and the M.T. on the road, whilst answering queries and trying to keep us all happy. He is replaced by Captain C. H. Reynolds, Q.R.I.H., whom we welcome and hope that his stay and that of his family will be a happy one. Despite the difference in initials, names and Regiments, they have one thing in common —both are known as Jack. "We hope you're both all right!"

Foreman Moore is off to Aden with his family. He is one of our "old hands" who has given the Squadron excellent service and we shall miss him and also having his daughter Christine hand over our papers and keeping our accounts straight in the Red Shield Club Bookshop. Mrs. Moore's services in the Wives' Club will also be sadly missed. We can only wish them well in their new posting in Aden and hope we shall see them again some day. We welcome in their place Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Allen and family. We hope their tour with us will be as happy and successful. Another new arrival whom we also welcome is our new M.T.O., Captain D. J. Blunt, R.A.S.C., and his family.

On the social side of affairs we have now instituted a fortnightly bowling session in the J.R.C. Bowling Alley every other Friday. We have now had three of these evenings and all have proved most successful with the prizes being won by different teams each time. We were particularly pleased that the integrated team of Corporal Nicholson, A.C.C., Signalmen Annable and Weston and Trooper Penrose won the first night. The last series was won by Corporal Harwood, Corporal McCaig, Signalman Peters and Signalman Draycott who were crowing about the virtues of being linemen and unbeatable at anything until shown exactly how to bowl by a team of "amateur" officers. No doubt the saga will continue in other spheres during the coming weeks.

As this is written we have 40 all ranks in Norway learning the rudiments of winter warfare. Twenty-four of these chaps return on 11th March to be replaced by an equal number who are at present longing to get away from the cold and snow of Germany to the even colder and more "snowy" Norway. We hope to submit a full report of this venture next month. (*We shall be interested.—Editor.*)



COOKS ELITE

Sergeant Howard, Lance-Corporal Duff and Lance-Corporal Walker receiving the Winning Shield from the G.O.C. 4th Division

We regret to announce that we lost the Divisional Minor Units soccer final by two goals to one. The match was played on an all-weather pitch at Herford on a very windy day. The conditions were not good for soccer but both teams put on a splendid show. We felt somewhat cheated at losing since we scored both of 5 Infantry Workshops goals as well as our own. The second of their goals was scored when one of our defenders cleared a high ball from the left hand corner of the penalty area which was caught by the wind and blown straight back into our goal with Signalman Draycott, the goalkeeper, helpless.

We have been training hard for basketball and hope for some success in the Divisional Minor Units Competition which starts this month. Our first opponents are 225 Squadron. We have played two "friendly" matches with our parent Regiment, 4th Regiment, and won both, so our tails are up.

207 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 30

In early January, a party from the Squadron attended a winter warfare course at Silberhutte. During the first few days the slopes echoed with the cries of "bend the knees" and "sit down!"; and some time was spent pulling individuals out of snowdrifts. However, the instructors were patient, and soon a degree of proficiency was obtained. The hard work was rewarded with a crate of beer for a victory in the four kilometre sledge race, which was won in a very good time. The skiers returned full of enthusiasm, and since then most of the Squadron have tried on skis. Groups have been sent on further Silberhutte courses, and some to the 7th Armoured Brigade Ski Centre at Bad Tolz, in Bavaria. In addition, parties have been going down every week-end to a hotel in Bad Harzburg. We hope that the snow will last well into April.

The cross-country team achieved a major success when they became runners-up in the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Cross-Country Championships at Munster on 10th February. This was the result of a great deal of hard training and determination since before Christmas. Our congratulations go, not only to the team, but to all those who worked so hard organising the training and general administration.

During February we said goodbye to Capt. John Stevens, our Second-in-Command and P.R.I., who left us on promotion for the Signals Research Department in England. Capt. Mike Burridge, from Kenya, replaces him and we hope that he and his wife will enjoy their stay in Soltau. Congratulations to Bill Leckie, our late B.O.W.O. on his commissioning.

After several months of administrative duties, we took part in exercise "Wrap-up," the first exercise of the new season. This was the first time we had practised with the FV 432, and many useful lessons were learnt. The communications worked well, and the exercise provided a breath of fresh air for the men and equipment.

219 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 51

The "Scrum Bar" is a unique institution in Tripoli, being run by Royal Signals for the Area Rugby Officer (who happens to be Major Pritchard, O.C. of the Signal Squadron). It might be termed a hostelry to which tired participants of all sports retire after the match to replay the game verbally, whilst fortifying themselves with the beverage of their choice. I feel that to be an adequate description.

This naturally leads to the report on the Squadron sporting activities. The Rugby team started the season with high hopes, and the gallant few who remained of last year's side. Alas there were too many new and inexperienced faces and to date they have yet to win a league game. The team has now been placed under the direction of Sergeant Andy Jamieson and already the Horizons are less clouded. The first match of the new year was drawn and as the team's spirit is improving with every game it will not be long before they hit the winning trail.

Best season for Soccer Team

The Soccer team on the other hand is having its best season ever. In an effort to improve the standard of football the Area committee decided that Signals and R.A.M.C. should share a team in the League Competition. Under the management of Sergeant Bryan Firth the team now heads the League table and has high hopes of winning the League title, plus the Cup as they are semi-finalists in that competition.

The Badminton teams are both doing well in their league being urged on by Sergeant Peter Neal. Likewise the table tennis team are not doing too badly in spite of Sergeant Firth and Corporal Sayers having underestimated the standard of play in the leagues.

At the moment a "take over bid" is being made by R.Q M.S. Tom Laycock for complete Signals domination of the Tripoli Camp Staff Hockey team, which at present is a conglomeration of Tank Corps, Cavalry, etc.

The greatest surprise has been the revolution of the "kitchen-hands." An emancipation of the Squadron wives has taken place. "Down with the dishes, grab your hockey sticks!" has been the cry.

Well done the Ladies

There has always been an accent on sport in this unit, usually this has been totally a male preserve. Not content with this, the ladies agitated for a basketball team. This evidently lacked the necessary appeal and the attempt proved abortive. Eventually a hockey team was organised and after a couple of painful practices the women folk crossed sticks with the W.R.A.C. team. The game was played with great zest and determination, both teams being urged on by a large and vociferous crowd (mostly male and mostly looking after the children). The W.R.A.C. were the eventual winners by four goals to one. Not disheartened a return match will be played in the near future. With the possibility of other units forming wives' team, Saturday afternoons may well be a write-off for baby-minding. They are even contemplating a netball team!

We have recently said 'Hello" to Signalman Fred Hooton, Corporal Tony Payne, Lance-Corporal Eddie Gill and family,



219 SIGNAL SQUADRON RUGBY TEAM

Back Row (From Left to Right): Sergeant Jamieson, Corporal Silk, Corporal Taylor, Corporal Treasurer, Corporal Andrews, Major Pritchard, Sergeant Hammonds, Sergeant Sutcliffe. *Front Row (From Left to Right):* Sergeant Firth, Lance-Corporal Evans, Lance-Corporal Wiggins, Corporal Troughton, Corporal Payne, Mr. Matthews, Corporal Beresford



LADIES HOCKEY TEAM

Mrs. Hammond, Mrs. Laycock, Mrs. Sayers, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Pritchard, Mrs. Firth, Mrs. Gilhooly, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Jamieson

Lance-Corporal George Wiggins, Lance-Corporal Roger Hill and Lieutenant (Q.M.) and Mrs. Joseph McGlynn. We hope that their stay here in Tripoli will be pleasant and profitable.

All good things come to an end and we said "Farewell and Good Luck" to Corporal David Harvey, Corporal Ron Budd and family, the family or Corporal Gordon Phillips, Lance-Corporal Bill Lawrence and family, and Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) and Mrs. George Lynam who are going to Catterick where he is to be a big wheel in the Training Brigade. Many thanks to all for what you have done for the Unit in Tripoli.

Postscript

The Rugby team have, as forecast, at last found the winning path, and the wives gained a well deserved revenge against the W.R.A.C. in a return match.

222 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

Squadron H.Q. and Technical Troop. We are delighted to say that our Projects Liaison Officer seems more happy in his job these days, in fact, he will soon be able to write off some of the many projects that have accumulated through the installation of the new auto exchange at Khormaksar and the reorganisation at Khormaksar airfield. The reason for his morale booster is the attachment to this Squadron of two line detachments, one from 638 Troop and the other from 261 Squadron for a period of two months to help the Squadron to clear some of the backlog on project work. We certainly appreciate this help and extend a warm welcome to both detachments, trusting they will enjoy their "Cook's Tour" and the change of scenery.

Apart from our normal tasks the Squadron is in the throes of preparation for the Annual Administrative Inspections, the Preliminary A.O.C.'s inspections have been completed and so far we have a good "chit." Additionally a visit by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., as Colonel Commandant, at the end of the month plus DD Tels, Colonel A. J. Leahy, O.B.E., with a high powered Craft/Iris team for a fortnight should ensure that we do not go to seed.

"B" Airfield Troop—Bahrein. The Troop continues to flourish through the Bahrain winter and it was a somewhat awe-inspiring sight seeing the O.C.'s knees after their winter hibernation in slacks. The cool season included its usual rainfall with its attendant tasks of repair to cable down in the floods that ensued.

The waters seem to have driven all before them. The problem is now how to get rid of mice who have taken a liking to PVC cables in control towers.

"K" Airfield Troop—Khormaksar. "A hive of activity"—that's what it is. Thousands of yards of cable being laid plus jointing and new pits appearing like magic. The magician, Major (T.O.T.) Arthur Pritchard, stage assistant Sergeant Phred Askham and stage hands "K" Troop. The impending auto plus increased teletalk is certainly giving us lots to do.

Continued at foot of page 141

"The Wire" visits 224 Squadron

224 Squadron, situated at Garats Hay Camp, Woodhouse, near Loughborough, Leicestershire, has been the temporary home for numerous trainees and upgrading students for a number of years. Pleasantly located in the Leicestershire countryside, and now accommodated in modern barracks, it continues to uphold its reputation as an efficient training organisation and a fine sporting Squadron offering numerous recreational facilities.

This Squadron has long been overmodest in letting the Corps hear about its sterling achievements. "The Wire" now draws aside the veil for a look at the present-day 244 Squadron.

The Past

The unit was formed in Wiltshire in 1940 as an Operator Training Battalion. Between 1940 and 1946 it moved to Douglas, in the Isle of Man; Shenley, in Hertfordshire; and finally, Garats Hay Camp, in Woodhouse, Leicestershire. The trainees who passed through the Squadron while it was at Garats Hay would not now recognise the unit in its splendid new barracks. They were completed with the occupation of the modernised Officers' Mess a few days ago, after a rebuilding programme which has taken ten years.

It is difficult to imagine, in these days of comparative luxury, how trainees lived, trained and were fed in the old Nissen-type camp. Accommodation was so limited that there were two sittings for all meals. The sporting facilities were practically non-existent by present-day standards, and there was no gymnasium. However, through the energy, drive and enthusiasm of the late Q.M.S.I., W.O.II Oliver (A.P.T.C.), materials were gathered from various camps, and with the help of National Service trainees, a Nissen-hut gymnasium was equipped. In spite of all these handicaps, the morale of the Squadron was high.

The 'New-Look' Squadron takes shape

In 1952 the camp started to take on a more permanent look. Officers' and other ranks' quarters were built; prior to this, married personnel lived in Leicester. Four years later, Phase I



SQUADRON TRANSPORT

Lance-Corporal Bowley, Mr. Weston (*Mechanic*), Mr. Hassack

(*Continued on page 142*)

222 Squadron (*continued from page 140*)



WINNERS OF THE ARMY BASKETBALL LEAGUE 1964/65, ADEN

Standing (Left to Right): Sergeant Leech, Corporal Evans, Lance-Corporal Harvey, Lance-Corporal Buller, Sergeant McMullen. *Sitting (Left to Right):* Corporal Hambridge, W.O.II Taylor, Lance-Corporal Evans, Signalman Collins. *Absent on Duty:* Corporal Chillery, Lance-Corporal Harlow, Corporal Cornish

Behind the scenes helping with the strings are O.C. "K" Troop, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Kenny Duffey assisted by Technician Sergeant Anthony McMullen and recently arrived Troop Sergeant Edward Kingman.

"Will we be ready on time?" everybody asks. "We've got to be," is the reply.

Along with increasing commitments there are the normal everyday things to keep us going, such as, who left the hose on and filled up the 104 pair? Who pinched 30 feet of cable 1 B?

Work hard, play hard seems to be the byword. Scarcely a day passes without some of the Troop are involved in sport. Football being predominant now that the basketball season has finished.

Sporting Activities. The Squadron football team are at present second in the League Division II, goals for 59, against 22. It looks as though we may overlap into the swimming and cricket season.

For those regular readers of our notes, you will, no doubt, have made a note of the "Trumpet Blowing" in our last notes. We are delighted to say that it was not all hot air. The basketball team won the Army League Cup without conceding a match—no mean achievement for a Unit of our size. Two of our players—Corporal "Chill" Chillery and Lance-Corporal "El Cid" Evans, have been selected to play basketball for the M.E.L.F. Army Basketball Team, the latter has also been appointed the team captain.

Our success in the Army Knockout Cup was cut short in the second round by a team from the 10th Hussars, who after an excellent game, beat us by three points.

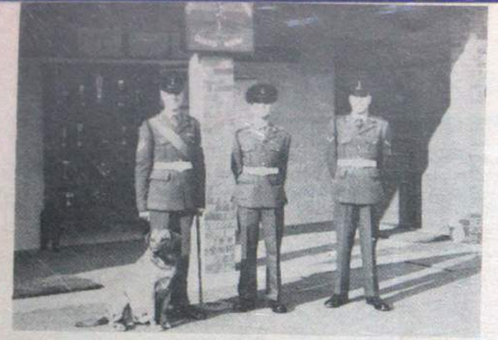
Our last official game of the season was against the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards who were the winners of the Knockout Cup so, unofficially, this was the decider of the Army Championship team. Our team won this match by two points after a very close game—result 42–40.

With the end of the cool season in sight, our thoughts are now turning to our summer sports of cricket and swimming. Much hard work and training will be needed in both fields of sport to attain our successes of last season.

The loss of Captain Peter Foakes, the mainstay of our swimming team, and Captain Jimmy Walmsley and Lance-Corporal Mick Burt, the stalwarts of our cricket team, are going to be hard to replace, but we have no doubt that we shall overcome these handicaps and what we have lost in experience we shall make up by enthusiasm.

At the moment almost everyone seems to be taking over hirings and talking of the happy (?) event. Congratulations to Corporal Andy Neilson and his wife having got over their event with Andrew Charles, and to Lance-Corporal Dave Bardsley and his wife having got over their event with their daughter (they haven't got round to telling us her name at the time of typing out these Notes).

By the time these notes reach print, let's hope we can say don't write—dial ADEN . . . .



Sergeant Bowles and Bravo with the R.P. staff outside the New guardroom

of Garats Hay Barracks building programme started. This consisted of barrack blocks, dining hall/kitchen, boiler house, parade ground and sports field. The programme was completed in May, 1957, and the new camp opened by the General Officer Commanding, North Midland District.

The completion of Phase I gave the men better living accommodation, a first-class kitchen and dining hall and better facilities for sport. It did, however, have its disadvantages, for now, the barracks were split in two. The training and administration in the old camp and the living accommodation nearly a mile away in the new camp. This arrangement existed until Phase II started in February, 1963, which was to complete the remaining buildings. As each new building was completed by the contractors it was handed over. Of these buildings, the new guardroom is Sergeant Bill Bowles' and his dog, "Bravo's" pride and joy. Nobody can tell whose bark or bite is the worst.

The then Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., honoured the Squadron by very kindly consenting to open the new Sergeants' Mess on 30th May, 1964. There remains only the landscaping to be completed, and at present the contractors are busy planting hundreds of trees and shrubs.

Rural Surroundings, but not far from the Bright Lights

The camp is situated in a pleasantly rural part of Leicestershire on the edge of Charnwood Forest. It is not, however, too isolated, as Loughborough, a fair-sized industrial town, is only a few miles away. The bright lights of Leicester and Nottingham are accessible, by a not-too-frequent 'bus service. This is sometimes a problem, as one company has been known to alter its timings and routes at a moment's notice to suit a particular friend of the driver! On occasions the Squadron gets blamed locally for excessively noisy enthusiasm, but the good relationship between the ubiquitous P.C. Hatter, on his new motor cycle, and the Squadron stands the strain. This good liaison with the local police should improve even further now that Corporal Bob Aitken has been released to join the Leicestershire and Rutland Constabulary.

Training runs smoothly in good accommodation

The Squadron is responsible for basic trade training and also runs upgrading and specialist courses each year. The candidates for the basic courses come from Catterick (adult enlistments and re-enlistments), apprentices and Junior Leaders. There are now also a few members of the W.R.A.C., and the first of these have recently passed their trade tests with very good results and are now serving in B.A.O.R

It was perhaps inevitable that some disillusioned trainee returning to Catterick should have started the story that everybody at 224 was completely "bonkers." He must have heard a couple of a senior course at a bus stop talking in morse about the rather attractive walk of a certain girl, when she replied, also in morse, to mind their own dots and dashes, as she was a girl guide, too!

The older members of the trade who did their training at Garats Hay would be astonished at the luxury of the new training area. Gone are the days of leaking Nissen huts, smoking pot-bellied stoves and vintage equipment. The pattern



THE SQUADRON HOCKEY TEAM
WINNERS OF 49 (W.R. & N.M.) DIV/DIST CUP

Back Row (Left to Right): Signalman Keegan, Sergeant Wells, Staff-Sergeant Richardson, Sergeant Geere, W.O.II Orme, Major Clapp, Sergeant Varns. *Seated (Left to Right)*: Signalman Hooper, Signalman Emmerson, Mr. Smith, Corporal Doyle, Sergeant Brandon, Signalman Holmes

of training is constantly changing to produce an operator who can, with a minimum of continuation practice, take his place reliably in the field. With the attainment of an all-Regular Army, it is likely that the Squadron primary task of basic training will change towards more upgrading and specialist courses.

A Fine Sporting Record

The Squadron is justly proud of its fine sporting record and hopes, in spite of its diminishing numbers, to maintain its previous high standards.

The Squadron entered the Lincolnshire Services' Cross-Country League last year, as the only Army team among 10 teams from large R.A.F. stations, and won the league outright. At the moment the team stands in fourth place, just two points behind Cranwell, and is missing last season's long-legged star, Signalman Mike Gue.

The soccer team plays regularly in the Leicestershire and Rutland Thursday League, and has so far only lost two matches all the season. They are well up with the leaders, and local opinion is that they stand a very good chance of winning the league champoinship for the third time. In December, Second-Lieutenant Sam Cowan, who was the soccer team captain, left to go on his "Q" course, after being granted a regular commission. His enthusiasm and Irish brogue are sadly missed.

The hockey team once again is having a good season. It is fortunate in that it draws more players from the permanent staff than from the trainees, and consequently is less disrupted by postings. Among the regular players are Major John Clapp, the C.O., and the S.S.M., W.O.II Orme. This team is due to meet the Yorkshire Brigade Depot in March in the final of the Command Units Competition and has high hopes of carrying off yet another trophy.

Gymnastics, Basketball and Judo thrive

Under the cramped conditions of the old camp, there was not much scope for recreational pursuits, but now better facilities are available, and these are fully used. The new gymnasium is one of the best in the country, and is constantly booked. A small, keen group of basketball players, under the expert direction of Q.M.S.I. Harrison, has been doing very well against the various Loughborough Colleges, and the Wednesday evening fixtures are becoming a regular local sporting occasion. The judo club meets each week under the instruction of a civilian Black Belt. Lance-Corporal Bonner and a few others are to be congratulated on gaining their Yellow Belts. Although a member of the weaker sex, Private Marion King has shown that she can compete with the toughest opponent.

Quite recently a gymnastic club has been formed and has a large following, who are enjoying the trampoline and other new apparatus. This club hopes to stage one or two demonstrations at schools and fêtes to keep the Army in the public eye this summer.

A number of outdoor pursuits are available

With the change from winter to summer activities not too far in the future, Second-Lieutenant Ray Windmill and a number of enthusiasts are busy getting the Squadron's six

canoes back into condition. They will be put to good use on the local rivers and canals once the warmer weather arrives.

The Derbyshire Peak District offers excellent facilities for adventure training, and the week-end camps are becoming very popular amongst the walkers and rock climbers. The walkers, who are mainly ex-Denbury Junior Leaders, are busy training for their 60-mike hike over Dartmoor at Whitsun on the "Ten Tors" expedition, run by the Junior Leaders Regiment.

The Squadron owns a large pond, and the unit fishermen claim to be the jealous guardians of one of the best-stocked waters in the Midlands. The queue of civilians wanting to join the club seems to substantiate this claim, but nobody can be found who will say he has seen anything bigger than a minnow. Perhaps this is just another fishy tale.

A Good Posting

All in all, anybody who is lucky enough to come on a course at the new camp is assured of being given the best possible instruction to become a highly skilled tradesman in the Royal Signals, with plenty of sport and leisure time activities, too.

231 SQUADRON (PARK)
CENTRAL ORDNANCE DEPOT, DONNINGTON

231 Squadron bows out after 14 years

WIRE notes do not appear to be the main interest in the Squadron, so for the few who have not yet heard of us this will almost be the last chance.

Due to the reorganisation of the "Q" Services as recommended by the McLeod Committee, this Squadron will cease to exist as a separate Unit sometime in 1965.

This Squadron was first formed in 1951 and commanded by Major Nash, the military personnel then numbered over a hundred. It has dwindled many times since then and today the military strength is now down to TWO, namely the O.C., Major (Q.M.) A. E. Carter, who is also the Custodian Officer and responsible to the Commandant for the safe custody of all cryptographic equipment held in the C.O.D., and W.O.1 Hawkins, who keeps a watchful eye on the Cipher Troop. The remainder of the Squadron is made up very ably by a civilian staff of thirty. The oldest and longest serving civilian being Mr. Bill Lowe, who joined the Squadron as Chief Clerk in 1955.

Major (Rtd) Arthur Smith, our T.O.T., has kept the S.W.S. Stores Troop ticking over smoothly since he left the Corps in 1958; together with his existing staff they are to be transferred to Central Ordnance Depot establishment on 1st April, 1965, and will be then known as Provision Branch P1-C4. The function of Signal Works Services will be the same as in the past, the only change being in name only.

Nearly 700 tons of stores issued annually

Approximately 250 projects are progressed each year, of these about 100 are completed, this involves the handling, accounting and issue of 600-700 tons of stores and equipments.

The Cipher Troop (the other part of the Squadron) will not be transferred to R.A.O.C., it will remain a Corps responsibility after the Squadron is disbanded. The future name or mother unit of this Troop is still undecided but no doubt someone will adopt us in due course. The function of this Troop, as in the case of the S.W.S. Troop, remains the same, the change being in name only.

An additional task of this Troop is the escorting of equipments which exceeds 20,000 road miles each year.

243 SQUADRON, BULFORD CAMP

Muddled Map Reading

It takes all sorts and, we suppose, all types of weather are included in that, to make a world. Since the beginning of January this year we have been assisting the Training Brigade, with their "population explosion," by training ten recruits as Drivers, Royal Signals. We now understand why there are so many premature grey-haired Driving Instructors at Catterick. On Saturday, 27th February, a driving exercise (Motor Rally type) was organised to take place from 09.00 to 21.00 from Salisbury Plain to Exmoor and back. Crews did their own cooking. If there is someone in the Ministry of Transport who reads THE WIRE may we add our plea to the many others



Recruit-drivers with 243 Squadron break off for a meal

about better sign-posting of roads? The crew of the 3-ton Bedford (no names in case I find myself on pack drill) are now much more familiar with the back streets of a town in Wiltshire. (No sir, I'm sure the signpost points diagonal right and not straight on!). I did say the exercise was due to terminate at 21.00 hours? Well, at 03.00 hours H.Q. was still awaiting the return of the first car. Still, I am sure that the recruits will all now pass their Map Reading exams. It's the Permanent Staff I am more worried about!

Back Comes Winter

The other event worthy of note was the blizzard. Ill winds blowing good, no doubt, because our Chief Clerk had gone to Newquay to do an Indoor Recruiting Display with the A.I.O. Cornwall at a Schoolchildren's Careers Exhibition and then found himself stranded down in Cornwall when Salisbury Plain disappeared under about three feet of snow. He came back with a sun tan and rapturous stories of Cornwall's beaches in March to find igloos dotting the landscape in Bulford. This after an enforced long weekend in Cornwall whilst we were digging our trucks out in order to get down there to bring him back. March having come in like a lion we now look forward to it going out like a lamb but on Salisbury Plain it always seems to be, "Beware the Ides of March." The photograph show the Drivers Royal Signals B III Course No. 1 at Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, having a "brew-up" at the half way mark on the exercise. What was that map reference again, sir?

Our Clerical Officer, Mr. Tom Sandell, retired from the Civil Service on 26th February, 1965. He was 68 years old and had worked for this Squadron since its inception and had many years of service with the War Department. We wish him many happy years of well-earned retirement.

253 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 1

To most of our readers Happy New Year would fix us at somewhere between 31st December and 1st January in any one year. In a Unit such as 253 Squadron you have to be more explicit. We have two New Years. One at the time we all know about and the other in February—the Chinese New Year. Such an arrangement gives us all a jolly good excuse for doing all sorts of things twice—like seeing New Years in, celebrating appropriately, wishing people a Happy New Year and Auld Lang Syne in one case, Kung Hei Fat Choy in the other. Celebrating is the thing.

The cheerful group in the photograph are celebrating the departure of the Year of the Dragon and the arrival of the Year of the Snake, Hong Kong style! (Page 144).

The R.Q.M.S. burns up the Local Golf Course

We know how avidly you all follow the 253 Squadron notes. In your close attention to them you will have been rewarded by all sorts of information describing our successes as well as our lack of them. One of our successes can be counted as 'golf,' with our R.Q.M.S. Young as the High Priest. He reports, very modestly, how he acquitted himself recently.

"Our R.Q.M.S. plays golf. His contribution to the smooth running of the Squadron consists of the occasional issue of a



Celebrating Chinese New Year

few pairs of socks and a pint or two of paint. The other numerous days he is paid his ill-gotten wage by Her Majesty he can be found, suitably disguised, on one or other of the Fanling golf courses. It has yet to be confirmed that the affix (GOLF) after his appointment has been accepted as official."

However, some justification was seen when R.Q.M.S. Young won the annual Commander British Forces Trophy competed for by Colony Army golfers during 21st and 22nd January this year. The cup now at long last bears the Corps' title.

When asked how he felt having won the cup, he answered "A little guilty." Whether this meant his golf didn't deserve the win or he felt his duties as R.Q. had been a little neglected in the winning, he won't say.

We lose him on posting to Germany, but we feel sure his Scot's manner will *not* be so dour that his new Unit won't come to hear of a wish to continue with the game.

We finish, as we always do, with arrivals, departures, births and marriages. In this connection the recent departure of our Kowloon Exchange supervisor has been a sad blow. Mrs. Matthias left us a few days ago She will be remembered by many as the supervisor in Nairobi as well. We have been lucky enough to have her here.

259 SQUADRON (COMCAN), B.F.P.O. 53

C.S.O.'s Champion Squadron

On the occasion of Major Gram-Hansen's farewell from the Squadron, he again accepted, on behalf of us all, the C.S.O.'s Cup and Champion Squadron Pennant for the second year running. It appropriately rounded off his command of the Squadron, as there was no more eager participant, spectator and encourager.

To achieve this honour we had our ups-and-downs, but finally came through, having wholeheartedly thrown ourselves into athletics, basketball, badminton, football, cricket, hockey, shooting, swimming, squash, tennis and rugby. What an exciting competition; what nerves, as we feverishly totted up points ten times over, discovering we were, at times, a fraction ahead of, or behind, the nearest rival Squadron.

Two Royal Air Force trophies also stand in our cabinet, namely the station football and cricket cups and, combined with 261 Squadron, only one point held us back from adding the athletics cup to our display.

Not to be outdone by the male element of the Squadron, our W.R.A.C. girls won the All Island Open Netball Tournament for the second consecutive year.

Last, but by no means least, the charity match of the year was played on Easter Monday, when our military and civilian members did battle. Enjoyed by both players and spectators, amidst much humour and beer, the military lads were eventually declared the winners and proudly carried off the Charity "Pot."

Track Racing Club

Some attention has recently been paid by the national Press to the growing popularity of model car racing, an indoor, year-round sport that holds its own special fascination for its devotees. Clubs in the U.K. build large racing circuits of up to six lanes, often resembling in shape the world famous racing circuits such as Monza, Silverstone, Brands Hatch and Goodwood, modified, as necessary, by the dictates of space and cash available. The cars themselves, usual 1/32nd or 1/30th scale, are propelled by small electric motors which are fed from brushes contacting conducting strips either side of the guiding slot. There are many classes of car, just as in the full size—Vintage, Grand Touring, Formulas 1 and 2, etc., and the manufactured models are close replicas of the originals, thereby adding considerably to the interest of the racing. It is, of course, possible to motorise many of the extremely detailed model kits now available on the market of family saloons and sports cars.

High Degree of skill essential. The addition of steering for the front wheels, the proper combination of power and added weight, are all factors affecting the performance of the individual car, and the keen racer is continually seeking the car that will beat all comers. A good car is capable of speeds in excess of 200 scale m.p.h., but must usually reduce to very much lower rates in order to negotiate the bends, twists and hill climbs of a good racing circuit. As the only control a driver has over the the car is that of the amount of power fed to the track, a considerable degree of skill is essential to keep the car on the road, and, at the same time, make a competitive speed around the circuit. Many a novice driver has commented on how easy it looks, only to find his car leaving its slot at every bend, and occasionally on the straight as well.

The Squadron track is a four-lane, 50ft. circuit, having four hairpin bends, two triple bend "snakes," two chicanes and two crossovers in each lane, and a 1-in-5 hill climb section. Recent visitors from R.A.F., Akrotiri, with experience of U.K. tracks, say that ours is the most difficult course they have come across, with its tight, unbanked bends and general complexity.

One of the Foremost Racing Clubs in the Army? The construction—again by Installation Troop—of a lap-counter capable of registering 50 laps on each of the four lanes, and of an automatic device for starting and stopping timed races, simplifies the job of marshalling races and permits the driver to keep his attention on his car without worrying about how many laps have gone by unnoticed. Increasing or decreasing power some twenty-five times during an eleven-second lap; braking hard to avoid another car on a chicane or crossover; trickling through the slow bends; accelerating around the fast bends; slamming down the straight, covering 20ft. in under 1½ seconds; braking for the hairpin at the end of the straight, then easing away up hill to begin all over again, requires an enormous degree of concentration. By the time a 50-lap race ends, the "driver" feels as though he has been wrestling the real thing around a real road. The only thing missing is the roar of supercharged engines—but we are working on that, too.

Now that financial support is forthcoming, in the shape of grants of cash to purchase the track from the founder members, and to expand the circuit to 100 feet, it seems likely that ours may well be one of the foremost racing clubs in the Army, as it already is in Cyprus.

263 SQUADRON, c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

Work in the Squadron is still as hectic as ever it has been for the last six months; the extra burden being the task of receiving men from England for basic trade training. We like to think that the standard of the intakes that we receive gets higher every course, but the truth of the matter is probably that we ourselves have become more experienced in training B.O.R.s on basic courses. Under normal circumstances the only basic courses undertaken by this Squadron are for locally enlisted personnel, and the guile used by the B.O.R. trainees to miss training for a couple of days is totally different. However, we believe we know most of the answers now, and despite the fact that one of our budding Shakespeares broke into verse and wrote surreptitiously

"The Chief Instructor tried in vain
The basic course has failed again"

the failure rate has been under 5 per cent, which is a reasonable record.

Farewell to a Popular Officer

During February we said our farewell to Captain George Sparshott, our Administrative Officer, who not only left the Squadron but the Service as well, having completed enough service to obtain a pension which will be the envy of many. Captain Sparshott although not Signals (he was in the General Service Corps) is, and I write 'is,' extremely popular with all ranks of the Squadron and he did sterling work whilst serving with the Corps. Prior to his departure he was dined out by the officers and senior B.O.R. ranks of the Squadron and presented with a silver cigarette box duly inscribed, and then a couple of nights later the M.O.R. seniors dined him and his wife and presented him with a gas lighter to go with his cigarette box and the customary "kris."

May we all in this Squadron wish Captain Sparshott and his wife, long life, and happiness in civvie street and repeat Major Harwood's farewell speech, "Thank you, George."

Major Allan is now firmly in control of the Squadron, having recovered from a bad attack of jaundice and just to make sure the settling-in process is not too easy the Squadron has its annual administration inspection on 4th March, 1965.

266 SQUADRON (BORNEO) B.F.P.O. 60

THE WIRE correspondent, R.Q.M.S. R. W. Steadman, writes:

Since the beginning of January, a great deal of effort has been directed to preparing the Squadron for the hand-over from Major C. E. Lewis to Major J. H. Hild.

To Major Lewis and his Second-in-Command, Captain B. A. R. Driskell, who brought 606 Troop over from Brunei to Labuan, formed 266 Squadron, and fostered the excellent spirit which now pervades, we extend our best wishes for the future. We welcome in their places Major Hild and Captain Taylor and hope that their tour will be successful.

It must be a unique occasion that the entire officer content of the Squadron was rotated within a fortnight, and we hope that Captain C. N. Last, replacing Captain B. B. Gallagher, can continue to cope with the problems of radio existing in this earthly paradise. Lieutenant R. D. K. Thompson, who completed valiant work in starting Corps rugby on this island, has limped back to Singapore and is replaced by Lieutenant T. B. Scarff, while Lieutenant (T.O.T.) N. A. V. Ribchester has taken over the problems of Lieutenant (T.O.T.) V. de Witt. We are also blessed with the arrival of a Quartermaster, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. J. Ford, whose artistry in scrounging has already been amply demonstrated.

It is staggering to reflect that in the past year some 600 men have passed through the Squadron, and one can imagine the administrative headaches confronting our hardworked clerks.

During this time of intense activitiy the Squadron has been well represented in the sporting field, and apart from rugby, which is our prerogative, we always have several players in the Divisional hockey, cricket and soccer sides.

To vary our existence here, the S.S.M., W.O.II Gibbs, has struck up an excellent liaison which allows selected persons to go on air drops all over Borneo, which prove very exciting experiences.

Latterly we tried a late night barbecue on the beach, which was very successful; whilst we currently have three intrepid explorers who are spending their leave circumnavigating the island. We anxiously await their return and an account of their exploits.

47th REGIMENT
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

News in Brief.—Receipt of a photo from the Baynes family, depicting the Ceremonial Sword presented in 1801, to our Regiment's founder—Sir Christopher Baynes Bt. Photograph and full report next month.

Our congratulations to Major T. D. Woodgate, T.D., on the occasion of his marriage to Fräulein Eva Fülling at St. Mary's Church, Long Ditton. A Guard of Honour was provided by the Officers.

Our congratulations to Signalman Robinson on his recent marriage and also to Signalman Butterfield on his.

Recruiting continues apace, present strength 370, all ranks. Any Royal Signals personnel leaving the Colours would be assured of a big welcome at our Chelsea Headquarters.

Undaunted by the inclement weather, Headquarters Squadron, under their Squadron Leader, Lieutenant D. Wainman, carried out a most successful Tactical Operation during the course of the month.

48th (S.M.) REGIMENT (T.A.), BIRMINGHAM

Since our last notes much water has passed under the bridge and there has been almost a complete change over of P.S.Is.

We duly said au revoir to W.O.I (R.S.M.) Ward who is now Lieutenant (Q.M.) with the 3rd Regiment., W.O.II Higgs and Sergeant Bradley who both went to the 16th Regiment., W.O.II McGuire now Mr. McGuire and a Civil Servant, and Lance-Corporal Eaton now with A.L.F.C.E. In their places we are very pleased to welcome W.O.I (R.S.M.) P. Chilvers, W.O.II Pugh, W.O.II Jones and Sergeant Hawkes.

All members of the Regiment were very pleased to hear the good news that our Honorary Colonel, Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., has agreed to continue in office for another year.

A Wives' Club has recently been formed and it is hoped that it will develop into a going concern.

We have recently run two Military Training Courses, one for the W.O.s and Sergeants and one for the Junior N.C.O.s; both were a huge success, and although students were worked very hard, and there were some blisters, everyone enjoyed themselves. W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) A. W. Palmer, who enlisted in Royal Signals in 1938 and has served in the T.A. since 1948, set a wonderful example to all the younger members by attending this Course. Well done R.Q.M.S.!

52 (LOWLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.), GLASGOW

The Regiment commenced its 1965 training year in February duly refreshed after a closed month in January. While the brief respite was enjoyed by some and regretted by others, it was found essential, as the enthusiastic attendance in the latter months of 1964 had eaten heavily into the Unit's quota of man training days. Training re-commenced immediately, however, and "rustiness" was soon dispelled during a successful exercise held only three weeks after commencement.

Internal reorganisation of the Unit also took place around the turn of the year. A Training Squadron has now been formed in which all new recruits will undergo their basic military and trade training before being posted to the operational squadrons. This will undoubtedly accelerate the training of new recruits and improve the efficiency of the Unit as a whole.

The T.A.C. at Jardine Street is at present taking on a new look with the construction of new and the alteration of existing premises. This will provide additional offices and lecture rooms which will be all the more necessary when the present outlying 1 Squadron moves from its existing T.A.C. at Coplaw Street to Jardine Street.

The Unit bade farewell in December to its Adjutant and Training Major, Major L. J. Brunnen who has returned to civilian life in England. We wish him every success. At the same time we welcomed into our midst our new Adjutant, Captain G. C. Beadle, who soon showed his true mettle and adaptability to any occasion at the various Christmas functions which were held.

The Annual Camp this year is being held at Cultybraggan in Perthshire, from 8th to 22nd May, and while this may not in some eyes compare favourably with last year's Camp at Scarborough, there is little doubt that the Unit will uphold its tradition of hard work and enjoy life both on and off duty.

54th (E.A.) REGIMENT (T.A.), CAMBRIDGE

The Cambridge-based Squadrons recently joined together to enter teams in two motor rallies—one military and one civilian. Whilst no prizes were won, the experience gained will benefit those taking part in such events in the future.

Recruiting is going well, and the strength of each Squadron is mounting steadily. One encouraging aspect is that the younger generation are very keen and, with the necessary instruction being provided by the older hands, will become useful members of the Regiment.

Trade training takes place each Wednesday evening, and week-ends are devoted to training and tasks which cannot be undertaken outside during winter evenings. The W.R.A.C. members join up with their colleagues from other T.A. centres once a month for their specialised tasks.

A large number from Cambridge journeyed to the Week-end Training Centre at Vange during February for a Regimental D. and D. week-end, when much was learnt of the organisation and running of the unit which is never publicised, but still necessary to keep the Regiment on its toes.



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Corps Shooting T.A. Results

MERCURY CUP

For the best Royal Signals Unit in the Lord Lieutenant's Challenge Shield:—

332 Squadron (11th). Remaining T.A. units finished in the following order: 51st Regiment, 52nd Regiment, 61st Regiment, 47th Regiment, 44th Regiment.

LIEUTENANCY OF LONDON JUBILEE COMPETITION

3rd: 332 Squadron T.A.

YEOMANRY CHALLENGE CUP

Winner: 47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry).

Rugby Football

ROYAL SIGNALS 6 points; R.M.A. SANDHURST 8 points.

Played on 17th March.

The game was played in a very good spirit. The Signals team took some time to settle down and it was during this period that R.M.A. scored a try which was converted and a penalty goal.

In the second half Signals scored two tries which were not converted. Despite having most of the play in the later stages of the game, Royal Signals did not add to their score.

Corps Football

ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS v. ROYAL SIGNALS

Played at Worthy Down on Thursday, 18th February, 1965.

This was the first time the two Corps teams had met, and a keenly contested game was expected. However, the Royal Signals were far superior in all departments and emerged victors by 11 goals to 2. From the start, the Corps were quickly on the attack, and Gordon, the Army centre-forward, had several near misses in quick succession, but opened the scoring in the 10th minute. Half-time saw the score standing at 4 goals to 1 in Signals' favour. In the second half, Signals had the advantage of a slight wind behind them, and the goals came rather easily. Gordon scored five, Clark and Nelson two each, and Hannah and Forrester the other two.

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS v. ROYAL SIGNALS

Played at Aldershot on Saturday, 20th February, 1965.

For this game, Gordon was not available, having been selected to travel to Rhyl with the Scottish Amateur XI for the game against Wales.

Snow had fallen in the morning, and this made the ground slippery. The game was exciting and hard fought, R.A.S.C. being very keen to avenge their 9—1 defeat of last season. However, Royal Signals were again able to prove they were the masters by 5 goals to 3. The half-time score was 3—3, goals for Signals being scored by Beston, Grant and Clarke. Grant and Clarke scored in the second half.

ARMY REPRESENTATION

Royal Signals now have three players in the Army Soccer XI. All from 24th Regiment, they are Lance-Corporals Forrester and Sutherland and Signalman Gordon, the latter recently honoured in being selected as a member of the Scottish Amateur party to visit Rhyl for the Amateur International agains Wales.

HARROGATE BRANCH

Many activities in this thriving Branch

Quite a quantity of water has gone downstream since the last notes from this Branch appeared, so perhaps a review of the past year may not come amiss.

On retiring from active service, and taking up residence in the near locality, Colonel J. P. North was unanimously voted to the presidency of the Branch. During the past few weeks, however, illness has presented him getting about. We trust he will soon be active again.

Several members of the Branch attended the Freedom of Richmond ceremony, and, having got soaked outside, proceeded, through the good hospitality of 11th and 24th Regiments, to get wet inside, and everyone was happy, we hope.

Our usual contingent attended the reunion at Catterick, and once again a good time was had by all.

During August we had a trip to Flamingo Park Zoo, taking our wives, sweethearts, and the children, and again a good day was had by all.

The Children's Party was not held this year, due to the small numbers; instead, each child received a suitable present or book token, selected by R.Q.M.S. Russell and his committee.

During November last we lost the very able services of Sergeant Nickson, who was posted to Catterick on a F. of S. Course. We were able, however, to coax him back to the A.A.S. Harrogate Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for our Christmas Social and make a suitable presentation to him in recognition of his services to the Branch. The local Branch of the R.A.F. Association attended this function in force. The Leeds Branch were invited also but were unable to attend owing to clashing functions.



[*Photo by Sergeant D. Barton*

Farewell to S.Q.M.S. L. Loates after 27 years' service

During October we held a Dinner and Dance at the Old Town Hall, Knaresborough. Although not as many attended as had promised, a most enjoyable evening was had by all, our guests to the evening was Colonel J. R. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C., accompanied by his wife, and supported by the Chief Instructor, Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Brown, both of the A.A.S. Harrogate.

Saturday, 20th February, saw the departure of S.Q.M.S. Len Loates after 27 years' service, to civilian life, and here we have lost another stalwart, who did much good work for the Branch. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was crowded with friends, serving and retired, who had assembled to bid him godspeed, and at 14.00 hours his transport arrived to "wheel him away"—a chair, mounted on a handcart. The "manpower" gathered up the ropes and away he went to the accompaniment of martial music, provided by the school band and certain non-band enthusiasts. Len, from being the old soldier of the school, is taking up a Pike at the Tower of London, as A/T Yeoman Warder Loates. We wish him, and Freda, his good lady, every success in their new life, and hope we shall see them again in the near future. Len has been made the second honorary vice-president of the Branch. He and Freda took it upon themselves to run the social evenings for the senior term boys who had joined the Association.

We are soon to lose our Secretary, Mr. Moore, who has been posted to Catterick by force of circumstances; his place is being taken by Mr. Befan of Ham Radio fame, so perhaps some of our friends will give him a call when the air is free.

Our present chairman is Mr. P. Sharp.

During the year 1964 we have enrolled 211 members from among the senior boys of the Army Apprentice School, and this year to date have 55 new members. Each boy is presented with a lapel badge. Quite a number of the former A/T members visit the Branch meetings, and what is more pleasant, some of them write to us. We have also received recently, a rather pretty postcard from F. of S. Gwynne, who is at present doing a stint in Borneo.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during February, 1965:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	35	14	3
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	0	0
Army Apprentices School	7	7	6
3rd Regiment (27 Unit Branch)	8	0	0
14th Regiment (1 Squadron)	10	0	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	29	9	0
Royal Signals Records		16	6
Signal Training Wing, Royal Marines		5	6
47th Regiment, T.A. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
16th Regiment (Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw)	10	16	2
7th Armoured Brigade Squadron	23	11	7
Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 69	3	0	0
255 Squadron, 601 Troop (Ship) and 650 Troop	7	10	0
Newark Branch, Royal Signals Association	5	5	0
North London Branch, Royal Signals Association	5	0	0
49th Regiment (T.A.)	1	1	0
221 Squadron (SHAPE)	21	18	8
Various Individual Donations	6	2	0
Total receipts	£178	17	2

Expenditure During February, 1965 ... £561 17 5
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)



ROYAL SIGNALS COLOURS

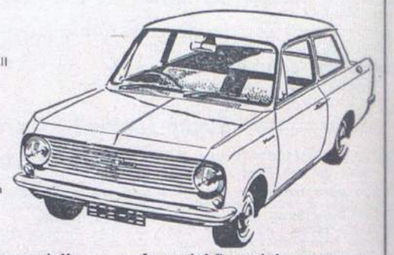
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So now when the Spitfire Mk II is purring in the upper nineties you'll be purring too.

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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.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

MAY/JUNE ● **1965**

Vol. 19 *(New Series)* **No. 6**

Editorial

There is clearly considerable misunderstanding as to the time taken and the processes involved between submission of a contribution to THE WIRE and the final publication of THE WIRE containing the article in question.

It is thought it may be useful, and possibly of interest, if the sequence of events from the early 'build up' of a WIRE until final publication is tabulated below:

MONTH 1

Up to the 15th: Contributions start to arrive, at first in a trickle and then about the 12th (closing day for copy) in considerable quantity. Each contribution must be carefully read through and, if accepted, prepared for printing often involving re-phrasing, fresh paragraphing, attention to punctuation and grammar, setting out of supporting photographs to the best advantage and general dressing up. Corrected copy is sent off in batches to the printers each day, the deadline being the 16th after which the printers can accept no more. This timetable is upset and extra work created by copy coming in after the 12th, involving rush treatment and the possibility of it not getting into THE WIRE at all.

16th to 24th: Contributions come back in batches from the printers in galley proof—long strips of paper of column width. Once again all this has to be read through and corrected and alterations made. Sometimes an article has to be virtually re-set. The Editor, at this stage, carefully measures the length of all articles, including photographs, to the nearest tenth of an inch. From the total of these measurements an estimate can be made of the number of pages that will be required to publish all articles and photographs. To this total is added the number of pages of advertisements so giving a final total estimate of the size of THE WIRE in pages and column inches. This is always an intriguing figure. The total number of WIRE pages must be a multiple of four—generally 36, 40 or 44 pages and it is with mixed feelings that the Editor finds that his length estimate works out at some figure such as 38 pages plus eight column inches. This means that he must either cut back by over two pages or 'pad up' THE WIRE by a page plus from his 'dead-sack' (material left over from previous WIRES). Let us say he decides to aim at a 36-page WIRE. Accordingly, not without some remorse for he has a conscience, he earmarks certain articles and/or portions of articles for probable elimination. However, he cannot be certain what the proposed slaughter of innocents will really amount to until the process of 'pasting-up' takes place (see below).

About the 24th or 25th: 'Paste-up' day arrives. All contributions, advertisements and photographs are pasted onto sheets of paper so as to make up the individual pages of a 36-page WIRE. This is an exasperating form of jigsaw puzzle in which articles, accompanying photographs and advertisements have to be fitted into their appropriate place in THE WIRE, each column being accurate to within the nearest tenth of an inch of a standard length. At the same time the whole must add up to exactly 36 pages—no blank spaces being acceptable. It is at this stage that mayhem, hari kiri and running amok all come into the Editor's mind. It is also now that it becomes quite clear what contributions will have to be left out of THE WIRE and what friendships are likely to be ruined for the next few months.

The crisis of paste-up over, THE WIRE in its final rough format is conveyed **in person** by the Editor's assistant to our printers at Hastings. The Editor still remembers the day when the paste-up copy went astray in the post! At Hastings our good friend Mr. Levy (late of the Corps) spends much time in going through THE WIRE from the printer's technical viewpoint, putting right all the things the Editor has managed to get wrong.

MONTH 2

About the 5th: THE WIRE, still in galley form, but now set out as a magazine with pages in sequence, is returned for final checking. This is the last chance to correct mistakes or make alterations. The Editor, who by now is heartily sick of reading the contents of THE WIRE has willy nilly to read them yet again from cover to cover—generally in a hurry. The amended version is then sent back to the printers for final printing and distribution.

About the 15th: THE WIRE is published and despatched from the printers (not Association H.Q.) to all subscribers, bearing in mind that because of the prohibitive costs involved, it has to go by surface mail not airmail. This, unfortunately, means a considerable delay before it reaches the more distant overseas stations.

About the 16th: A senior officer rings up and points out that there is a spelling mistake on page 15! The Editor's assistant says that three articles have just come in late for the **next** WIRE. Life has its moments!

The moral of all this? **PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND CERTAINLY TO REACH US NOT LATER THAN THE 12th OF THE MONTH.**

Obituaries

BRIGADIER J. M. C. HOBLYN

As THE WIRE was going to press the sad news of the death of Jim Hoblyn came through. Jim, who had retired in 1949, took up farming in Wiltshire where he more than made his mark in the farming community. He was well known locally and much respected. In 1963 he had a serious heart operation which set him back a lot from the health point of view but all his friends were delighted with the steady progress he appeared to be making. His sudden relapse will therefore come all the more as a shock to them. Jim, who had spent most of his service life in India, carried into his retirement his outstanding characteristics of a generous nature allied to a very positive and lively personality. The infectious enthusiasm that was so notable in his Army life was equally apparent in all that he undertook on his farm and in the many other local activities with which he identified himself. He will be much missed and our deep sympathy goes to Molly his wife, and his two daughters Patricia and Jennifer in their sad loss. A full tribute will be paid in the summer edition of the Royal Signals Journal.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. E. GILL, T.D., M.I.E.E.

Brigadier E. C. Wickens writes: "Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Gill died recently. He was working with me at H.Q. A.A. Command during the war. He continued to serve in the S.R. and A.E.R. from the end of the war until his enforced retirement from military service in 1957 and in that period he commanded an L. of C. Signal Regiment (S.R.) and a Signal Construction Regiment (A.E.R.).

In civil life he was a Telecommunications Engineer and a Telephone Manager in the Post Office.

I wish to express my deep regret at his passing and my appreciation of his work for Signals. Words are inadequate to express feelings at such times. My wife and I send our sympathy to Mrs. Gill and trust she may be granted strength."

* * *

Not mentioned above are his great services to the Association in its Chester branch. Colonel Gill was a driving force and wise counsellor to that Branch. During all the years he was in Chester he organised a series of entertainments, did all he could to attract new members and laid the foundation on which his surviving colleagues and others have maintained the very successful Branch that Chester is.

F. W. JACOB, ESQ.

Very many, particularly ex-Boys, will be saddened to hear of the death of F. W. Jacob—affectionately known as "Jacques" to his wide circle of friends. Jacques was a great Corps man. He joined the R.E. Boys unit in 1920 transferring across as a Boy to the Corps in the same year. From that date he served the regular Corps continually until he was discharged in the rank of Sergeant in 1945. Jacques was not to be stopped serving the Corps and he then signed on with the T.A. until he was again discharged in 1957. However he still remained on in a civilian capacity and was chief clerk with the 54th (E.A.) Regiment, T.A. at the time of his death. As Secretary he was the moving spirit behind the ex-Boys' annual dinner which he was instrumental in getting under way in 1953. He remained dedicated to this work right up to the present day and the fruit of his efforts can be seen at the very flourishing dinner that takes place every year in London with ever increasing attendances.

He was also Branch Secretary of the Bedford Branch of the Association.

He leaves a widow and son and the sympathy of all his friends will go to them in their sad loss. He will be much missed. His devotion to his Corps was an inspiraton to all.

Signalman D. F. Gallop

235 Squadron reports:—A group of soldiers and W.R.A.C. were swimming at Golden Bay in rough seas and heavy wind. Signalman Gallop was drowned on Good Friday at Malta. Every effort by his comrades and later by a Royal Navy helicopter failed to recover his body.

A Memorial Service was held at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Intarfa, on 24th April. The church was filled by his comrades and included representatives of Headquarters Malta and Libya.

THE WIRE expresses very deep sympathy to his parents Mr. and Mrs. H. W. C. Gallop, of South Hessary House, Princetown, Yelverton. Mr. Gallop is a Chief Officer of H.M. Prison Service. The body was later recovered on 1st May and interred at Intarfa Cemetery.

Corps "At Home" and Old Comrades Reunion 1965

THIS will be held at Catterick Camp on the 26th and 27th June. Ex-members of the Corps, particularly members of the Royal Signals Association, are invited to attend, but applications should be made as early as possible as there is a limit to the number that can be accommodated. Those bringing wives must make private arrangements.

Applications to attend by those not going under Association Branch arrangements should be addressed to "The Secretary, Reunion Committee, H.Q., Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp," and must be in his hands not later than the 1st June. A copy of the application should be sent to Association H.Q., Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

The week-end starts with the playing of "Retreat" at 19.30 hours on the 26th and concludes at about 17.00 hours on the 27th.

The A.G.M. of the Royal Signals Association will be held at 12.00 hours on Sunday, 27th June.

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire?

Why not do so now?

In Memorium

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal Colonel-in-Chief The Royal Corps of Signals



The memorial service in St. John's Garrison Church, Singapore

Royal Signals serving in Singapore paid their last tribute to their Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, at St. John's Garrison Church, at 10.00 hours on Tuesday, 6th April, 1965.

At the Memorial Service were representatives of all Royal Signals units and staffs. Also present were Brigadier J. E. Henderson, A.D.C., Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, and W.R.A.C. officers and girls, as the Princess Royal was their Controller Commandant. Officers of 2nd Battalion 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles also attended.

We were fortunate in having the Corps Band, conducted by Captain C. H. Pike, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., P.S.M., Director of Music, Royal Signals, to play at the service, which was conducted by the Rev. A. C. H. Allcock, C.F., assisted by the Rev. G. F. W. Newell, C.F. The service itself included favourites of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, such as the 23rd Psalm (Crimond) and the hymn "Abide with Me," and concluded with a most moving and impressive rendering of the National Anthem by the Fanfare Trumpeters and Corps Band. In his address, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Far East Land Forces, said:

"We are here to pay our last respects to the Princess Royal, who died at her home at Harewood, in Yorkshire, last Sunday week.

She had been Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals since 1935; and was Colonel-in-Chief of the Signal Corps of the Commonwealth Armies.

She was also Controller-Commandant of the Women's Royal Army Corps since 1950. She had previously been Controller-Commandant of the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

She was Colonel of a number of Regiments, and undertook a great many other Service and Civil appointments.

Princess Mary was born at Sandringham in 1897. From an early age she dedicated her life to the service of the Country and Commonwealth, and this was particularly so during the two World Wars.

She was by nature shy and reserved, which made her many public duties the more onerous; but yet she identified herself completely with whatever task she undertook. She showed a genuinely personal interest in the well-being of everyone with whom she became concerned. There is at least one Royal Signals soldier present today who received a personal letter from her, as a result of a small service rendered.

In the case of the Women's Royal Army Corps, she regularly attended the Director's conference and associated herself completely with the organisation and problems of the Corps.

We in Royal Signals and in the Women's Royal Army Corps have lost a sympathetic and devoted friend and mentor. Those of us who were fortunate to meet her personally will remember her with affection and gratitude."

The Corps Fanfare Trumpeters



[For Caption see facing page



His Excellency the Governor of Rhodesia, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., arrives and is greeted by left to right, Brigadier K. R. Coster, O.B.E., Chief of Staff, Colonel D. H. Grainger, O.B.E., E.D., Colonel of the Corps and Lieutenant Colonel O. D. Mathews, Director of Signals

Memorial Services in Rhodesia for Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

MEMORIAL services for Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal were held on Thursday, 1st April, 1965, in King George VI Barracks Chapel, Salisbury, and the Army Chapel in Brady Barracks, Bulawayo.

Both were arranged by the Rhodesia Corps of Signals, of which Her Royal Highness was Colonel-in-Chief.

In Salisbury the service was attended by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.; the Chief of Staff, Brigadier K. R. Coster, O.B.E.; the Colonel of the Rhodesia Corps of Signals, Colonel D. H. Grainger, O.B.E., E.D.; the Director of Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel O. D. Mathews; the Corps Band, and a large representative contingent commanded by Major P. J. English, consisting of all available members of all Signal Units in Salisbury Area. Amongst others attending were civilians employed with the various Signals Units.

The service was conducted by the Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, Major (Rev.) B. Nisbet, M.A.

"Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by the Director of Music, Rhodesia Corps of Signals, Captain F. Sutton, who was second trumpeter at the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen.

In Bulawayo, the service was attended by Major W. D. De Haast, Commandant, School of Signals; Major A. H. G. Munro, O.C. 2 Squadron, and a representative contingent drawn from Rhodesia Corps of Signals personnel in Bulawayo.

This excellent photograph of the Corps fanfare trumpeters was taken outside St. John's Garrison Church, Singapore, on the occasion of the Memorial Service to H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

The Corps Band have recently completed a very successful tour to the Far East where they were much appreciated.

A correspondent writes from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: "This week we had the Corps Band pay a visit and they gave the Federation Signals a concert which was quite excellent. We had the Chief of the Armed Forces—General Tunku Osman—as principal guest. The concert went down very well. And our Sergeants Mess entertained the Band afterwards. I knew the Band enjoyed themselves but how well they were able to play after getting back to Seremban remains another question!"



"In memory of Colonel T. B. Gravely, O.B.E.
(Royal Signals 1920-45)
Commandant, School of Signals 1942-45
Presented to the Royal Signals Chapel by his wife and daughter 21 March, 1965"

Presentation of an Altar Wine Cruet to the Royal Signals Memorial Chapel

During Morning Service at St. Martin's Church, Catterick Camp, on Sunday, 21st March, Mrs. V. Gravely and her daughter Jean, the wife of Colonel J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E., presented to the Royal Signals Chapel a beautiful silver-mounted wine cruet in memory of the late Colonel T. B. Gravely, O.B.E.

At an appropriate point in the Morning Service the donors, preceded by the Chaplain and escorted by Churchwardens Brigadiers Cox and Warburg, moved to the Memorial Chapel for the presentation and dedication. They were followed by a small procession of relatives and friends, including Colonel Brett, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Warburg, Colonel and Mrs. Sawers and Brigadier Good.

The wine cruet was received by the Senior Chaplain, the Rev. J. E. Gurnos Davies, M.A., C.F., who then conducted a short, simple but very impressive Dedication Ceremony.

The late Colonel T. B. (Bill) Gravely will be remembered by many present and past members of the Corps. He was commissioned into the Hampshire Regiment in September 1915, joined the Signal Service Royal Engineers in 1918 and retired in December 1945.

During his long and valuable service Bill Gravely filled with distinction many important posts in the Corps culminating in his appointment in 1942 as Commandant of the School of Signals, which post he held until his retirement.

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

		1965
Telegraph Technician ...	Class II-I	23rd November
Radio Technician (Light) ...	Class II-I	16th November
Lineman	Class II-I	23rd November
Cipher Operator	Class II-I	2nd November
Electronic Technician ...	Class III-II	2nd November
Radio Technician (Heavy) ...	Class III-II	30th November
Radio Technician (Light) ...	Class III-II	9th November

Major-General
A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E.

THE career of Major-General Whistler with the Royal Corps was summarised in THE WIRE of 1962. However, with his retirement now from the Army two years after he handed over as Signal Officer-in-Chief we have an opportunity to assess the value of some of the innovations for which he was responsible. The happy position in which the Corps now finds itself with regard to recruits is largely due to his enthusiasm and drive in this vital field which resulted in the positioning of special recruiters, the selection of excellent men for such positions and the best use of such funds as could be made available.

Within the serving Corps considerable rationalizing of trades was carried out to facilitate training and the supervisory appointment of Yeoman of Signals was approved. The very name of this grade, steeped in the tradition of the Royal Navy, is a spur to the man holding it.

The R.S.M.s Convention is another of Michael Whistler's ideas. It gives an opportunity for men of exceptional leadership and high ideals to exchange views on problems which must be common to every regiment, to bring to notice suggestions affecting the good of the Corps, and to make known Corps policy to those who are largely responsible for ensuring that not only is a new idea carried out, but that the underlying reasons are well understood.

Michael never forgot that he was once a "Y.O." and he evolved a split in the "Q" course so that it could be more easily digested. The officer escapes from academic surroundings to find his feet in a field unit so much earlier in his service. To encourage leadership among junior officers he presented a trophy in 1964. His interest in the careers of officers was not restricted to the junior ranks and he pressed hard for the appointment of senior officers of the Corps into positions of authority on the staff and in command.

He was first holder of the integrated appointment of Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals) in which he was the senior communicator of all three Armed Services. To have been selected for this post is a tribute in itself since the Chief of the Defence Staff, Earl Mountbatten, was himself an experienced communicator and a former Supreme Commander. In 1964 General Whistler was appointed Colonel Commandant and is Representative for 1965. In this position plus that of ACDS (Signals) he has toured widely having already been to Australia, New Zealand, FARELF, India, Washington and Canada, and has taken every opportunity to cement relations between the Signal Corps of the various countries. As ACDS (Signals) he has raised the level of three Service co-ordinated planning and has been the first direct voice for Signals at the Chiefs of Staff level.

He is Honorary Colonel of 41st Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A., a suitable appointment for one whose wife and son are the godchildren of Princess Louise.

All ranks will join in wishing General and Mrs. Whistler a long and happy retirement and good fishing, and regiments will look forward to his lively and invigorating visits. It is always a pleasure to receive a visitor who knows that a Corps is made of men and not machines.

Designation of "The Wire"

The plan to designate THE WIRE with the name of the month after the actual month of publication is in abeyance, in order to avoid misunderstanding with advertisers and new subscribers.

THE WIRE will be designated May-June, June-July, and so on. The first month denoting the month in which it is published (generally about the 15th) and the second month denoting the month in which it reaches its very many readers outside the U.K.

Welfare needs Clothing!

Personal Column

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Lt. P. T. Jones to be Capt., 5th Mar., 1965.
Capt. (Tfc. Offr.) T. A. Hipperson to be Maj. (Tfc. Offr.) 7th Mar., 1965.
Lt. (T.O.T.) T. R. Robertshaw to be Capt. (T.O.T.) 10th Mar., 1965.
Maj. (Q.M.) E. A. Carn retires, 23rd Mar., 1965.
Lt. (Tfc. Offr.) R. Davidge to be Capt. (Tfc. Offr.), 25th Mar., 1965.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Brig. A. L. Atkinson, O.B.E., B.SC., is appointed Hon. Colonel, 57th Signal Regiment (T.A.), 2nd Mar., 1965.
Capt. (Actg. Maj.) D. P. Johnson to be Maj., 8th Mar.
Capt. (Actg. Maj.) R. F. Little to be Maj., 23rd Mar., 1965.

Deaths

PAMMELL.—Captain D. V. Pammell, on 27th March. He served with the Corps from 1920 until 1948. He was a Life Member of the Association since 1948 and was a member of the Scarborough Branch from 1954.

PACKMAN.—Major W. G. Packman, on 2nd March. Major Packman served in the Corps from 1921 until 1947. He was a Life Member of the Association since 1947 and was appointed first Chairman of Tunbridge Wells Branch in 1950. Much of the success of the branch was largely due to his efforts and those of the late Mr. George Paling, its first Hon. Secretary. He leaves a widow, a son and a daughter.

BROWN.—Ex-Sergeant Frank Austin Brown, on 29th March, at the age of 71. Sergeant Brown served in the Devon Regiment from 1914 to 1918 and then joined Royal Signals in 1921 and served until 1939. He was an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

SCOTT.—Staff Sergeant I. H. Scott on 24th or 25th March, of 13th Regiment, B.A.O.R.

WARD.—Sergeant James Maurice Ward, B.A.O.R., of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars Signal Troop, on 13th April, at British Military Hospital, Hanover. He was a Life Member of the Association.

KENDALL.—On 13th March suddenly at his home 107, North Lane, Aldershot, C.Q.M.S. G. Kendall, M.S.M. He started in the Corps at Crowborough in 1920 thereafter much of his service was in Egypt Signals. His last appointment was as a civilian in the Transport Office Aldershot District. His wife will receive sympathy from their many friends.

Births

(All of 7th Regiment)

FOSKETT.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Foskett, on 26th February, at Rinteln, a daughter, Janice.

PICKERING.—To Corporal and Mrs. Pickering, on 26th February, at Rinteln, a daughter, Deborah Tina.

HUNTER.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Hunter, on 6th March, at Rinteln, a son, Kevin John.

WHITMAN.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Whitman, on 19th March, at Rinteln, a daughter, Maria Catherine.

McGOOKIN.—To Corporal and Mrs. McGookin, on 26th March, at Rinteln, a son Ian Stuart.

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Movements—Officers—May

Major M. Allen ... ... To 42nd (Lancs) Regiment (T.A.)
Captain J. C. Billingham ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) C. Brodley ... ,, School of Signals
Captain S. W. P. Cox (R.E.M.E.) ... ,, 259 Squadron
Major J. Cox ... ... H.Q. 17 Division
Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. J. Gerrard, B.E.M. ,, 11th Regiment
Captain P. Graham-Hill ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
T/Captain I. J. Hamilton ... ... ,, 262 Squadron
Major M. A. T. Hartnett ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Captain D. S. Hopkins ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Captain B. F. Kavanagh ... ... ,, Army Air Corps Centre (Course)
Lieutenant (Q.M.) P. W. H. Lafferty ,, 245 Squadron
Major (T.O.T.) P. F. C. R. Locke ,, 228 Squadron
Captain J. R. Turpin (K.O.Y.L.I.) ,, 226 Squadron
Lieutenant A. J. Hutt ... ... ,, 3rd Regiment
Second-Lieutenant M. L. Martin ... ,, 205 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant R. J. H. Swainson ,, 216 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant T. A. Woodhouse ,, 216 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant M. J. Vest ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Second-Lieutenant C. D. Melhuish ,, 1st Regiment
Second-Lieutenant M. J. Cartwright ,, 2nd Regiment
Second-Lieutenant W. Buxton ... ,, 4th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant J. F. Budd ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Lieutenant P. A. Lenthall ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant H. G. S. Thomas ,, 7th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant T. N. Singleton ,, 206 Squadron
Lieutenant D. J. Walden ... ... ,, 211 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant P. J. Whitehead ,, 244 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant S. Cowan ... ... ,, 17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Major R. H. Borthwick ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) R. A. Dolbear ... ,, C.A.F.S.O. H.Q. F.E.A.F.
Major F. A. L. Terrey ... ... ,, Army Works Study Group (B.A.O.R.)
Major G. A. S. Exell ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Major C. S. Galbraith ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Major D. J. McIntyre ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Major F. W. Oakes ... ... ,, 28th Regiment T.A.
Second-Lieutenant D. C. Podevin ... ,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) T. R. Robertshaw ,, 16th Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) E. M. Frost ... ,, 19th Regiment

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s—May

W.O.I F. Cooper ... ... To 640 Troop
W.O.II C. W. Lacey ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
W.O.II R. A. Crompton ... ... ,, 257 Squadron
W.O.II R. A. Petherick ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II K. Nichols ... ... ,, 43rd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II J. S. P. Pilkington ... ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.II W. S. Stewart ... ... ,, 640 Troop
W.O.II A. D. Mears ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. Lund ... ... ,, 237 Squadron

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) E. Holland ,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. A. W. Nichols ... ,, 222 Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. S. Rowland ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant E. J. Mann ... ... ,, 41st Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant N. Ratcliffe ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. A. Francis ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. Fey ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. W. Long ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. G. G. Pickard ... ,, 14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant N. Richardson ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. E. C. O'Connor ... ,, 28th Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant T. Martin ... ... ,, 57th Regiment (T.A.)

Sergeant D. J. Geere ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
A/Sergeant F. C. McLoughlin ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant R. J. Isaac ... ... ,, H.Q 4 Gds. Bde. Gp. & H.Q. and Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. F. Jones ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant M. G. E. Hall ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant V. G. Kelly ... ... ,, 216 Squadron
Sergeant P. A. Evans ... ... ,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant A. Byram ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant D. H. Leggott ... ... ,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant H. H. Dudley ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant E. G. Donnithorne ... ... ,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant B. J. Roche ... ... ,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
A/Sergeant L. A. Coole ... ... ,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant J. M. Bell ... ... ,, 266 Squadron
Sergeant T. R. Morse ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant T. B. Cooper ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant R. W. Hetherington ... ,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant E. H. D. Binding ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant D. Partridge ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant P. A. Winton ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant J. E. Hogg ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant M. E. Davies ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant D. D. Abercrombie ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant G. M. Skill ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Jarratt ... ... ,, 18th Field Regt., R.A., Sig. Tp.
Sergeant M. R. Smith ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant B. G. Garrett ... ... ,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant R. L. Clarence ... ... ,, 219 Squadron
Sergeant L. Burnham ... ... ,, 1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant J. J. McDonnell ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant L. A. Phillips ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant G. R. Spooner ... ... ,, 54th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant K. H. R. Dale ... ... ,, All Arms Jun. Leaders Regt.
Sergeant K. R. Gregory ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant A. W. A. Bagwell ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant T. R. Mallabone ... ... ,, 18th Regiment

Promotions

March, 1965

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.II	2549307	A/W.O.II	Spedding, A.	3120	1080	
	22265021	A/W.O.II	Green, J.	3130	620	
	19048558	A/W.O.II	Shand, J. M.	3140	1270	
	22296313	S/Sgt.	Blackburn, T.	3150	980	
To S Sgt.	22930431	Sgt.	Styles, B. J.	3420	8760	(Op)
	22773387	Sgt.	Waumsley, L. T.	3430	8780	(Op)
	22522949	Sgt.	Dunn, W. N.	3440	1470	(Fd)
	22265784	A/S Sgt.	Wrixon, L. W.	3460	5120	(Op)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	2549785	W.O.II	Mingaud, S. R.	890	1010
	2224460	W.O.II	Devanney, P.	900	1060
	22285079	W.O.II	Milton, J. A.	920	1040
	22309232	W.O.II	Davies, R. F. A.	930	1110
To W.O.II	2549332	S Sgt.	Jarratt, A. R.	1690	2080

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.II	22845375	S Sgt.	MacPherson, I. F.	1070	1070
	22524520	S Sgt.	Wood, P. C.	1080	1050
	2246035	S Sgt.	Wright, G. H.	1090	1060

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To W.O.I	14189879	W.O.II	Shortman, L. P.	320	490
To W.O.II	22963724	S Sgt.	Brown, A.	820	970
	22289417	S Sgt.	Paterson, D. C.	830	930
	22541687	S Sgt.	Ellen, D. G.	840	920
	14190871	S Sgt.	James, G.	850	900

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

To W.O.I	2549028	W.O.II	Wood, C.	480	890
To W.O.II	22797672	S Sgt.	Loats, R. P.	1510	960
	2549548	S Sgt.	Purkis, R. V.	1520	540

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23701904	Cpl.	Sims, F.	4930	8525
	22789012	Cpl.	Goodwin, R.	4965	8550
	23620828	Cpl.	Hume, J. A.	5030	9830
	23686261	Cpl.	Johnson, J. W.	5060	10706
	23686971	Cpl.	Cliff, M. F.	5080	10623
	23677053	Cpl.	Garner, N. D.	5090	8886
	23566062	Cpl.	Coles, F. E.	5010	9165

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	23423105	Cpl.	Brunt, J.	11420	17324

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	22248169	Cpl.	Hearns, H. E.	2840	414
	22707793	Cpl.	Wayling, S. A.	2870	560

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22773848	Cpl.	Ball, J. S.	4120	1660
	23464755	Cpl.	Coventry, C. T.	4190	2300

INSERTIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To W.O.II	2549509	W.O.II	Brooker, G. H.	2404	1280 (Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	19197176	W.O.II	Wilson, F. G.	1214	410 (Tec.)

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	19022119	S Sgt.	Gibson, T. W.	11	170 (Reg. Duty).

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	220					
W.O.II	1980					
S Sgt.	60	90	150	210		

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.II	980					
S Sgt.	760					

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

W.O.I	220					
W.O.II	670	780				

TECHNICAL ROSTER

W.O.II	490						
Sgt.	880	2650	3214	3620	3670	3980	
	4140						

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt.	500	2200	3264	

THE INDIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS HOLDS ITS FIFTH REUNION

THE Wire is indebted to Brigadier T. Barreto, Editor of 'The Signalman,' quarterly journal of the Indian Corps of Signals, for an account of their fifth reunion, extracts from which are published below.

Cordial invitations to attend this reunion were sent to senior officers of the Royal Corps of Signals and all will be glad to hear that Major General A. M. W. Whistler, Colonel Commandant, was able to make the journey to India as the Corps representative.

For those who had the privilege of serving in India the account will bring back many pleasant memories. For younger members of the Corps it will give an insight into the now well established and flourishing Indian Corps of Signals with which the Royal Corps has such close and friendly ties.

The fifth post-war reunion of the Corps of Signals actually commenced on 18th February, 1965, when pensioners from all parts of the country started trickling in at the Jabalpur railway station. These were the men to whom the Corps owed so much. In their days they had gone through the rough and the tough and had laid down the strong foundations on which we stand today and the traditions which we now follow. Worn down by age, they were still young in spirit. They were here today to revive old associations and to evince their interest in what we are doing today. The railway station appeared to have acquired a festive look to welcome these veterans. The flawless reception arrangements were in themselves indicative of the well-planned, methodical and orderly manner in which the reunion celebrations were to be conducted by the organisers.

The celebrations had a special significance this year because a great honour was bestowed on the Corps by the President of India in the presentation of regimental colours to the Corps. As the reunion was scheduled to synchronise with the presentation ceremony the pensioners also had the good fortune of witnessing this great milestone in the history of the Corps.

The reunion saw the revival of old associations. It was an assembly of men from all parts of the country, of diverse castes, creeds and ages. The officers met the men they had commanded a few years back; fathers met their sons in uniform; and the one time recruits met their instructors. Embraces and warm hand-shakes were witnessed in abundance all over. There were plenty of discussions about the good old days and the pensioners were amply impressed by the steady progress the Corps was making in size as well as stature.

The programme for the reunion was packed with excitement. There was boxing and athletics, team games and shooting, dinners and dances, bara-khanas and tea parties, cinemas and variety shows, pagal gymkhanas and fire works, callisthenics and motor-cycling displays. Wreaths were laid at the war memorial at a very solemn ceremony. The pensioners visited the Corps Museum. An impressive attestation parade was held before the War Memorial. In addition, there were plenty of conferences. The Corps Committee sorted out Corps domestic problems; Chief Signal Officers delved into policy matters, Commanding Officers argued about training and organisational matters, Subedar-Majors discussed the welfare of the Other Ranks and the ladies interested themselves in the well-being of the families.

It is impossible to give a detailed and accurate account of the reunion celebrations in a few pages. We have, however, endeavoured in the succeeding paragraphs to describe some of the events which took place.

The first major event was No. 1 Signal Training Centre inter-unit team boxing on the night of 18th February. The Pollard Arena was packed to capacity to witness the event which was refereed by Colonel R. N. Sen. No. 2 Technical Training Regiment won the championship with 16 points followed by No. 1 Technical Training Regiment with 14 points as runners-up.

In the early morning of 19th February, a guard of honour was inspected by Lieutenant-General A. C. Iyappa. The guard was provided by No. 4 Technical Training Regiment and commanded by Major B. P. Mamgain. The General congratulated the guard for its high standard of turn out and drill.

Immediately thereafter, the Colonels-Commandant presented their opening addresses. The Pollard Arena was packed to capacity with thousands of serving and retired officers and other ranks. General Iyappa in his address welcomed the pensioners and emphasised that this reunion had a special significance because the President was to present colours to our Corps. He also pointed out that the major share of the credit for this honour belongs to the pensioners. It was mainly their efforts which were bearing fruit now. Major-General R. N. Batra spoke next and narrated the achievements of the Corps since the previous reunion.

After the addresses, the officers and pensioners got together for tea. There were plenty of hand-shakes and embraces witnessed during tea. The glowing spirit of comradeship was evident from the way the younger generation met the old. After tea, Captain Hardev Singh (retired), son of the late Subedar-Major and Honorary Captain Narain Singh, was presented with a life-size portrait of his father wearing the uniform of Aide-de-Camp to King George V. This presentation was in acknowledgement of the donation of the Narain Singh's full dress uniform to the Corps Museum.



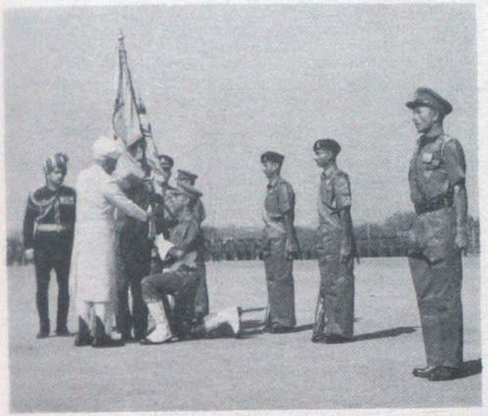
Major General Whistler visits the "Bara Khana" (special meal to celebrate the reunion)

In the afternoon, the inter-command football finals between Central and Southern Commands were played at the Copeland Ground, followed by a very daring motor-cycle display. The display team was led by Major A. F. Fernandez. The events were thrilling and left the spectators spell-bound.

Mrs. Daulet Singh, widow of our late Colonel-Commandant, then presented the General Daulet Singh Trophy for High Endeavour to Naik Dharam Chand Dhilan, Vr.C. This trophy was donated to the Corps by the late Lieutenant-General Daulet Singh in 1959 and was being presented for the first time.

In the evening, the Corps Dinner was held at the Officers' Mess. General J. N. Chaudhuri, the Chief of the Army Staff, was the chief guest. Other guests who attended the dinner were Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E. (Colonel-Commandant, Royal Signals), Major-General Harkirat Singh (Engineer-in-Chief), Major-General D. C. Misra, M.C. (General Officer Commanding, Madhya Pradesh Area), Major-General M. N. Batra (Director of Military Intelligence), Air-Commodore K. A. Joseph (Director of Signals, Indian Air Force), Captain E. J. Debu (Director of Naval Signals Division), Captain R. B. Fanderlinden (Director, Joint Communications-Electronic Staff).

After the formal toasts to the Queen, to the President, and to the Colonel-in-Chief, General Iyappa proposed a toast to the guests. General Chaudhuri, replying, congratulated the Corps for the honour they were to receive from the President the next day and proposed the toast to the Corps of Signals. General Batra, speaking of the growing ties between the Royal Corps of Signals and the Indian Corps of Signals, proposed a toast to the Royal Corps of Signals. General Whistler, in a moving speech, extolled the achievements of the Indian Corps of Signals and presented the good wishes of the Colonel-in-Chief and other friends from the Royal Corps of Signals. He read out extracts from several letters from well-wishers abroad.



An historic occasion. The President of India presenting Colours to the Indian Corps of Signals

The great day dawned on the 20th and Jabalpur was agog with excitement as the public was to witness the event of a life-time. The President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, presented colours to the Corps on the morning of 20th February, at a very colourful and impressive ceremonial parade commanded by Colonel R. N. Sen.

A Pagal Gymkhana was held at No. 1 Signal Training Centre in the afternoon. The ground was overflowing with spectators. The occasion was graced by the presence of our past Colonel-Commandant, General K. M. Cariappa, who had arrived with the President that morning and had to leave the same evening due to other commitments. There were plenty of interesting events witnessed. The one that drew the highest of applause was the Donkey Review, in which only the V.I.P.s (Brigadiers and above) were allowed to compete. General Whistler, a veteran horseman and one-time Master of the Nerbudda Vale Hunt, was the winner, closely followed by Brigadier S. R. Khurana. "How lucky are these donkeys?" was the general comment heard from all quarters. The subaltern in charge of the event, who obviously thought that he was being complimented, came out with this one: "Indeed, madam, they are lucky! We have spent hundreds of rupees on soap and deodorants and I have personally been supervising the bathing parade of these donkeys for the last three days!" The prizes were given away by Mrs. T. Barreto, after which over three hundred boys from the Boys' Regiment presented a very impressive torchlight P.T. display followed by a torchlight band display. Thereafter, the ground boomed with the noise of crackers, light machine-guns and mortars and the whole horizon was lit up with a display of pyrotechnics.

Early morning, on the 21st February, we honoured our departed comrades at a very solemn ceremony. General J. N. Chaudhuri was presented with a guard of honour provided by No. 1 Military Training Regiment. After the General had inspected the guard of honour, the Yadgar Toli (commanded by Second-Lieutenant R. M. Ahluwalia) brought the Roll of Honour and placed it at the War Memorial. The guard then presented arms and the bugler sounded the last post after which there was a two minutes' silence when the guard presented arms once again and the bugler sounded the rouse. Wreaths were then placed by General J. N. Chaudhuri, Lieutenant-General A. C. Iyappa, Major-General R. N. Batra, Major-General D. C. Misra, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, Major-General M. N. Batra, Colonel T. K. Mukerji (Retired), Subedar-Major Tej Singh Gurung (seniormost J.C.O. pensioner present), Havildar Thakar Singh (seniormost O.R. pensioner present) and Subedar-Major and Honorary Captain Deva Raj, I.D.S.M. (seniormost serving Subedar-Major).

Mrs. Daulet Singh then presented to the Corps the sword of our late Colonel Commandant. Major-General R. N. Batra received the sword and thanked Mrs. Daulet Singh for the honour done to the Corps of Signals by this presentation. He assured her that the sword would remain a cherished possession of the Corps and will be a source of constant inspiration.

On 22nd February, a parade was held at which recruits of No. 5 Technical Training Regiment were attested. After the parade had been formed up, the Yadgar was brought on parade followed by Regimental Colours and the National Flag. Religious teachers then came in and administered the oath to the recruits after which the National Flag, the Regimental Colours and the Yadgar were marched off parade. The Commanding Officer then addressed the attested sections after which they marched off.

Thereafter, the pensioners, junior commissioned officers and other ranks witnessed a Signal Equipment Demonstration.

The Inter-Signal Training Centre Athletic Meet Finals were held at the Copeland Ground in the afternoon. The Commandant and all ranks of No. 1 Signal Training Centre donated a silver challenge cup to be competed for by the three Signal Training Centres at a meet to be conducted every reunion, this being the first. There were a number of interesting events witnessed and the competition was extremely keen. No. 3 Signal Training Centre won the silver challenge cup while No. 1 Signal Training Centre were runners-up. The boys then gave a very interesting display of massed P.T. which was followed by a motor-cycle display. The athletes, the boys and the despatch riders then marched past the saluting base where Major-General R. N. Batra took the salute. Prizes were then distributed by Mrs. R. N. Batra after which the combined bands Beat the Retreat.



Major General Whistler accompanied by Major General Batra meets an old friend

Early morning on 23rd February, the Pollard Arena was once again seen packed to capacity. Lieutenant-Colonel M. C. Rawat read out the messages received from those who were unable to attend the reunion. The Signal Officer-in-Chief then delivered the closing address. He thanked the pensioners for taking the trouble of being with us on this occasions and said that the major share of the credit for the honour which has been bestowed to the Corps during this reunion goes to the pensioners because it is their deeds that have borne fruit now. After the Signal Officer-in-Chief had finished his closing address, a number of pensioners came up to the rostrum and spoke with great feeling of their impressions of the Corps of today. The standard of these impromptu speeches were surprisingly high, but the sentiment behind them was higher still. With these, the reunion ended on a high note.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief Reviews Corps Affairs

THE Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., talked to Branch Representatives of the Association at their annual meeting on the 3rd April on matters of general Corps interest.

The "Wire" is happy to reproduce his talk in its columns. While some will have knowledge of certain of the subjects discussed, there is much of interest for our readers—particularly for the serving soldier who does not often have the opportunity of hearing about what is going on in the Corps direct from the S.O.-in-C. himself.

Of special interest are General Bradley's impressions of the Corps on returning to it after serving in outside appointments for some nine years.

I would like to start, on behalf of the serving Corps, by echoing the fine and beautiful words of your Chairman regarding our late Colonel-in-Chief. The loss is so near to us, and so recent that it is very difficult to know or properly to feel what it means. We, in the serving Corps have always known that we only had to ask for Her Royal Highness's help, and it was given to us. Now, we wonder where we are to turn. Some of us were privileged to be in Westminster Abbey on Thursday. Others of us will be in York next week, and all over the world Royal Signals' Units will be holding Memorial Services or having special prayers said for Her late Royal Highness. I feel no words of mine can add to what your Chairman has said. (*The Chairman's tribute to our late Colonel-in-Chief was reproduced in full on pages 114 and 115 of the April/May* WIRE.)

I am appearing before you in person for the first time. I must start by saying how pleased and honoured I am to have this talk with you. As you know, I was born in the Signal Service, and I was brought up in Royal Signals, and therefore it is reasonable to say that I have spent my whole life, one way and another, in the Corps. I am very privileged now as S.O.-in-C. to meet with the Royal Signals Association for the first time, and I would like to add how very sorry I am that General Swainson is not addressing you this year, as we all expected he would. As you know, he has retired. He was not well at the latter end of last year, but I have seen him recently, and I know you will be very glad to hear that he is in splendid heart again, looking well, fit and his same bouncing, fighting self.

My aim, as is customary at this meeting, is to give you a general account of the state of the Corps at the present time, and to mention some of the successes and achievements of note during the past year. It is much more difficult to decide what to leave out than it is to decide what to tell you.

Ministry of Defence

I would like to start at the top with the Ministry of Defence. Last year I believe General Swainson outlined for you the purpose and effect of the integration of the three Services, or the three Service Headquarters in Whitehall. At that time the new set up had only just begun, and as was expected, the first year has been spent in settling in and in the sorting out of procedures and methods of working amongst the staffs. Naturally, there have been many difficulties to iron out and differences of opinion, outlook and priorities have occurred. However, I can assure you that much progress has been made, and, as you would expect, the Signals of the three Services are very definitely leading the field in this process. We have found that it is very easy for communicators to speak to communicators and understand each other. All three Signal Staffs are not only co-located but they are part of the central Staffs of the Ministry, and in some cases actual functions have already been fully integrated.

As you know the Defence Signal Staff is headed by what is called the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Signals), who until very recently was General Whistler. It is now Rear-Admiral Ashmore of the Royal Navy. Now, as far as I am concerned, this really means that I wear two hats. My responsibilities as Signal Officer-in-Chief of the Army and serving head of the Corps are not changed in any way, but as a member of the Defence Signal Board I am part of a governing body for overall Signals policy.

Various other reorganisations have taken place, notably the move of the other Arms Directors, such as the Director Royal Artillery, the Engineer-in-Chief, etc., from Whitehall out to comfortable residences in the country, Woolwich, Chatham, Bovington, all over the place; and in this respect, though I must be honest with you, I am not a born "Whitehall warrior," I am very lucky because I am still at the seat of business, with the whole of my staff alongside me. What is more, we have the great convenience of having Regimental Headquarters here in London with us.

Strategic Communications

Now, if I may turn to some technical matters which may interest you. Strategic communications is the first, because this principle of integration doesn't stop at the staff level, and one is looking the whole time for areas in which it would be reasonable to examine full integration between the three Services, and I think it will interest you to know that this process is being applied and thought is being given to the actual practice of providing long-haul strategic communications. I think ultimately it is reasonable to expect that there will be one Defence Communications network to meet all Defence requirements thus replacing the COMCAN and the equivalent in the Navy and R.A.F.; but, gentlemen, this is not something that is going to happen next week or next year. The process will be gradual and will take time, because it is an immense task. However, a start in thought, at least, has already been made.

STRAD—A Remarkable Piece of Equipment

I would like to tell you about something that probably some of you know about. A recent equipment that has been installed in the COMCAN Tape Relay Station in the United Kingdom, and that is a splendid thing called STRAD (Signal Transmit Relay and Distribute). It is a system employing a modern technique, Telegraph Automatic Relay Equipment (TARE) as one calls it. It is being opened officially by the Vice-Chief of the General Staff on the 12th May this year. This equipment, which was designed and developed by Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd, carries out automatically all the functions of a tape relay centre. Gone are the days of a room as big as this with goodness knows how many men and girls wandering around the place with tapes hanging round their necks, because the incoming messages are received and stored automatically. The address, precedence and security classification are all noted by this machine; and this information, having been noted, is passed to a booking register which selects the correct outgoing channel and when that channel becomes clear the message is automatically transmitted to line. It is one of the most fascinating things I have seen in the last few months, and as you see, this equipment saves men, time of transmission and time in handling. The "cross office" or handling time is of the order of 45 milliseconds per message—well, you compare that with the old semi-automatic systems with tapes.

In fact it can happen, and quite often does, that the first portion of the message is being transmitted down the other end, whilst the tail is still coming in on the first circuit. It was taken into use on the line circuits within the United Kingdom last year, and since then a number of long-distance circuits have been added. It will be fully operational before the official opening by the Vice-Chief. So far during the present trial period no major snags have been encountered, and it has already proved its worth. I must say though that there was one day when we thought the thing had lost all the messages, but it was a false alarm!

Hobart and the lead into it—Bruin

You have all heard of HOBART. It has been in the papers, and this as you all most certainly know is the planned system and equipment for the whole Army for the 1970s. The first time, I think, in history that we have ever planned the complete system from the Infantryman's light radio right the way back to the heavy stuff behind, and as you would expect it is an expensive pastime and fraught with all sorts of difficulties that one encounters with a big thing of this nature—things like standardisation and inter-operability with our allies. However, steady progress is being made in this, and it is a really fine dream for ten years' time. Meanwhile, we are not sitting still, and there is, to some extent, an intermediate equipment system, which looks towards HOBART, and which is coming into the 1st British Corps within the next two years. It establishes communication centres away from Headquarters which reduces the size and vulnerability of those Headquarters. The chief features are the introduction of auto-exchanges and an up-dated radio relay system, and as I say, this is all ready to go within the next two years. So much for technical matters.

Integration in Field Formations

Now there is another form of integration going on at the moment, quite different from the one I mentioned going on with the Central Staffs at Whitehall, and that is happening in the field formations. The aim of this is to simplify the command and administration of all the parts including Signals which go to make up a Headquarters in the field. Today C.R. Signals of a Division, or a Squadron Commander of a Brigade Squadron, is responsible for all that goes on in that Headquarters, including the local defence. He actually commands the whole thing, except, of course, the provision and actual operational work of the staff itself. As you can imagine, again there are a number of problems to be ironed out during the provisional trials period of this organisation, and one of them is what on earth it is going to be called, because you have here a Headquarters and a Signal Regiment combined in one unit, and there's a slight pull. We say it should be called "X" Signal Regiment, other people want to have the word "Headquarters" somewhere in it. There has been a temporary compromise reached on that. However the principle is clearly established. Incidentally, one bright product of this integration at Brigade level is that we now have a Royal Signals Regimental Sergeant-Major in each Brigade Headquarters, where they are integrated, and on account of this, we have, in fact, got ten more Regimental Sergeant-Majors in the Corps in the last year, which is an excellent thing.

Studies on Corps Organisation

Now for Corps organisation. In the present age, when electronics and communications of all sorts are assuming a greater and greater importance in our day to day existance, no less in military spheres than elsewhere, requirements for new facilities constantly arise. The limits placed on our ability to do everything which we are asked to do are set first of all by finance and above all by manpower. Now there are various studies going on today by experts in all sorts of fields, on our way of doing things and how we operate and what our training methods are to make sure that every single tradesman in the Corps is doing a fully productive job towards providing and maintaining communications. Some changes within the Corps organisation may result from these studies, which are by no means complete, but whatever the outcome they are bound to result in an increase in efficiency taking the broad view, and I can assure you that the interests of the Corps are being closely guarded and closely watched. I am referring here to studies with names you may have heard bandied about in conversation, such as the Macleod Report, the Odling Committee, the Director of Works Study's review, the Mellor Committee and goodness knows what else, but I am not going to bore you with the details of them, but if you hear of them, that is what they are. One of the recommendations of the Macleod Committee which you may have heard of was that the Corps should take over the Staff Clerks in Headquarters and their duties, which at present are all done by the Royal Army Service Corps. This was not accepted in the end, and for very good reasons, and they are going to stay with what will be the new Supply Corps, namely The Royal Army Ordnance Corps. I am sure that the decision that they should remain with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps is the right one. In the field, however, we may expect some of our more expert operators to work in much closer contact with the staff.

Helicopters

In the not too distant future we are getting helicopters in the Corps, three at a time—not many, but enough to get started on, and I think, and hope that by then we shall have sufficient pilots, both officers and N.C.O's, to fly them, and I can assure anybody who wants to know, that a young man in the Corps has as good a chance of flying a helicopter as he does in any other Arm of the service.

Corps Title

One point is that the horrible word 'Sigs' has gone for ever. It has now been agreed and published that the official abbreviation for the Corps is R. Signals. Thank goodness that 'R Sigs' has gone, it was an ugly word, and I don't think any of us liked it.

World-wide Commitments

The Corps continues to have men serving in every part of the world, as you know, and very actively; as far apart as the West Indies to Aden, from Hong Kong to Swaziland. In Borneo there is no doubt that the Corps has done a magnificent job, a very exhausting one that never lets up. There has been very close working with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, and with other Commonwealth Signal Corps. They are always under pressure, and there is no time for anybody to sit back. Equally, in the Aden protectorate, the Radfan area, the Corps has played its full part in operations. Throughout the Far East and on Singapore Island the pressure on the Corps has been tremendous. When I tell you that the tape relay centre in Singapore has been clearing 4,500 messages a day, you will have some idea, and that's without some of these wonderful 'TARE's I might say. This is with men running around with tapes hanging round their necks. You can imagine what the pressure has been, but we have stood up to it, and are on top.

I was at Blandford the other day, visiting the Regiment there, and in that Regiment there is a Troop. It is called a Troop but it is nearer a Squadron. It is the Troop that provides all the little Battalion Signal Troops, when they suddenly get shot out all over the world, and their organisation has a Battalion Signal Troop standing by, at some notice, every day of the week. When one reads in the papers that a Battalion is ordered overseas, I hope you will always remember, that with that Battalion, suddenly ordered to Swaziland, or British Guiana or wherever you like, there is the normal Battalion Signal Troop of an N.C.O. and seven or eight men. This Unit keeps a map with coloured lights on it, and you can go in and every chap's name is there, and you can press the button and you see where Lance-Corporal ——— has been in the last year. It is quite fascinating. There was one Lance-Corporal, who, I think had been in four different corners of the world, all within one year. The morale of those young men, and they are all very young men indeed, is simply terrific. I inspected the Troop next for duty, and they were all absolutely set to go, and the only thing they were betting on was to which area of the world they were going. It was most encouraging.

The Soldiers of the Corps

Now all this brings me, naturally, to one of the most important parts of my talk today, and that is the state of the Corps as regards the soldiers on the ground in units and under training; as after all, it is the soldiers that really concern me, and I am sure yourselves most of all. First of all a few simple figures. We should have nearly 1,500 officers and 15,000 Warrant Officers and Other Ranks. We are today some 200 officers short, but for the first time for many years we are up to strength numerically in the ranks. I say numerically advisedly, because units are short of men. There are still a large number under training; more than there should be. We have had a tremendously heavy intake in the last two years, and there is, of course, an imbalance by trades. However, in a year's time I hope I shall be able to report that this has more or less evened out; but I do foresee a continued shortage in technicians, without a doubt, and throughout the Corps a pretty serious shortage of Non-Commissioned Officers. This, I am afraid, is natural, because in recent years we have taken in large numbers of very young men—boys, junior tradesmen and apprentices, and adults, if one can call them such—bless their hearts—between 17 and 18. So we are a very young Corps, and it will be some time before we get sufficient of these excellent young men of the maturity and experience to become Non-Commissioned

Officers, and eventually Warrant Officers. The material is quite excellent, and our standards are very high, but quite clearly it is going to take time to put this deficiency right. We cannot and will not hurry it on too fast, or we shall lower the standard of our N.C.O.s, and that is the very last thing we can afford to do, and the very last thing that I intend to allow.

Officer Shortages

Our shortage of officers is very serious indeed. This is something that has gone on over the years, and we are taking urgent and comprehensive steps to improve the position; but I can assure you that the Signal Officer-in-Chief for many years to come will probably have to appear before you and say that we are short of officers. We are getting our fair quota from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and the quality is good. We are offering combatant short service commissions to serving Warrant Officers who have proved their worth and ability to lead. We are getting an encouraging increase of applicants now from young men for direct short service combatant commissions. We are stepping up our machinery to attract applicants for Regular Commissions from University graduates; and I am confident that in the end we shall succeed, but it is going to take a long time. Now, in short, I must say to you that the Corps is in good shape, and in excellent morale; there are shortages, but, gentlemen, when were there not? I don't suppose there is one of you in this room who can mention any occasion when there were not. But we have always succeeded in rising above those shortages, particularly if we feel that something is being done about them, and we can see things being put right for the future.

Sport

I will now turn to a completely different subject, and that is sport. We have done well enough, and I don't intend to enumerate every result, but I will mention one or two. First of all, cricket. We had a very good victory over the Royal Armoured Corps, which is a good thing, at the Oval; and the highlights of that match were two centuries by Lance-Corporal Mayes and Major de Clive Lowe. Also in cricket, Signalman Crichlow got an army cap.

Tennis was very good. We won seven out of eight matches, being only narrowly beaten by the Sappers, which I reckon is a good record.

Shooting . . . now here we did do well. At the A.R.A. central meeting at Bisley last year, we won the Woolwich Trophy; and this was our first success in this match using the self-loading rifle, the SLR. Sergeant Smith of 14th Regiment won the Sniper Aggregate. At the N.R.A. meeting, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Lieutenant D. H. Insall and W.O.II Haw were selected for the Army teams, and Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh shot for Ireland in all three international matches. At the London and Middlesex Rifle Association Annual Meeting, 14th Signal Regiment did extremely well by winning two out of the three team events, and Sergeant Smith won the Individual Service Rifle Championship.

At A.R.A. Non-Central matches, the Pistol and S.M.G.—Minor Units, was won by 243 Signal Squadron, from Southern Command. The Service Rifle Individual was won by Colonel Mike Fletcher, and I reckon when you get a full Colonel winning something like that, it is pretty good. Out of the 46 competitors, we took first, second, third, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth places, which is very good indeed.

Turning to football. Again the Corps said has had a wonderful season. To date, they have won nine out of their eleven matches, and their only loss was 2—1 against Hull University, but they got a fine revenge in the return match by winning 6—0, so I reckon that wrote that one off.

Three members of 24th Regiment were picked for the Army team against the French Army.

8th Signal Regiment were beaten in the U.K. rugby semi-final by the Welsh Guards.

Now hockey. Here we have a very good story. The 7th Signal Regiment have won the B.A.O.R. final, which puts them in the Army final at home. Meanwhile, 8th Regiment reached the U.K. semi-final and were only beaten after extra time by the Ministry of Defence (Army) who, incidentally, had two Corps officers playing for them—Majors Kirkby and Blake. The Army Cup final is on 27th April and our best wishes go to 7th Regiment for a successful result.

Boxing. In the B.A.O.R. final, 2nd Regiment were just defeated by the Royal Irish Fusiliers by 6 bouts to 5—again a magnificent result.

A lot of sailing goes on round the world, but I don't think I have any notable successes to report to you this year. So much for sport.

Mess Kit for W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

Now a short word on dress. Nearly all our Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s now have Mess Kit for wear in temperate climates; of course, for a long time they have worn it in tropical climates, and it is on the same lines, and colour, scarlet and black facings, as the Officers' Mess Kit, and I might tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that the Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s buy it for themselves. This has been a most welcome introduction, and as you can imagine, makes a tremendous difference in the Sergeants' Mess.

The Move to Blandford

You will be glad to hear, and I think S O.-in-Cs. must have talked about this for nigh on fifteen years, that it is now pretty well clear, without doubt, that the School of Signals will move to Blandford in early 1967. The walls are going up. I was down there the other day, and I'm sure that all of you in this room will give a sigh of relief that this move cannot now be altered—short, perhaps, of general war.

The Reserve Army

Now the Reserve Army. As was foreshadowed last year, both the A.E.R. and T.A. have received some new equipment—not as much as they would have liked, of course, but some useful items for training and showing in public places. I think this, combined with something even more important, the clarification of the roles of the Reserve Army Signal Units, has helped to stimulate morale. As yet there has been no great movement up or down in recruiting as a result, but I do have hopes that this year we may have some improvements in, at least, the major units. There have been some redeployments in the Territorial Army, which, of course, are inevitably unpopular for one reason or another, but they are always done, and have been done, for sound military reasons, and in the long run I am sure they will help recruiting, command and administration.

Corps Domestic Matters

As you know, General Whistler has taken over the duties of Representative Colonel Commandant from your Chairman for this year. General Swainson and Brigadier Stoneley have both been appointed Colonels Commandant, which I am sure will please you all.

The Corps was represented by six officers at the Lying in State of the late Sir Winston Churchill, and I think this was well reported; you must have all read it in the March/April issue of THE *Wire* and in *The Journal*.

Presentations

A silver "Jimmy" has been presented to the Nigerian Army Signals by the Corps to mark the close association which has existed between Signals in the Nigerian Army and ourselves in the past, and to establish the bond which we hope will continue in the future. In this connection, I might remind you, that the Independent Nigeria Signal Squadron was formed when the West Africa Command Headquarters was dissolved in 1956, and this really was the birth of Nigerian Army Signals. Lieutenant-Colonel Eze is now the first Nigerian Chief Signal Officer. A sword, suitably inscribed, with the Harambe coat of arms, has been presented to No. 1 Signal Squadron, Kenya Army, to mark the independence of Kenya Army Signals. As you may know, we of the British Army are out of Kenya now and, from the Signals' point of view, they are running their own communications with very small training assistance only from our Corps.

Alliance

Her Majesty The Queen has been pleased to approve an official alliance between our Corps and the Rhodesian Army Signals. You will remember that we did have a close association with the old Rhodesia and Nyasaland Signals Corps and, in fact, very many members of that Corps are now in Rhodesia, which is separated, as you know, from Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Nyasaland (Malawi) .

(*Continued on page 125*)

Freedom of Richmond

As was fully reported in THE WIRE and the Press in the autumn, our late Colonel-in-Chief accepted the Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Richmond, Yorks., on behalf of our Corps, on 17th August, 1964. In spite of the poor weather, there was a very impressive parade and ceremony to mark this event. The Corps presented a fine statue of "Jimmy" and accepted a beautiful chair for use by the Mess President at Headquarter Mess, from the Borough Council. I understand that some hundred members of your Association were at the ceremony, from all over the country, and were entertained to lunch.

Honours and Awards

During the last 12 months in the Regular and Reserve Army, Royal Signals have received one C.B.E., four O.B.E.s, three M.B.E.s, nine B.E.M.s, besides two Mentions-in-Despatches in Cyprus.

Conclusion

Now I don't want to go on talking too long, and I have tried to mention only the most outstanding events of the past year. There have been many other items which, although perhaps not so spectacular or, on the surface, so important, may either now or in the future be just as significant. It is more than likely that many of these, the majority, in fact, have been reported in THE WIRE or in The Journal of the Institution. I would particularly mention here the Newsletter which the Institution is issuing twice yearly on behalf of Regimental Headquarters, and which I understand now is available, on payment, to the branches of the Association. I think this is a most excellent idea, because the more you of the Association know of what we in the active Corps are doing, and trying to do, the better you are able to support us. We do need your support, and it is particularly in matters of recruiting, both officer and other ranks, that you can help. As you probably know, I have on my staff an officer called a Recruiting Co-ordinator; at present it is Lieutenant-Colonel Knowles, and he is handing over later this year to Lieutenant-Colonel Pounds. Now if any of you should know of a likely young man who should be encouraged to come into the Corps, particularly if that young man could make an officer, please write to Lieutenant-Colonel Knowles and let him know. He will do the rest.

The High Standards of the Corps

Lastly, to become a little more personal, I would like to say that in the short time I have been Signal Officer-in-Chief, I have been very genuinely impressed with what I have seen of the Corps. I, myself, in fact, have not served directly with the Corps for something like nine years, and therefore I have been able to look at things perhaps in a different light. I haven't seen the gradual change over the last nine years; and there is no doubt that during this period our standards have gone up immeasurably, in every way. They are very, very high today, and what is more they are rising. I think I can tell you without betraying any confidence, that this is reflected in what I hear from all sides as I visit Commanders and Staffs. This is good, and as it should be, but we have no intention of resting on our laurels. We shall continue to go forward making our Corps better and better.

Gentlemen, the Corps is in good shape, and in good heart.—I thank you.

New Course for Royal Signals Radio Technicians

Nine young Royal Signals technician who passed out at Catterick towards the end of March, were the first to complete a new course of special academic training for radio technicians. This course, which includes 47 weeks of essentially classroom studies, has been introduced to meet the rapid progress of modern communications and a necessity to give the young soldier a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental principles of communications rather than the detailed practical application. The nine soldiers were among approximately 50 taking part in a passing-out parade held by 8th Regiment.



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ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

The School currently contains two communities which are each very interested in what the other is doing. The builders do not seem to achieve much when a drill parade or a hockey match is going on on the square, and whenever the tower crane moves everyone has a look to see if this time it is going to fall over. The shape of the new buildings can already be seen by the imaginative. One officer was even standing in a large muddy hole muttering "Yes, we'll put the telephones over there."

Some Sporting Successes

After a late fall of snow, spring is with us. The sun is shining at last. Sports officers breathe a sigh of relief as their outstanding fixtures are played off; already there is a sprinkling of athletes on the sports fields in the evening, and the little cement dumpers hurtle round corners with renewed abandon.

Preparation for trade tests and other examinations has been in full swing, and the School has also scored some successes in the sporting field. Captain (T.O.T.) R. D. Willingale was Champion-at-Arms in the Northern Command Fencing Championships, winning the Individual Foil, Epée and Sabre Competitions. Apprentices Logan and Richardson also did well to win the Novices' Epée and Sabre Competitions.

The School basketball team won the Northern Zone of the Junior Army Cup, but lost in the Army semi-final to the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Engineers, by 32-33. It was a most exciting match in which we relinquished the lead only in the final minute of play. The captain of the school team, Apprentice Lance-Corporal Elstob, is to be congratulated on playing in the Army junior basketball team which beat both the Navy and the R.A.F. junior teams. We also congratulate Apprentice Drew and Apprentice Lance-Corporals Sherlock and Donaldson on being selected to shoot for the Army 40 in the Inter-Services Small Bore Match. In the match they scored between them 597 points out of a possible 600—an impressive performance by any standards.

Penney Squadron battled their way through successive rounds of the Army Junior Rugby Cup to beat "A" Company, A.A.S., Chepstow, in the final by two penalty goals to a goal. It was a hard-fought game, played in very sticky conditions, and the one point lead seemed narrow indeed in the closing minutes!

General Rawson will take Graduation Parade

Preparations and practices are now well under way for the Graduation Parade, to be held on 13th April, and to be reviewed by a late Director of Signals, Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C. After that the School will disperse for three weeks' leave, which we think is well earned!

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT DENBURY CAMP

Sports. The main impression received during the month of March has been the tremendous enthusiasm, not to mention noise, which has accompanied the inter-Troop and Squadron knock-out sports matches. Each Troop has been continually waging football, rugby or hockey warfare at an incredibly early hour in the morning. As yet the final results have not been decided, but whoever wins the competition will go down as one of the most successful held at Denbury. Pipers and buglers have gained much additional practice in support of their Troop teams.

At regimental sport, the hockey team was unfortunate in being beaten 1—0 in a very close semi-final against the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, and this prevented us from appearing in the final of the Junior Army Cup two years running.

Boxing. In the Army Individual Boxing Championships held at Dover earlier this month, the regimental boxers unfortunately did not have a great deal of success. The only outright winner was Junior Signalman Unwin who became the Class B (10 st. 7 lb.) champion for the second year running. Junior Signalman Carr could not quite repeat his success of last year and was beaten in the final.

Trade and Education. The sixteen boys of last term's output who were retained here to complete their trade training have now completed that hurdle and have been posted direct to Units. Elsewhere Captain Watson and his trade training staff have completed the fourth weekend exercise for this term's output. The results of trade training tests at Denbury are continually rising and this term 90 per cent. of Junior Leaders who have sat a trade test now have their trade rating. In academic wing, senior and intermediate exams are under way and we hope for similar encouraging results.

Odd Jottings. Regular activities at Denbury continue. The Junior Leaders' variety show "Monday Night at 8" received a much needed shot in the arm this month and one of the best shows for a long time was produced. The highlight of the evening was the act produced by Javelin Troop, the winners of the evening's first prize, who persuaded the Commanding Officer to become the subject of "This is Your Life." He was somewhat astonished to be re-introduced to his "Boer War Comrade," "Childhood Sweetheart" and "Old Q Sergeant with an extremely broad Irish accent" and a gift of "Draws Dracula"

The new intake this term was a small number of 52. Highlight of the term for the recruits was the weekend camp at Churston Cove enjoyed in rather amazingly brilliant weather. Canoeing, swimming, introduction to radio, map reading, field cooking and a night exercise were enjoyed by all. The staff managed to retain their record as winners of the six-a-side Junior Camp football.

The Corps of Drums, Pipers and Dancers performed in Newton Abbot in support of the Churchill Memorial Fund whilst Junior Leaders went through the town with collecting boxes. Collections have also been made within the Unit.

The General Officer Commanding 43(Wx) Div./District, Major-General M. C. K. Halford, D.S.O., O.B.E., B.A., paid a visit to the Unit on 8th March, 1965, and the following day a group of headmasters and career masters came to see what life in the Army is like for a junior soldier.

South Devon is basking in mid-summer weather as we conclude these notes and prepare for another Graduation Day.

3rd REGIMENT, BULFORD CAMP

Regiment Provides Half Divisional Rugby Team

Lord Luck certainly was not on our side on two occasions in March. The first, when we became runners-up in the Divisional Basketball Competition to the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, and secondly when we suffered a narrow defeat to 7 Company Royal Army Service Corps in the Divisional Rugby Cup. On the credit side though, the hockey XI won their semi-final of the Command Cup and eagerly await their opponents in the final. The Divisional Rugby XV have just returned from a most successful tour of B.A.O.R.—destroying all that cared to meet them, and since the Regiment contributed about half the team it's fair to offer them our congratulations through these columns.

Despite all the pleasures—1 Squadron maintain they have been doing all the work, and that March has been a busy month for the Squadron, and marks the beginning of the exercise season, now that the weather is becoming warmer. However, the Air Head Troop under Captain Peter Treseder, Second-Lieutenant Spillane and Sergeant Phillips (lent from Alpha Troop) had to contend with Arctic conditions at Keevil Airfield at the beginning of the month. The temperature dropped well below freezing and all water supplies became solid. Even so, apart from one night, the Troop managed to be fairly comfortable when the new sleeping bags arrived. It then snowed and they were cut off from the outside world.

The Telegraph Operator AIII to AII course ended and Corporal Nicol is to be congratulated on becoming top operator on the course. Seventeen operators qualified—well done.

Corporal J. H. Clayforth, B.E.M., and Detachment Win Competition

The D11 Troop also went to Keevil Airfield for a few days' exercise on their own. This was a settling down period and enabled crew commanders to get to know their men. In the Commanding Officers Communications tests Corporal Clayforth, B.E.M., and his D11 detachment came first in the "best" detachment competition and Corporal Sleightholm and his D11 second. No sooner was the event over when Exercise "Skywave" started and detachments and men were once again scattered all over the country.

Seagoing D.R.s

When first the Regiment was asked to provide Despatch Riders to take part in the N.A.T.O. Naval Exercise held in the North Sea in March, a certain amount of speculation was inevitable. We knew that some of the ships involved were pretty big but surely this was ridiculous. However, our worst fears were stilled when it was explained that the Fleet was to be based on Bergen, Norway, for a few days and the D.R.s were required for work around the port area. Four members of the Regiment were duly warned for this duty, two of whom were from the Provost element and two, Lance-Corporal Daly and Signalman Blackmore, from 2 Squadron.

It was decided that motor cycles would be taken and this met with great approval as all were keen motor-cyclists. Two motor cycles were duly produced by the R.M.P. and suitable clothing issued. The ensuing sight of two Royal Signals motor cycle mounted despatch riders gave old sweats a great opportunity to 'grip' the younger members of the Regiment about the old days.

They certainly had an enviable task, and what more proof is required to portray the versatility of our Corps to fit into any need—be it work or play.

3 Squadron to the fore

Apart from providing the majority of the regimental football team, it seems that 3 Squadron now provide the majority of the regimental shooting team. At the beginning of the month we entered the Southern Command small bore competition, and although the results are not yet out we reckon to have done pretty well, and the team are now training for the corps meeting at Bisley.

Towards the end of the month the L.A.D. transferred their workshop temporarily to the woods, and worked just as efficiently there—but perhaps one shouldn't say that or we shall find ourselves with a bit of woodland for them instead of a building in the new barracks.

3 Squadron have successfully run an all-arms driver upgrading course during the month, showing that the problem of cap-badges matters very little save for our long suffering Quartermaster who is continually having to alter his scales for the odd soldier from some infantry regiment.

O.C. 3 Squadron and the Adjutant have now started training some of the Wives' Club to shoot on the miniature range—their progress is so good that we shall soon be ready to challenge other wives' clubs. Perhaps we could start a Corps Wives' Club postal shoot—world wide!

In going to press, the Advance Party is out preparing the way for a major Joint Force Headquarters Exercise after Easter, and certain elements of the Regiment are awaiting the luxury travel afforded by R.A.F. Transport Command. The barracks are taking on a fresh look with painters everywhere, and creosote being applied by the 45 gallon drum!

And with a final reminder to all ex-members of the Regiment in the 3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club—don't forget the Club meet at Bulford this year as guests of the Regiment 15th-16th May.

SEAGOING D.R.s OF THE 3rd REGIMENT

Lance-Corporal Daly and Signalman Blackmore of the 3rd Regiment recently joined the Royal Navy for D.R. duties. Read their story below.

The Regiment was asked to provide four despatch riders for duty in Bergen, Norway, with a N.A.T.O. Naval Exercise in the North Sea. After much preparation, two members of the Divisional Provost Section and two D.R.s from "O" Troop of 2 Squadron set out on their way, and here follows their own account of their experiences.

Lance-Corporal Daly and I arrived at Portsmouth on Friday, 5th March, and reported on board the cruiser H.M.S. *Lion*, bound for Bergen.

Royal Marines look after us

After drawing bedding and settling down we joined the Royal Marines with whom we were messed. We stayed the night of the 5th in Portsmouth and sailed for the Firth-of-Forth and Moray Firth along the east coast, engaging in gunnery exercises en-route until Tuesday forenoon. We had a very interesting time going over the ship's guns and magazines. Both the 3 inch and 6 inch guns are fully automatic and the way in which they are loaded and fired is a revelation to see. We spent quite a lot



Lance-Corporal Daly and Signalman Blackmore on board H.M.S. Lion in Harbour at Bergen, meet up with a Norwegian sailor

of time during one gunnery exercise in the company of a Royal Marines corporal, being shown over the gun directional position, and watching the radar-operated gunsights following and locking onto the drogues, which were being towed by jets.

We sailed for Bergen from the Moray Firth on Tuesday midday and arrived in Bergen on Wednesday afternoon, where we found most of the fleet already arrived. There were about 30 ships and submarines of varying sizes. Twelve of which were in Bergen and the rest round the coast at the Norwegian Naval Base, Haarkansvorn.

After a brief recce we were given our first despatch run with no less than 25 addresses, most of which we could not read. The rest of that day was a trial and error with a touch of frustration because of the language difficulties. Once this difficulty was overcome we found things easy, and although the despatch runs came thick and fast while we were on duty it was nice to relax with a tot of rum during our own time.

We left Bergen on Monday, 15th March, and after another gunnery exercise and speed trials we arrived back at Portsmouth. We had our last tot of rum with the Marines, who were very good hosts during our stay on board, and returned to Bulford.

Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society

Many readers of THE WIRE will have had the experience, earlier this year, of having a book of Raffle Tickets waved under their noses. At the suggestion of the President of the Society a Fund Raising Draw was in progress and thanks to the efforts of our members over 6600 tickets were sold.

The winning tickets, drawn at the Society's Headquarters late in March were:

7034, Major A. D. Taylor, R. Signals, Greasby, Wirrall, Cheshire. (£30 credit vouchers with Daystrom Ltd., the manufacturers of Heathkit equipment).

1542, F. E. Wylie, Barnstaple, Devon. (Jason "Everest" transistor portable receiver).

8566, J. A. Shelton, Glasgow. (Stentorian 10 inch speaker unit).

As a result of the Draw a little over £100 was added to the Society's funds.

During the annual reunion weekend the Society's H.Q. station will once again be operating under the special callsign GB3RCS. Operation on June 25th, 26th and 27th from 08.00 to 22.00 GMT will be continuous on the 14 Mc/s band with additional transmitters on other bands whenever additional operators are available. A special lookout will be kept for other Royal Signals amateurs.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

In praise of our hockey team we devote most of our space this month to their two recent matches—the B.A.O.R. semi-final and final. Other items of interest have been a Regimental exercise in the snow, a Quicktrain and the Annual Administrative Inspection.

Champions at last—The Seventh win B.A.O.R. Hockey!

In a previous article it was reported that the team had won the 4 Divisional final and was preparing itself for the next and harder round of the competition. With a confident attitude of "there is so much at stake we can't afford to lose now" they went forward to the B.A.O.R. semi-final.

At Dortmund on Monday, 15th March, they met the 28th Regiment. The regimental supporters were there in force despite the driving rain and mechanical failures of the PRI bus. From the start we were on top and with fast moves and accurate passing we soon took the lead. The warming cheers and encouragement from the side lines then spurred us onto a convincing 7—1 win. Now there was even more at stake!

We eagerly awaited to learn who our opponents would be—not a day was wasted, however, scouts moved out to observe the tactics of likely teams and practice matches were arranged whenever possible.

When the details were fixed, we were to meet the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry on Wednesday, 31st March, at Rheindahlen. On that bright, hot afternoon almost the entire Regiment was surrounding the red-shale pitch. The atmosphere was electric: the winners would be the B.A.O.R. champions and then go forward to Aldershot for the Army final.

From the word go the pace was hectic, the confident and organised supporters of both teams displaying their banners and chanting their war cries. Within the first minute of play Corporal White had made it 1—0 in our favour. A great deal of mid-field play followed until a brilliant pass from the right wing by Corporal Oliver was soundly converted by Captain Moss. Two up to us.

Our team, encouraged by their early success pressed on attack after attack but the SCLI's defence was effective. Then came a short corner in SCLI's favour, our well-tried short corner tactics were successfully applied against us and it was 2—1.

The second half began with just as much vigour as the first, and after 10 minutes Corporal White made it 3—1 to us with a neat move in from the right wing. SCLI were given a chance after a desperate struggle in our goal area—a clever penalty flick made the score 3—2 to us.

The game now became tense, with SCLI putting everything they had into the scoring of the equaliser. This they obtained from a penalty only seconds before time from a further wild struggle in our goal area. Now it was 3—3.

During the first half of extra time a deadlock developed in spite of the frenzied encouragement from the supporters, whose shouts at times even drowned the R.S.M.'s voice.

After two minutes of the second half SCLI scored from a short corner, putting them in front by one point.

The suspense now became almost unbearable, both teams were feeling the effects of the heat and pace, we seemingly to the lesser extent or was it just in sheer desperation that we pressed and pressed for that vital equaliser. Our attacks were repeatedly broken up by the SCLI's flexible defence and those that got through missed their mark by inches. As the time ticked away the deafening chants from our supporters were of no avail and the situation looked very black. It was only with a minute and a half to spare that Staff Sergeant Angell came in with a long solo-dribble and an unforgetable shot that made the scores equal once more, 4—4. This was too much for some of our supporters who rushed on to the pitch and entertained us during the pause with wild cartwheels and somersaults of joy.

In the extra time that followed the first team to score would decide the match. It was still anyone's game. The first half went by in fierce desperate struggling. Our hearts missed a beat when the SCLI took a penalty shot, but Sergeant Houghton collected the ball squarely. We had several shots at goal but in the frenzy around the goalmouth they all missed their marks.

Then finally after an exhausting 34 minutes of extra time Corporal White converted a beautifully placed pass from Sergeant Angell—it was all over and the relief could be felt.

Our next major problem is how to get the Regiment to



An attack develops in the semi-final against the 28th Regiment

Aldershot to give the team the support it so rightly deserves. Any suggestions would be of great help!

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Captain B. F. Allen and T. H. Wheawell on their selection for Staff College and wish them both the best of luck for the future.

Arrivals

Major J. H. S. Weston, Captain B. B. Gallagher, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. Whittington, W.O.II Meyer, Staff Sergeant Clarke, Sergeant Saunders and Sergeant Hambleton have all joined us during March. Staff Sergeant Bell and Sergeant Johnson are among those who have rejoined the Regiment from detachment.

Finally, to all those who left the Regiment during March, we wish the best of luck.

As we go to press we have just heard that the final of the Army Hockey resulted in a win for the 7th Regiment in their match against the R.A.P.C. (Worthy Down) by 3 goals to 1.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

The past month has been mainly devoted (apart from work) to completing various winter sporting competitions and getting ready for the summer. Small boat people are re-fitting; *Cito*, the Corps yacht, is also re-fitting. Aqua-lung enthusiasts are awakening from hibernation, and water ski-ing fans have seen a film which revived all their old keenness. More news of these activities will appear in future notes.

The soccer teams have had a disappointing time. 2 Squadron finished second in the local Minor Units League, but have some consolation due in that the first position was filled by a rather large minor unit, namely R.A.F., Ayios Nikolaos.

The Regimental soccer team fought a close semi-final in the local Army Cup Competition, losing 3—4 to the Royal Anglians and are precariously balanced in the top half of the league, where two points only separate first and sixth positions, and all depends on goal average.

. . . But there was some bright spots

The brightest spots in the sporting scene were provided by the rugby players. 3 Squadron won the C.S.O.'s Championship Competition by beating 2 Squadron of our Regiment, 262 Squadron and finally 1 Squadron (again of this Regiment) in a seven-a-side tournament.

3 Squadron also provided the bulk of the Regimental team that got into the final of the Army Rugby Cup by beating the Glosters 5—3. This surprised everybody on the island except ourselves. The final was played at Happy Valley, Episkopi, where our team was beaten 30-19 by the Cheshires in one of the most thrilling and spectacular matches ever seen there. The worst blow struck us when Mr. John Evans, one of our civilian



CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER'S CUP

Corporal White tries to take the ball from a member of the 262 Signal Squadron Team. Corporal's Carson and Scott follow up in support

members, was injured, when he was tackled into a Cheshire goalpost just as he was touching down.

If the emphasis on sport should surprise anyone, it must be pointed out that at the eastern end of Cyprus we work summer hours all year round, which leaves every afternoon free for administrative-hours staff; there is something happening every afternoon for any off-duty shift workers to enjoy.

And now the warm weather is approaching, pullovers are being proofed against woollybear and packed away. The sky and sea are becoming bluer and calmer, and cricket secretaries are making out fixture lists, confident in the knowledge that they will never, but never, be rained-off. Of course, it will be a little rough in the heat and dust of the wadi for the M.P.T. courses on fieldcraft, but the compensation of cold showers and colder "keo" will help.

TEST EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION

Assistant Engineers and Technicians are required to carry out the calibration and performance checking of the wide range of equipment produced by our Test Gear Department. Candidates should have experience of checking or maintaining electronic instruments to performance specifications, and some academic training in this field would be an asset. These permanent positions offer attractive salaries, generous staff benefits and excellent working conditions. Ex-Service personnel are invited to apply. Applications, quoting Ref. 8073, should be addressed to:—The Employment Manager, Plessey-UK Limited, Ilford, Essex.

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10th Regiment, Hounslow

R.H.Q.—First Guest Night

The Regiment held its first Regimental Guest Night on Tuesday, 9th March, since its reformation. Regrettably the Regiment has no Officers' Mess and has to share with Headquarters Eastern Command, but we are very fortunate in being allowed to hold two Regimental functions a year in "A" Mess. On this first occasion the Regiment dined out Major Charles Allen, on his retirement, and wish him all the best of luck in his new job as S.O.3 Scottish Command, and Major Tom Hipperson on his appointment as Liaison Officer with the British Embassy, Pretoria, South Africa, prior to retirement in 1967—some people have all the luck!

It is perhaps worthy of some mention that out of the twenty-eight officers dining in, a quick calculation produced a total of eight hundred and forty years service, an average of thirty years per officer!

Visit of Lieutenant-General Sir George Cole, K.C.B., C.B.E.

Lieutenant-General Sir George Cole, K.C.B., C.B.E., paid the Regiment an informal visit on the 25th March having recently taken over from General Sir Roderick McLeod. On the 26th March the Regiment co-ordinated a display of latest Signal equipment held by various Royal Signals Units for the benefit of the Headquarters Eastern Command Staff at the Headquarters, and the General is seen pictured with Brigadier Price, Chief Signal Officer Eastern Command.



The Corps links with H.M. Tower of London

There is probably no other place in England where so much history has been enacted in so small a compass as Her Majesty's Tower of London.

The Tower is for this reason well known to visitors and tourists. Few members of the public, however, and even of our own Corps, realise that the Regiment runs a small exchange in the Tower. The exchange is a 10 + 50 situated in the basement of R.H.Q. building of the Royal Fusiliers, which also houses the Regiment's Museum.

Subscribers served by the exchange are varied and range from the usual ones such as Guard Room, Ordnance Depot, R.H.Q. Royal Fusiliers to the more colourful ones such as the Governor H.M. Tower, the Curator of the Crown Jewels, Gun Park and Byward Tower Observation Post. The latter extensions are used when salutes are fired. There is an extension to the Scots Guards store. (The Scots Guards by tradition always have a store room under Tower Bridge.)

The exchange is manned 24 hours daily, seven days a week, by Mr. N. R. Staines, who has been there 13½ years, and Mrs. H. Jerome who has been there 10½ years. Mr. T. Cross, who

retired last year after 13 years at the Tower, was the third operator.

Regular assistance is provided by Mr. P. J. M. Williams, an operator on the strength of H.Q. London District Exchange (Horse Guards) and frequently also by military Comcen Ops of the London District Troop.

A new exchange, PMBX No. 3, is being installed and is due to come into service at Easter this year. This exchange will combine the requirements of the existing military exchange and the existing Ministry of Public Works and Buildings Exchange. All internal extensions will be auto and certain important subscribers will be granted direct access to STD. The new exchange will be handed over to the Ministry of Public Works and Buildings and manned by arrangement with the G.P.O.

It may be of interest to note that one of the Yeoman Warders (Mr. G. A. E. Gavey) at the Tower is a retired Officer of our Corps.

He is delighted to see anyone in the Tower wearing Corps badges and invariably makes himself known and has a chat. He himself must be one of the few ex-Signals still in uniform wearing First World War medals. Incidentally any soldier visiting the Tower in uniform may see the Crown Jewels without paying entrance fee.

Personal

The Regiment wish Staff Sergeant Mortlock and his family good luck in his new posting to the School of Signals, Catterick.

The Regiment's congratulations to the following personnel upon their marriages:

Signalman L. Greenhalgh on 30/3/65; Signalman A. P. J. Peddar on 27/2/65; Lance-Corporal F. E. Worrall on 20/2/65.

Also congratulations to the following upon births to:

Sergeant and Mrs. P. R. Hardman, a girl, 6/3/65; Signalman and Mrs. Kay, a son, 6/3/65; Corporal and Mrs. Pengilley, a daughter, 19/3/65; Corporal and Mrs. Mangan, a son, 24/7/64; W.O.II and Mrs. Singer, a son, 20/3/65; and to Sergeant W. Yates on his engagement to W.O.II A. Lonsdale, H.Q.E.C. W.R.A.C. Detachment.

11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Depot Squadron to move to Hooge Lines

The month of March can best be described as changeable, certainly from a weather, if not from a Regimental point of view. Early on in the month, mutterings of "Spring is here" (though not very loud) could be heard from those Recruit Troops anticipating snow and ice-free adventure training seasons. More pessimistic mutterings of "we haven't seen the last of it yet" from those conjuring up pictures in their minds of snow-covered drill squares and ranges, were also in evidence. The latter prediction proved correct. In the last week more snow fell than at any time during the winter, only to be followed a few days later by almost a heat wave.

With the gradual running down of 3 Squadron, which, at the time of writing, is being absorbed into the Depot Squadron, the Regiment's tenure in Bourlon Barracks will shortly cease and the Depot Squadron will move to Hooge Lines, recently vacated by the W.R.A.C. Any skeletons they have left in cupboards will no doubt shortly be unearthed on "march-in" in April.

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The trees that were kindly presented to the Regiment on "march-in" to Helles Barracks last year, and subsequently, by so many Regiments and individuals of the Corps, are beginning to show signs of life after the hard frosts of the last few months. It will not be long before the landscaping in Helles will look quite picturesque.

Pass-off Parades

The Inspecting Officers for the two recruit pass-off parades, held on 12th and 26th March respectively, came from outside the Training Brigade. On 12th March the G.O.C., Yorkshire District, Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., came to take the pass-off parade.

Best Recruits



Signalman C. S. Wood

The best recruits on this pass-off was Signalman Christopher Stephen Wood, who enlisted at Blackburn on 7th January.

He attended St. Mary's College, Blackburn, and played soccer for Blackburn Schoolboys and Youth Team.

His reason for enlisting in the Army was to secure his future and to advance as far as possible.

We wish him well in his future trade of Signal Technician.

After the parade and presentations, the G.O.C. had lunch with the officers of the Regiment. In the afternoon he saw some aspects of training in Helles and Bourlon and received a brief on drafting procedures in 2 Squadron before departing.

* * *



Signalman B. M. Whitehouse

Signalman Barry Michael Whitehouse, of 57, Round Road, Erdington, Birmingham 24, enlisted at that City's Army Information Office on 1st February, 1965.

He attended Moor End Lane Secondary Modern School and was a member of the 10th Cadet Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Cadet Force, in which he was the Drum-Major.

An exponent of what to many people is the unusual game of baseball, he played for the West Bromwich team in the inter-district league. As baseball is not played in 11th Regiment he turned to rugby, at which he represented his Troop.

On Friday, 26th March, he was awarded the certificate for being the best all-round recruit after the pass-off, taken by the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, Brigadier P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.

He now leaves to train as Driver, Royal Signals, in which trade we hope he attains his ambition of getting as far as possible in the Army.

Officers' Mess

The quiet after the Christmas festivities! But not for long. Visitors to the Mess have been comparatively few, although distinguished. On 11th January, the G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Musson, K.B.E., C.B.E., D.S.O., lunched with the officers of the Regiment, and on 26th January, our then Signal Officer-in-Chief designate, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., spent an informal evening with the officers of the Regiment and their ladies in our Cellar Club.

The 31st March, appropriately, saw our last visitors of the quarter besporting themselves through the Dales and in the Mess. This was the Welbeck College hockey team, whom the Mess entertained for an evening during their tour of Catterick. The entertainment consisted of a motor rally through the Dales which naturally, finished at the Mess for liquid refreshment and a buffet supper.

During the quarter we said goodbye to the following members: Captains Brian Giller and Bryn (the Inf.) Thomas, Lieutenants Jock Burns, Mike Orwin and Ray Etheridge, and lastly, but as she assures everyone, not least, our favourite W.R.A.C. subaltern, Tracey Denvir. We wish them all the best in the future.

In compensation for our losses, and most welcome to the Regiment, are Captain John Holmes (Worcester Regiment) and Lieutenants Mike Brock and John Drake.

Success, Success

"Garrison Winter Games League, Darts Championship, 1964-65. Winners, 11th Signal Regiment (Depot)." These words are boldly printed on a beautiful silver rose bowl, which now stands proudly in the Sergeants' Mess, the result of many cold Catterick winter evenings, when the members of the Mess pitted their skills with the "short javelin" against the best in the Garrison and R.A.F., Catterick. As far as is known, this is the first time this excellent trophy has been won by the Mess, and many congratulations are due to those who played. Not happy with just one trophy, members entered the five Garrison individual events and emerged victorious in two of these. Sergeant Ron Clarance carried off the darts trophy and Staff Sergeant Ted Morrill the billiards. All in all, a good season, and now we wait patiently for next year, when we hope to retain our title and possibly add more.

14th REGIMENT, GLOUCESTER

Inauguration of T.A.R.E. and visit of Signal Officer-in-Chief



Presentation of the L.S. & G.C. Medal to W.O.II (ORQMS) C. Cooke by General Bradley

All eyes are now focussed towards 12th May, when the T.A.R.E., which was installed at Boddington during last year, is to be inaugurated by the V.C.G.S., Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Baker, K.G.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C. On 12th March, as a forerunner, we were delighted to receive the Signal Officer-in-Chief on his first visit to the Regiment. The main aim of the visit was to be enlightened on the workings of T.A.R.E., but the General coupled with this a rapid look at activities going on within Robinswood Barracks.

The General arrived by car and was invited to inspect a quarter guard, this this he did, and questioned each man closely on many aspects of his life with the Regiment. The inspection was followed by a presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to W.O.I C. A. Derham and W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) C. Cooke.



The Signal Officer-in-Chief Inspects the Guard

A Crash Tour and a look at E10 Transmitter Project

This was followed by a crash tour of the Barracks and a look at the E10 Transmitter refurbishing project being carried out by Installation Troop—this is a major project which involves the rebuilding and subsequent installation at Droitwich of three 30 kw. transmitters which were recovered last year from Nairobi. At the Training School the General then saw our contribution towards reducing the Training Brigade "bulge"—a Comcen Operator Basic Training Course and also a Regimental Comcen Operator BIII-BII Upgrading Course. We have reason to be proud of our achievements in the training field—our last Comcen Operator Basic Course achieved a 100 per cent pass, and we are certain that the final product is a good tradesman.

A brief visit to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where R.S.M. C. D. Evis was able to introduce some of his members, was followed by lunch in the Officers' Mess.

On Getting 'Automated'

Then to the main business of the day—Boddington and the T.A.R.E. The timing of the visit suited us admirably, for a week after this, the M.P.B.W. moved in to repaint the T.A.R.E. control room and this produced some extraordinary sights such as the T.A.R.E. controllers operating in a large plastic igloo in an endeavour to avoid the inevitable showers of paint as the decorators gaily slapped it around!

The General was closely briefed by the Commanding Officer on the functioning of the T.R.C., and in addition to showing great interest in the technical aspects, made a point of talking to as many personnel as possible to get their reactions to being "automated." It is hoped that he was satisfied with the replies! Particularly in view of the fact that the canteen is now also "automatic" and tea and buns are shot out of impressive machines with a gurgle and a grunt!

There was a lot to crowd into one day and, regrettably, there was not time for the General to visit the Transmitter and Receiver site; this, no doubt, will come later, and we look forward to that day.

Visitors

As always, we have had a full spate of visitors. These included Brigadier R. Loder, Commander, Gloucestershire and Somerset Sub-District, who carried out the annual inspection (no notes—the same as any annual inspection!) and the new G.O.C. 43 (Wx.) Division/District, Major-General M. C. K. Halford, D.S.O., O.B.E., paid a *flying* visit, by helicopter, on to the roof of the T.R.C., also with the object of a T.A.R.E. familiarisation

Operations and associated problems such as shift working have not prejudiced our sporting endeavours, and we retained the 43 (Wx.) Division/District Minor Units Football Challenge Cup after a spirited battle with 95 LT Commando Regiment, R.A. (score 6—2).

The R.S.M. 'Dined Out'

On Friday, 12th February, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess 'dined out' W.O.I (R.S.M.) D. G. Newton, who has left us for a tour of duty with 63rd Regiment (T.A.), and officially welcomed W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. D. Evis, who has joined us from 263 Squadron (Trg.).

An excellent dinner, supplied, as usual, by our "Duff," Staff Sergeant Sedgewick, A.C.C., was followed by the presentation of an inscribed silver platter to R.S.M. Newton from the members of the Mess in appreciation of his hard work whilst President. The presentation was made by W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) B. L. White.

Lusaka Posting

By Sergeant E. J. Brooks

The Royal Corps gets everywhere! Sergeant Brooks describes below how he spent a year in Lusaka, capital of Zambia, on an emergency posting.

On 12th October, 1963, I departed from London Airport on my way to Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, to join Headquarters Forces, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

I was routed via Nairobi, where I had a one-day and night stop-over to collect equipment.

At 10 p.m. on 14th October I landed at Lusaka. There had been a considerable amount of confusion about my departure from the United Kingdom, hence, my arrival in Lusaka was quite unexpected, and I found myself wandering around the airport building looking for someone with the "look of the British Army" about him. Finding no likely suspects, I telephoned the local army barracks and eventually the Orderly Officer arrived. He had heard vague rumours of a British Army Headquarters being formed in Lusaka, but as yet had no certain knowledge of the Headquarters or any of its members. However, he solved my immediate problem by providing a room with a bed in the Sergeants' Mess of the Northern Rhodesian Army.

Next morning, I found, to my delight, that my near neighbours were also British Army, and that this Mess was to be my home for the next month, when more permanent accommodation would be provided.

Within the next week the remainder of the Headquarters staff arrived and work began.

The Headquarters did not become operative until 1st January, 1964, when the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland dissolved; the task of the Headquarters being to provide for defence of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland during the period between dissolution of the Federation and these two countries attaining independence. My own particular job was Cipher Operator

In November the Northern Rhodesian Government purchased a hotel which was duly converted into offices and accommodation for other ranks, and this was to be our home for the next twelve months.

Our Headquarters laid claim to being the smallest in the British Army, being only six officers and five other ranks in strength, under command of Major-General G. H. Lea, C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E. In December we were joined by 609 Signal Troop, which, in turn, must also have been one the smallest Signal Troops (one officer, five other ranks). 609's task was to provide communications for the Headquarters, in the form of a CW link to Zomba, Nyasaland, and a teleprinter outlet on to COMCAN at Nairobi.

Life in Northern Rhodesia proved very peaceful, with the one exception when the members of the Lumpur Church Sect rose in defiance of the authorities. During this period work went on at a pretty hectic pace, but at other times there were opportunities for most of the Headquarters to see a bit of the country. I was a little unfortunate, personally, in being the only Cipher Operator. I was limited in the time I could remain away from the Headquarters. However, I was still able (thanks to lifts by the Northern Rhodesia Air Force) to spend a day at Victoria Falls. The falls are a spectacle that I will never forget, the very immensity was frightening. Also, I managed a day-trip to Kariba Dam, which converts part of the Zambezi River into the largest man-made lake in the world.

In July, 1964, Nyasaland (now Malawi) was granted Independence, and Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) on 24th October, 1964. Thus, our task then came to an end and we were all to say goodbye to the sunshine of Central Africa, and to what had been a very interesting year.

Lonely Life for Mountaintop Signallers

Yet once again we are happy to publish an article showing the Corps doing its job in an unusual place—this time at the top of a mountain, 6,400 feet high and at temperatures of 18 degrees below. We are indebted to 262 Squadron and Mr. T. R. Coombs, Military Assistant Information Officer, Cyprus, for the following account. *(Pictures are on page 134)*

* * *

Mention the word Cyprus and most people conjure up in their minds pictures of sun-drenched Mediterranean beaches, but it might surprise a great many people to know that for three or four months of the year a small Royal Signals detachment shivers out the Islands short winter amid 19ft. snowdrifts.

They are members of the Troodos Detachment of this Squadron, who rejoice in the nickname of "the Mountain Men." Commanded by Sergeant John Francis, they man the Army radio relay station sited 6,400 feet up on Mount Olympus, in the Troodos range.

Constant snow blizzards and temperatures as low as 18 degrees below freezing point make life far from easy for the members of the detachment, yet morale is amazingly high, because the boys lead a busy life, leaving little time for them to dwell on their lonely existence or the extreme conditions around them.

Yet with another hard winter almost behind them, no member of this detachment appears keen to change postings with anyone on the Sovereign Base Areas at Dhekelia and Episkopi. "We have learnt to live and work as a team," Sergeant Francis explained. "There's no need for rigid discipline, because everyone realises the difficulties of our position and they all pull their weight."

All this, despite the fact that during the past winter, the members have several times found it necessary to dig themselves out of their snow-covered 20ft. x 30ft. hut as drifting snow blocked the two entrances. In fact for quite a long time conditions were so bad that access through one door was by means of a tunnel burrowed through hard-packed snow!

Perhaps the most rigorous time, however, was during February, when for days on end the road to the mountaintop site became impassable to anything other than a bulldozer after long spells of blinding snow. It was during this period that a combination of solid ice forming on a 60ft. radio tower, carrying a dozen or so aerials, and consistently high winds, caused the tower to collapse in a tangled mass of tubular steel.

Wearing fleece-lined Parkas to keep out the biting cold, men were called upon to work far into the night to repair the communications, first on the scene being Lance-Corporals Graham Jobson and Graham Riddy, on shift at the time the tower buckled.

But Troodos holds this sort of problem for a very short time of the year. During the long, hot summer, the men are extremely grateful for the altitude and far more equable temperatures than those experienced "in the lowlands."

Whatever the time of year, however, limited social activity makes it necessary for the lads to have their own interests. In the words of Lance-Corporal Jack Balmer: "Most of us try to find a substitute for the lack of facilities. Mine is learning to play the guitar; Jobson and Riddy are camera enthusiasts and make use of dark room amenities at Royal Air Force, Troodos, where we are accommodated."

Lance-Corporals Tony Young and Ray Hawkins, together with Signalman John Walker, all share the common interests of ski-ing in winter and swimming in summer. They explained that despite being on top of a mountain, excellent facilities for the latter were provided at a private hotel—The Forest Park Hotel—in nearby Platres, which boasted a heated pool!

All in all, this small Royal Signals detachment gets a great deal out of their apparently lonely life, and it is a long time since a member of the detachment has requested a move from this tiny outstation "on the roof of Cyprus."



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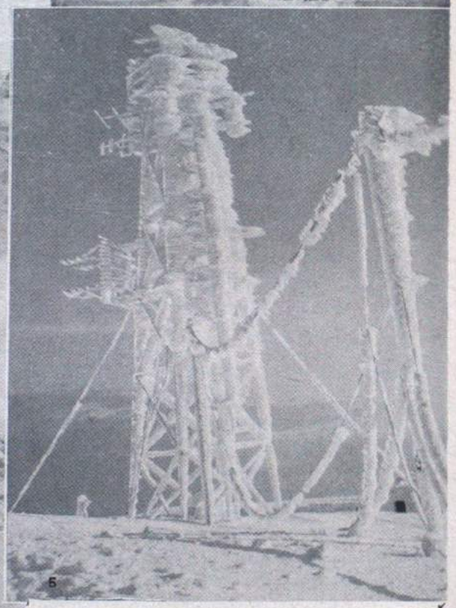
The Highest Troop in the Corps . . .

Say that Catterick Winters are hot!











1. L/Cpl. Ray Hawkins about to climb a 60-ft. radio tower. 2. Sgt. Francis assists in clearing the entrance to the radio relay building. 3. It's not only Eskimos who live in igloos! This is the entrance to the Army radio relay building on Mt. Olympus, and that tunnel is 4-ft. high. The whole area is covered in deep drifts; in fact most of the 10-ft. high security fence around the site has disappeared beneath the snow. 4. The tangled wreckage that had only shortly before been a 60-ft. tower. Note temporary yagi arrays attached to mast sections to keep communications through. 5. This picture of the remaining tower gives some idea of the extreme conditions. The effect of gusts between 80 and 100 knots on this mass of ice is not hard to imagine



The WIRE Drops in on the Cheerful 19th

●

They write to say their notes are pictorial for this issue but that they hope to produce one or two inspiring articles when they are less occupied with the Borneo confrontation!











1. The Adjutant, the C.S.O., Captain (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall, W.O.II E. A. Beasley, Staff-Sergeant M. Foy and, just hidden, Sergeant W. J. Hills. 2. Selamat Berpisah Tuan, R.S.M. Lord, the C.O. and W.O.I Wan Jalil, M.B.E. 3. Thirty-nine men of M.T. Troop receiving the S.B.A. Safe Driving Certificates. 4. At Telok Paku Married Quarters (*left to right*): Fatiman Bte Hussain, Habsah Bte Yusoff, Staff-Sergeant Harithuddin Zainab Bte Pandak Abd Rani, Sharifah Shinum Bte Syed Ali, W.O.I Wan Jalil, M.B.E., Raaya Bte Seman, Baldah Bte Che Rom, the Brigadier, the C.O. the 2.I.C. 5. The Administrative Inspection by our Base Area Commander, Brigadier R.F.B. Hensman, O.B.E. At the end of the M.T. Inspection. (*left to right*): Major Sandys (2.I.C.), Captain Gosling (M.T.O.), the Brigadier, Corporal Syed Mohmood. 6. Winners of the Singapore Hockey Association Div. 2 Championship, Singapore Base Area 6-a-Side, Singapore Services 6-a-Side, Singapore Base Area Major Units, FARELF Cup Singapore Zone and the FARELF Cup. (*Left to right*) *Back row*: Captain Wall, Signalman Freeman, Lance-Corporal Ashari, Sergeant Shamsuddin, Signalman Arshad, Signalman Selveraja, Lance-Corporal Hassan. (*Front row*): Staff-Sergeant Lee, Corporal Mohd Jaafar, Sergeant Nizar, the C.O., Signalman Abdullah, Signalman How, Lance-Corporal Wong.



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A Cheerful Inspection at the 30th Regiment judging from the G.O.C's smiles



1. The visit started in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess. A good move this! (*left to right*): Staff Sergeant D. Morgan and Staff Sergeant Hook, Royal Army Pay Corps, the G.O.C. and R.S.M. C. Nutton.

2. Next, to the men's Dining Room where the G.O.C. talks to Lance-Corporal Johns, Signalman Wiggins, Signalman McGrath, Signalman Denton, in attendance Sergeant Cotterill, Army Catering Corps, Major Malone, Unit Messing Officer. In the background the Oriental Food Counter.

3. The General Officer Commanding asked Staff Sergeant (Foreman of Signals) Kitchen if his wife disliked anything about the Army. The prompt reply "The pay, Sir." Hence the smiles. Major Symons shares the joke.

4. 640 Signal Troop with Captain Hodgson and Sergeant Haydon flanking the General Officer Commanding. The troop (*left to right*): Signalman Dickinson, Signalman Nicholls, Signalman Woodman, Signalman Spurway, Corporal Pentland, Lance-Corporal Board and Corporal Nixon

Interior Economy Inspection

This year's inspection was carried out on Thursday, 18th March, by the G.O.C., Aldershot District, Major-General P. H. Man, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. He was accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Simpson, T.D., The King's Regiment, A.A.G., Aldershot District, and Lieutenant-Colonel P. L. Body, Q.D.G., A.A. & Q.M.G., Dorset Sub-District. The visit is well described by the accompanying photographs.

Golf

B.C.H. writes.—The first golf match of the season was played at the Ashley Wood Golf Club on Wednesday, 7th April, against Headquarters, Army Emergency Reserve. A full report of this highly successful meeting will be published next month. Meanwhile, the result was a win for Headquarters, Army Emergency Reserve, 6—2.

640 Signal Troop (Globetrotters)

March is over, thank goodness! However, between all the interior economy, quite a lot of normal troop activities have been taking place.

Exercises

Ground Liaison Officers' Exercise No. 25, at R.A.F., Chivenor, enabled Sergeant Stogdale and his men to escape from Blandford for two weeks' "jolly" by the sea.

Training for Exercise "Easter Lightning" commenced during the month and the Troop provided assistance to 205 Squadron in the form of a D11 and C15 detachments.

World News

Two more countries have been added to the board during the month. We wish good luck to Lance-Corporal Board, who has left for "James Bond Country," i.e., British Honduras, and also to Lance-Corporal Shaw, who is spending Easter in Gibraltar.

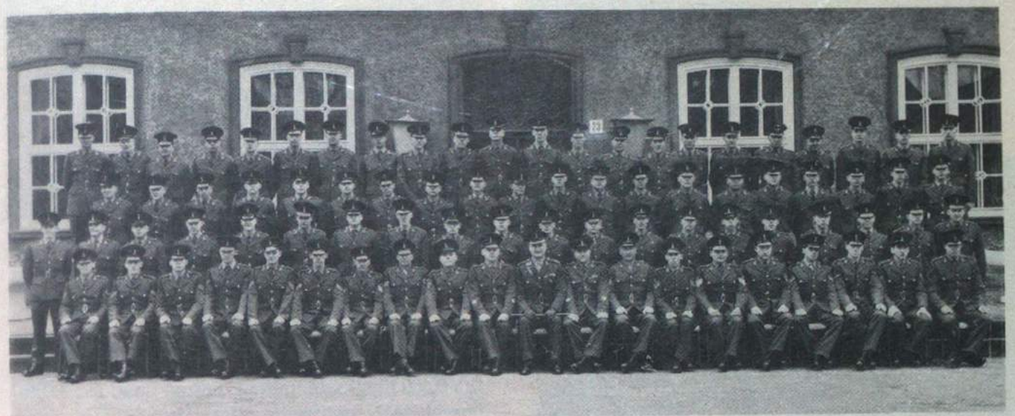
Sport

The Troop basketball team have met with success in the new Swan Competition.

Versus H.Q. Squadron the Troop won 54-40, and against 3 Squadron they won 80—6.

YOU CAN'T KEEP THEM DOWN!

Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Wythe, gathers together the ex-boys of the 22nd Regiment prior to his departure. We must point out that all are not on the photograph due to a large number being on exercise and leave. Our greetings to all other ex-boys of the Corps. Can any Regiment beat this total?



Seated: Corporals Hill, Daly, Sharpe, Noad, Denton, Schofield, Sergeants Milton, Uttridge, Staff Sergeant Brown, W.O.II Cage, Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe, W.O.II Agatsiotis, Staff Sergeant Avery, Sergeants Isgate, Gray, Greaves, Corporals West, Watkins, Harvey, Lance-Corporal Gruncell

First row: Signalmen Parkinson, Mullen, Peace, Lance-Corporals Blackett, Whydell, Signalmen Baynham, Cunliffe (253), McGlaughlin, Heapy, Duff, McCarthy, Lance-Corporals Brooke, Christie, Signalmen Gray, Lyons, Chandler, Crompton, Bryan, Consales, Day

Second row: Signalmen Finnegan, Wright, Jackson (316), Rogers, Reade, Brailsford, Dickson, Lance-Corporal Coultish, Signalman Gethin, Lance-Corporal Prior, Signalmen Devlin, Young, Lance-Corporals Stanton, Mitchell (808), Corporal Crabtree, Signalman Robinson, Lance-Corporal Jackson (487), Signalmen Smith, White (059), Spencer

Third row: Signalman Crone, Lance-Corporals Park, Bethan, Signalmen Read, MacGregor, Bates, Lance-Corporals Humphreys, Hedges, Harkins, Signalmen Chivers, House, Moran, Lance-Corporals Boag, Peacock, Signalmen Rooney, Meredith, Cowley, Edwards, Lance-Corporals Smith (439), Dixon, Robinson (972), Carling

Not on the photograph were: Sergeant Williams, Corporals Appleby, Boon, Cooke, Christmas, Crumbie, Fortune, Hawthorne, Jackson (063), Leigh, Lance-Corporals Donnely, Donaldson, Flynn, McKellar, McGuiness, Nuttall, Robinson, Rouget, Round, Smith (118), Signalmen Baynton, Buckman, Bennett, Camp, Cowling, Clifford, Craig, Coate, Campbell (409), Duffield, Edwards (784), Gent, Home, Hine, Hodgson, Jack, Kay, Longhurst, Lally, Mawer, Mitchell (219), Mackay, McKitterick, Robinson (377), Reid (052), Peter, Sullivan, Sixmith, Wilson (923), Warnette.

22nd Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

The recent weeks have been, on the surface, a period of calm, though we have by no means confined ourselves to barracks, which is against our nature. Much work has been done by "M" Troop, altering vehicle fittings for future exercises, which are beginning to appear on the drawing board. Also a delayed C.I.V. approaches which, all told, is enough said for seasoned warriors.

A welcome is extended to Majors Mathie and Plummer, who have recently joined the Regiment, and we wish them a happy stay. Also to Lieutenant Siderfin on his return from Norway, where, so he says, he has been ski-ing. Many members of the Regiment on detachment, or courses in far-flung places, have returned, and Troop Commanders are beginning to smile again.

Sport has featured well in Regimental life. The Regimental soccer team has added further to their laurels by winning the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Cup. In the final they beat 1 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

Now that Spring is in the air the rugby XV has once again taken the field, with mixed success. A team entered the "Concordia" Sevens at Hamm, the sole Royal Signals representatives, but were eventually knocked out by the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Churchill Barracks is inhabited by ourselves and 42nd Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery. An inter-Squadron/Battery minor sports competition is currently running. To date, 1 Squadron have emerged winners at basketball, and the doubtful "sport" of "Shinty." After suitable recuperations, other sports are to be attempted.

Losses and Gains. A noteworthy event, albeit away from the Regiment, was the marriage of Lieutenant R. Boden to Miss Carole Cottee on 6th February, 1965. We wish them all the very best in married life. We also welcome W.O.I (R.S.M.) D. F. Langston, who has joined us as W.O.I (R.S.M.), P. W. H. Lafferty's successor. We welcome Sergeants Millar, Watson, Simmons and Dannells to the Regiment.

Of late, the strength of the Regiment has fluctuated amazingly, Lieutenant R. T. Westerman (244 Squadron) is forming his new Independent Troop prior to their move to Hohne. Lieutenant R. P. Shiner has left us temporarily to settle 604 Troop in their new "home" in Munster. We wish them happy thrusting. Meanwhile, the Regiment has taken on the commitment of the basic training of two courses; one of Radio Operators and the other of Driver Royal Signals.

Extraordinary Goings-on. Social life has not been at a standstill during the last few weeks. The Regimental Police were surprised one night by the entrance of a number of long-haired shabby individuals with almost equally "rough" ladies. They were soon informed that the Sergeants' Mess was holding a Beatniks Ball at their pad. Not to be outdone 244 Squadron also let their hair down and held an equally "informal" Tramps Ball.

Sporting Notes. Great rejoicing in the Sports Club was the order of the day when the Regimental football team beat 4 Division and H.Q. Regiment 3—2 to win their way to the final of the Royal Signals Cup Competition B.A.O.R. While at the same time even orders had been read to find out how troops were succeeding in the Inter-Troop Sports Competition. The sports played being hockey, football and basketball, with only Rugby to be played to complete the competition. We must conclude that all good things come to an end. We are off Thrusting again!

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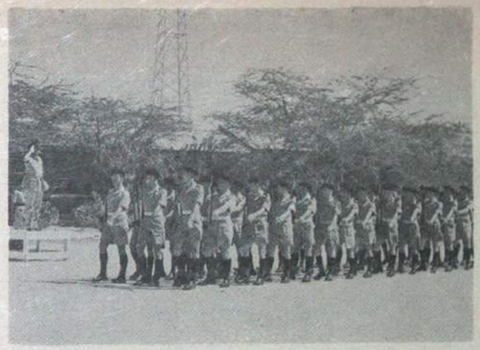
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General Whistler accompanied by W.O.I C. T. A. Hughes inspects the Quarter Guard



THE CORPS ON PARADE IN FAR OFF BAHRAIN
3 Squadron march past during the administrative inspection

XV

15th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 69

Having been re-formed for four months the Regiment is now settling down well. This process is made more difficult for some due to the in-different accommodation they occupy. However, some sterling do-it-yourself work is vastly improving our less desirable properties.

At the end of March the Regiment was honoured by a visit from the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler. The General spent a day with the Unit as part of his tour of Units in Middle East Command. On arrival in the Unit lines he inspected the Quarter Guard which was commanded by Sergeant W. H. M. Feeley. Our R.S.M., W.O.I C. T. A. Hughes, managed to persuade various Squadron commanders that the men he wanted for the guard were not as indispensable as the Squadron commanders had previously thought. The result was a very polished performance on the day although needless to say the R.S.M. did not altogether agree. *No* R.S.M. is ever one hundred per cent. satisfied on these occasions.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner, then briefly explained the role of the Regiment after which the General met three representatives of the W.R.A.C. element of the Regiment. Yes, we do have six members of the W.R.A.C. in the Unit although, much to the annoyance of some of our single soldiers, they live and work some five miles from the main part of the Regiment. After this the Colonel Commandant took coffee with some of our families. After visiting Corporal R. Cattermole's WD Hiring in Crater and members of the Unit on the ranges the General concluded his visit in the Sergeants' Mess where he met Royal Signals Warrant Officers and S.N.C O.s from all Units in Aden.

All members of the Regiment congratulate Corporal C. C. McMillan on the award to him of the Commander-in-Chief Middle East Command commendation for exemplary conduct. (Reported in the April/May WIRE.)

New Auto Exchange

1 Squadron, who are responsible for the majority of the Aden military telephone system, are at present hard at it preparing for the introduction into service of the long awaited automatic exchanges. These are being installed by Captain M. Hogan and his small band of assistants from 30th Regiment aided by representatives of Messrs. Ericssons.

Long Distance Radio

2 Squadron, the Radio Squadron, are fully committed providing operators for internal security duties in addition to those they have up-country providing rear links for other Units. **For training they are working schedules to Units in the U.K. and Bahrain using the S.R. D11. The Squadron Commander, Major S. G. Walker, would be delighted to hear from any other Units wishing to train in this way.**

Notes from Bahrain

Notes from 3 Squadron which is located some 1,500 miles away from R.H.Q. in Bahrain are as follows:

The Squadron was on parade on 5th March, 1965, for the Annual Administrative Inspection as can be seen from the photograph. The only parade ground available was SNOPG's (Senior Naval Officer Persian Gulf). Luckily we persuaded the helicopters who use the ground as a landing strip to stay aboard their frigates for the period.

We are sending off a D.11 vehicle again with the next Captain Amphibious Warfare Squadron's exercise. Last time after managing to land the vehicle without mishap from the Rhino (a powered raft that takes the vehicles from the L.S.T.s to the beach) the vehicle plus trailer was stopped in progressing up the beach by another 3-ton vehicle (the Unit should remain nameless) and then gradually changed into a sand submarine. This time the vehicle is going with the remark from the Marine Staff Operations Officer as "Jolly good practice for beach landing parties"—we hope he is not too right!

The Squadron won the HQLFPG Hockey Cup and is being presented with the cup after a friendly match with "A" Squadron 5 Innis DG. We are trying terribly hard to pack the team hard enough to ensure we win this last game!

Major C. A. M. Robertson has now taken over the Squadron while Major H. D. V. Chappell, our previous O.C., spent his last few days with us acting as A.D.C. to the Representative Colonel Commandant during his visit to our part of the world. We welcome Major Robertson and wish Major Chappell all the best in his new job at H.Q. Northern Command, York.

16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

Two 16th Regiments in one Barracks

Chief Clerk, 16th Signal Regiment, Bradbury Barracks: "Hello, is that the Chief Clerk, 16th R.A.? Chief Clerk, 16th Signals, speaking."

Chief Clerk, 16th Light Air Defence Regiment, R.A., Bradbury Barracks: "Yes, can I help you, George?"

Chief Clerk, 16th Signal Regiment, Bradbury Barracks: "We have a letter here, addressed to us, all about radar sets. We don't know anything about it. Could it be yours?"

Chief Clerk, 16th Light Air Defence Regiment, R.A., Bradbury Barracks: "Yes, it probably is. I will send somebody across for it now."

This, and many other occurrences, have wasted time ever since the two Regiments, both numbered 16, have been in the same barracks. Who ever thought up the idea of having the same numbered Regiments stationed together, obviously had no idea that people can make mistakes and only remember a number. Neither Regiment would change its number, so these daily occurrences were accepted. But now, due to a little bit of trouble in the Far East the Gunners have just left us, and we have the whole barracks to ourselves.

It is hoped, as a result of this, the efficiency of our unit will now rise, although we miss the noise and excitement of 30 and 32 Battery's tractors, guns and radars rolling out from the barracks off on another exercise. We wish them luck in FARELF.

"Comcen Operators better than" . . .
But read below

You might think that all we do here is to pass paper around and watch other Regiments working. You could be wrong.

1 Squadron working three-way shifts throughout the year provides static communications to England and the rest of B.A.O.R. 2 Squadron, for a long time immobile, now moves, and will be seen this summer fully operational, we hope, in the training areas of Germany. 3 Squadron keeps well out of the way, in Belgium, and provides communications in the Advanced Base, while Training Squadron trains Comcen operators, "better than anything the Training Brigade can produce," at least that's what O.C. Training Squadron says! H.Q. Squadron, who do everything else in the unit, now have an ex-Infantry officer in S.H.Q., so we might see a platoon of cooks dug in around the ration stores fighting off the starving R.H.Q. clerks and L.A.D.

16 Orgi—it's all the same

With only one "16" in the barracks, we should obviously be going from strength to strength—but are we, since the following was heard in the Adjutant's office yesterday.

Yeoman: "You remember that signal, sir, we had in last week, addressed to 2 Squadron, 16th Signal Regiment, about men required for Aden."

Adjutant: Yes, I remember, we spent a morning asking everyone in 2 Squadron, and nobody knew anything about it."

Yeoman: "Well, we have traced the originator. It should have gone to 2 Squadron, 61st Signal Regiment (T.A.). They are getting the number backwards now."

Can we ever win!

GURKHA SIGNALS

17th REGIMENT, SEREMBAN, MALAYSIA

Visitors

March was notable as a month for visitors. On the first of the month Brigade Signal Squadron Commanders and the O.C. of the Gurkha Parachute Company Signal Troop assembled for the half-yearly Gurkha Signals Promotion Conference. No sooner had they departed than we had visits from our Major-General, the visiting Roman Catholic Bishop to the Forces and numerous others finally ending the month with three Major-Generals and two Lieutenant-Colonels. On this day, the fourteenth on which we had visitors, our Regimental Adjutant gave serious thought to taking up market gardening or pig keeping—anything for a quiet life. (*Steady on—Editor.*)

Life Sometimes Gets Like That!

Here is his report:—

"Scene: Regimental Headquarters. A Major-General is expected at 12.40 The Adjutant, the Gurkha Major and the R.S.M. are talking on the verandah. The Commanding Officer is changing into yet another fresh uniform. The Quarterguard is making final preparations in the Guard Room.

Time: 12.25 p.m.

The Action: The main gate swings open and a large staff car is driven in and halts in front of Regimental Headquarters.

The Adjutant blanches. The Gurkha Major looks around wildly. The R.S.M. runs to the Guard Room.

The Adjutant and the Gurkha Major bravely approach the car whose door opens to reveal a mere Lieutenant-Colonel who quite innocently says he is looking for the Officers' Mess."

A Memorable Day

Friday, 2nd April, was another memorable day. At 6 p.m. before a large crowd at the State Football Stadium, the band of Royal Signals combined with our Pipes and Drums in playing Retreat. His Highness the Ruler of Negri Sembilan took the salute as the combined bands marched past playing our regimental quick march "Scotland the Brave."

Finally, a line about one of our off-duty activities.

Amateur Radio

W.O.I Grigsby calls you from a place he calls "The ham shack," a description which rather baffles this Unit sub-editor who has seen the Regiment's amateur radio operators working in a substantial detached building equipped with an air-conditioning plant and strip lighting and decorated most charmingly. "9M2SR is now on the air with SSB having just received a new rig consisting of a Viceroy KW Mk IV and a KW77 receiver which were presented to the Regiment by the Nuffield Trust. To complete the rig the members erected a three-element rotary beam together with a rotator and we are now doing fine business. On the opening night 35 stations were worked including six "G Land" and 16 in West Europe.

The station is on the air most nights from 21.00 hours local time until the operators collapse with jaw ache usually about 2 o'clock in the morning.

18th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

Visit of the Corps Band

The highlight of the last few weeks has been the visit of the Royal Signals Staff Band to Singapore. Captain C. H. Pike, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., P.S.M., Director of Music, Royal Signals, arrived on 12th March with 40 of his musicians at Paya Lebar, Singapore's civil airport. They had two days to recover from their flight before they started on their programme, which included:

16th March.—Played Retreat at Princess Mary Barracks, followed by a concert in the Officers' Mess.

17th March.—All ranks' concert at St. John's School.

18th March.—Junior ranks' dance, 18th Regiment.

20th March.—Regimental parade, 18th Regiment, and Regimental ladies' guest night in the Officers' Mess.

21st March.—Corps Church Sunday at St. John's Garrison Church, Dover Road.

22nd March.—Warrant Officers and Sergeants' ball, 18th Regiment.

24th March.—Corps dinner night, Princess Mary Officers' Mess.

The Retreat, on 16th March, was an historic occasion for two reasons. It was the first time that the Band had visited or played in FARELF, and it was the first time it had played with the Pipes and Drums, Gurkha Signals. The combined efforts resulted in a splendid and moving Retreat. The performance drew large crowds of guests and members of the Corps, families and friends, who enjoyed not only the good music and drill, but also the spectacle of the bright plaids of the pipers, white jackets, and the gleaming silver of the bandsmen's instruments. Later the same evening the Band gave a very enjoyable concert to an invited audience and officers of the Corps in the Princess Mary Officers' Mess.

The all ranks' concert was given to a good and appreciative audience in the air-conditioned assembly hall of St. John's School. Everyone was delighted to hear the latest London musical hits (there are a few "squares" here who had never heard them before!) and to witness the versatiliy of the Band. It seems, however, that the energy which the musicians put into their performance was too much for the air-conditioning—the stage was a warm spot! The 19th March gave them a chance to cool off, as it was a rest day for them, and in the morning they went on a tour of Singapore Harbour and some of the more friendly neighbouring islands. In the afternoon they visited Tiger Breweries and discovered how Tiger Beer is made—some members of the Band have tried, unsuccessfully, to convince us that this was their first chance to taste it! They had another rest day on 23rd March, when they were entertained in the evening by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders—they should have had a rest day after the rest day! However, they left for a hectic tour of Malaya on 26th March.

1 Squadron

The work load in the Signal Centre is forever on the increase, but this has not blinded us from the achievements of three members of the Squadron who earned their Safe Driving awards. Congratulations to Corporals Zainuddi and Abdullah and Signalman Raja Ahmad. Their awards were made on a Regimental Parade by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Millo.

The Inter-Troop Hockey Final played on the Meiktila ground was a very exciting match between a B.O.R. team and a M.O.R. team, both of 1 Squadron. The score was one-all at the end of full time and extra time was played without any further score. Finally the result was settled by "tossing a coin," and the M.O.R. team won! The Commanding Officer presented them with the Inter-Troop Knock-out Hockey Shield.



The Royal Signals Staff Band lead by Captain C. H. Pike, Director of Music, playing Retreat at Princess Mary Barracks, Singapore



The Pipes and Drums of Gurkha Signals playing Retreat in conjunction with the Corps Band

2 Squadron

During the last month a small party under a M.O.R. Sergeant (Cable Jointer) has completed a project for 266 Squadron in Labuan. The party was changed over every two weeks to give the men of U.G. Troop more experience in the more arduous aspect of field work.

The Squadron has worked on a large number of cable faults caused by damage during road development (nearly every main road in Singapore seems to be receiving treatment with big holes everywhere), and cable thefts. The Squadron continues to repair telephone faults on an average of 500 a month. Telephone installations and projects grow in number and complexity. An intellectual note—a Squadron team represented the Regiment in the Armed Forces "Quiz" Final at the studios of Radio Singapura, and beat the 2nd Battalion of the Singapore Infantry Regiment to win the cup.



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Strictly for Birds

by Major J. A. D. Francis



The 'plane, the weather, the terrain - just right

THE writer of this article, Major J. A. D. Francis, is a student at the United States Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, U.S.A., in the American mid-West.

We hear that normally his sport is gliding, but as there is none to be had around Fort Leavenworth, he decided to have a go at a private pilot's licence.

This story was written soon after his first solo flight. He is now well on the way to getting his licence.

With the concentrated care of only five hours solo flying, I circle at 500 feet around a small farmhouse, trying to keep the building exactly under my starboard wingtip, hindered by a 10-knot wind. Cross-wing leg 20 degree bank, hold it steady, steepen up the bank to compensate for drift as I turn down-wind. Up wind leg shallow out the bank, oops, too much, push the wing down again.

(. . . where the hell has that farmhouse gone? Good job my instructor isn't with me. "Naw, naw, naw Jaahn, you're cross controlling again. Kick the ball and just try to relaaax." He is an Air Force pilot of many years' experience, a deep Southern accent and unruffled manner. A father figure—he needs to be!)

I relax, consciously, flip the wing up, cast a quick eye over the instruments and then look for that farmhouse again.

(. . . pity the farmer. He must be fed up with that small red plane circling his roof like a wasp over a jam jar. Does it affect his cows' milk? But Kansas farmers don't seem to keep cows. Suppose I'm out of shotgun range. But they are keen rifle shots. Perhaps it would be tactful to find another farmhouse).

I am flying a Cessna 150 single-engined light aircraft over mid-Western U.S.A., achieving an ambition of many years. Did you know that divisional regiments will soon have their own light aircraft? Had you heard that Corps funds will loan, and sometimes give, money towards private flying training? (Regimental Headquarters can explain the deal). A fortunate posting to the U.S.A. gave me the opportunity that I had been waiting for. Here I can fly for £2 an hour. Forty hours are needed for a private pilot's licence. Instructors' fees for about 15 hours cost £20. Total cost, about £100, spread over a year, not much more than the price of that new washing machine your wife has been hinting about. (There's really no comparison, you can't fly a washing machine).

I roll out of my untidy circle and look around. My stomach leaps. What happened to the horizon? A thick white mist is creeping in, stretching up into the sky. The sun is sinking and visibility is down to one mile. What happened to that clear blue sunlit sky of an hour ago? The cold front forecast for tonight must have come up faster than expected. Or was I really paying attention when the weather sergeant was briefing me? I suddenly have an urgent desire to get home, to the comforting environment of Sherman Army Airfield.

I roll out of my untidy circle and look around. What happened to the horizon?

(. . . but where am I? I am lost! My stomach leaps some more. Relax! Think. Of course, the compass will take me home. But it's spinning like a top. My buzzard tactics around the farmhouse roof have unsettled it. So, let it settle down).

I steady the Cessna on a straight course, any course, and count ten slowly.

(. . . what will Jean feel when they finally locate my charred and mutilated body in some isolated Kansan farmsted? Why did I turn down that extra life insurance? That's right, I couldn't afford it).

Back to the compass which has settled reluctantly, and tells me that I am flying north, further away from home.

(. . . what was it that my instructor told me when I first went off on my own. Jaahn, if you get lost head east, and you cain't miss the Missouri river. Sherman Field is on the Missouri. Simple).

I ease into a shallow bank and watch the compass anxiously as it creeps around. Roll out of the turn 5 degrees early, we settle on east. The engine sounds laboured. A glance at the instruments shows that I am climbing. This is good, open the throttle and climb at 80 knots to 3,500 feet. But still no sign of the Missouri river. I must have drifted well away on my farmhouse perambulations. Ahead of me, a few miles yet, the clouds start to weep rain and it gets darker still.

(. . . what happened to that river? I can't have dried up that fast. Maybe the compass is off and I'm heading further into limbo. How soon before the emergency search and rescue boys start hunting?).

A gleam of light in the distance, a lake? A loop in the Missouri? It is the river, its snake-like bends came rapidly into full view, shining in the late afternoon sun light. I bank around slightly to head straight for it.

(. . . what was I bothered about? There's nothing to it. Keep a cool, clear sharp mind. Stay loose. Mind over matter. Simple).

I scan the river confidently. Where is the airfield? Funny I didn't recognise the loops and twists, and where is the railway that runs along the bank?

(. . . stomach prepares for another leap. But the wind was ten knots from the south. It has probably freshened with the approach of the cold front. That would blow me northwards. I must be well up river, nearly into Atchison City).

I cross the river and turn south. The rain gently hazes the windshield. Never flown in rain before. Now I realise why no windscreen wiper is fitted, the slipstream blows the raindrops off. It gets darker still.

(. . . how stupid can you get. I'm still wearing my sunglasses! Snatch them off, it's suddenly daylight again).

A string of lights glow through the murk ahead, a bit to the right of where I expected them to be. Home.

(. . . I feel a surge of relief. But what had I been worrying about? Sure I had been lost for just a few minutes, but precise, controlled thought had won through. Who am I kidding?).

I bank around to the east to approach the airfield traffic pattern at the correct angle, pull on the carburettor heat and ease off the throttle to lose height. In the unusual quiet of an idling engine, I glide down to 1,800 feet, level off and pull on cruising power again, approaching the airfield at 45 degrees to the main runway. Pick mike off the hook and call, "Sherman tower this is Cessna seven three tango entering downwind leg for landing." Finger on the receiver tune as the tower comes in: "Seven three tango, enter right traffic for runway 15, wind seven five degrees at twelve knots, altimeter three one zero two, check on finals." I answer with my call sign, adjust the altimeter and cut the throttle as the end of the runway levels with my wingtip. As speed falls off I hold back on the control wheel and adjust the elevator trim to give me a glide at 70 knots, bank on to the base leg and clear the engine with a burst on the throttle to prevent icing in the carburettor. A bit too high as I turn into my final approach. Pull on one notch of flaps, push the nose down to maintain speed and grab the mike again. With one eye on the runway, I call again, "Seven three tango on finals" and right back at me the tower, obviously watching me closely they can smell out a novice faster than a hotel clerk spots a honeymoon couple) replies: "Seven three tango, clear to land." I acknowledge, drop the mike somewhere under my legs and concentrate on holding my plane straight and level as the runway rushes up to meet me. In the streaming rain I settle down with a thump astride the broad white line, and taxi quickly between bright strings of runway lights, gently treading the brakes to lose speed.



I hold back on the control wheel to give me a glide at 70 knots



As I refuel and check the plane I start to think, "Now what did I do wrong today? What can I learn from today's mistakes?

(. . . safe. No charred body. Scrub that extra insurance. As I cut the motor, refuel and check out the plane, I start to think: "Now what did I do wrong today? What can I learn from today's mistakes to do better tomorrow?")

But this is all part of the fun and the excitement of learning to fly. In the local idiom, "it's a real challenge." And perhaps some advantage in a Corps soon to have its own aircraft, to be able to understand better the problems, the limitations and the tremendous advantages of flight.

HEADQUARTERS, ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG, B.F.P.O. 1

All other units this month have been overshadowed by the sudden death of our Colonel-in-Chief, which came as a great shock to all members of the Corps and of the W.R.A.C. in Hong Kong. As a mark of respect to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, a Memorial Service was held in the Garrison Church at H.Q. Land Forces and was attended by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier T. Haddon, C.B.E., A.D.C., the Commander Hong Kong and Kowloon Garrison, Brigadier D. A. Pringle, O.B.E, and representatives of H.Q. Land Forces and of all Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. units in the Colony. The service was conducted by the D.A.C.G., the Rev. D. S. Coey, assisted by the S.C.F., the Rev. B. W. Howarth.

SEACOM

This month has seen the opening of Phase I of the SEACOM cable joining Hong Kong to Jesselton and Singapore. The next stage linking up Phase I with Australia via Guam is expected to be completed and opened to service in 1967. We were honoured to receive from the Chairman, Cable and Wireless, invitations for representatives of H.Q. Royal Signals to attend the opening ceremony, conducted by His Excellency, the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir David Trench, K.C.M.G., M.C., in the City Hall on 31st March. Lieutenant-Colonel Winn, C.R. Signals, was given the opportunity to make a call to C.S O. FARELF. Subsequently we had a call from Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. M. Tighe speaking from Sabah. The speed of connection, and the quality of both calls was exceptional. The cable carries 80 speech circuits any one of which is capable of taking 22 telegraph channels.

Summer Activities

The summer programme is already getting very full and araringements are well in hand for Corps Week commencing on 24th June. The Corps athletics meeting is being held on Saturday, 10th April, and this will be followed by the annual Officers v. Sergeants cricket match on Thursday, 29th April. In

(*Continued on page 147*)



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May we have the Royal Signals day for Staff/Promotion Candidates and this will again include a layout and demonstration of Brigade Signals Communications by 246 Gurkha Squadron.

The Corps Swimming Competition is planned during Corps Week, as is the Old Comrades' Party initiated last year and continued this year by popular request. It is hoped that this will now become an annual event. It may be a surprise to many that there are some 30/40 ex-members of the Corps in Hong Kong in the General Post Office, including the Postmaster General Mr. A. G. Crook, in Messrs. Cable and Wireless, the Hong Kong Telephone Company, and the Hong Kong Police Force as well as many civilian organisations. The final activity of the summer is likely to be the Corps shooting competition in September. From now until September is likely to be a very busy and exhausting period, as we are also likely to be faced with the ordeal of our ration of typhoons.

From 6th-10th July we have the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who commences his Far East Command tour in Hong Kong.

Visitors

In late weeks we have had most welcome visits from Colonel G. H. Hoerder (A.G. II), Colonel D. T. W. Gibson (C.A.F.S.O. H.Q. F.E.A.F.), Group Captain P. M. S. Hedgeland (Director of Signals, H.Q. Far East Command), Group Captain J. H. Spencer (Chief Communications Electronic Officer, H.Q. F.E.A.F.), the Commodore-in-Charge Hong Kong, Commodore F. D. Holford, R.N., and Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch (C.O. 17th Gurkha Regiment).

Installation Troop (Comcan)

By W.O.II (F. of S.) P. J. Swaby

HERE is an interesting insight into the activities of a little-known but important Troop of the Corps. As the writer points out, if you are a member of this Troop you may be doing anything from lining up electronic equipment to drilling holes in concrete. Read on and learn more about your Corps and its infinite variety of jobs.

How many technicians or operators, I wonder, on arriving at a COMCAN station, have paused to consider how their equipment came to be there in the first place? Occasionally, units may carry out small or relatively simple installations themselves, but virtually all installation projects of any size or complexity are carried out by INSTALLATION TROOP COMCAN.

A Definite End-Product

Few postings indeed in the Army of today can compare closely with one to Installation Troop. One of the few jobs to show a definite end-product, it offers a sense of satisfaction and achievement not often found in more routine soldiering, even in the Corps, which in itself must rank as one of the most interesting and exacting organisations to which a soldier can belong. During a tour of duty with the Troop, a man's trade is more indicative of the scope of his general capabilities than of his probable employment; a day's work may run from the alignment of electronic equipment to drilling holes in concrete; from straightening a bent meter pointer to bending inch steel bars; from reading diagrams to designing a piece of test equipment for the job on hand. The small size of the establishment entails very detailed planning at all levels in order to meet the installation commitments around the world speedily and economically, and, as a result, individual become highly mobile, sometimes switching countries five or six times in a year.

A Job in Singapore

My name is Swaby. I am the Foreman of Signals with one of Installation Troop's teams. We are engaged on the largest of our present overseas commitments, namely, the installation of a number of high-power radio transmitters in Cyprus.

For me this project begins way back in 1961, when the Troop were nearing the end of an earlier project and were being briefed on future commitments. We were to move to Singapore, install a number of high-power radio transmitters (a type we had not prevously encountered), carry out various other minor installations and then return to Cyprus to intall several more of these new type transmitters.

Christmas, 1961, was spent packing MFO, and on the 9th January, complete with families, we left en route for Singapore. We were in high spirits, for even in this Troop, it was not every day that we had brand new equipment to work on, and the prospect pleased us considerably. Time in Singapore flew by, and as this project, too, neared its end, we cast anxious eyes back towards Cyprus. Many lessons had been learned, and we were keen to apply our latest ideas for improving and speeding the job along.

On to Cyprus

By the time we left Singapore, conflicting stories were filtering back from sunny Cyprus, and rumours abounded—work was to start with some urgency—work was postponed due to the political situation. My family and I were routed to Cyprus via the U.K. to enable us to get a few weeks of our native air into our lungs before doing another stint in tropical climes. By then we had already been away three years, engaged on overseas installations. However, members of the team flew direct to Cyprus and were well settled in by the time I arrived with my wife and daughter, in time to see dawn breaking on 26th November, 1963.

By mid morning of the same day I had deposited my family in our new married quarter and had reported for duty—tool box in one hand and engineering drawings in the other—only to be told the whole project was delayed indefinitely until the political situation resolved itself. In fact the hold up was with the bricks and mortar side of the project (MPBW), but until that work was completed we could not make a start with the installation. However, the matter was completely beyond the control of Signals, and I know our masters in London were just as eager as we were for the work to commence.

The weeks passed by, during which time we undertook a major overhaul of some of the older equipments in the station, and at the same time trained a number of junior technicians on the station staff in the art. We also took advantage of this period to catch up on our military training, education and technical training—not to mention a splendid week on the Mediterranean aboard the Corps yacht.

The total collapse of a building highly probable

At long last the first "on site" conference took place. Ministry of Public Buildings and Works (MPBW) draughtsmen and surveyors studied drawings and blueprints and everyone argued over the best way to do this job. No one could agree. Briefly, the problem was this: The equipment we were to install required some fairly deep excavations in the floor of the building. Cyprus, being in the minor earthquake zone, calls for substantial foundations for buildings of any appreciable size. This building had been erected on huge concrete piers sunk deep into the rock, and these were joined around the outline of the building by massive reinforced beams which supported transverse beams carrying the reinforced floor. Our plans indicated that the main supporting beams would have to be cut in five places, making the total collapse of the building highly probable. Plainly, this was undesirable. Another solution must be found. but not for many weeks and much correspondence to and from London.

We had other problems, too, which are not always obvious to the uninitiated, and which usually attend the building of large radio transmitters. For example, a trip to the Ordnance Depot at Famagusta showed a mountainous stack of 400 or more crates and boxes weighing anything up to 30cwt each and measuring up to 10ft. cube. All shapes and sizes, and all fragile, they presented a sizeable problem of transport, and in particular on site storage, since no covered storage space was available. The latter problem was solved by erecting large marquees inside which the thousands of components could be stored and pre-assembled into sub-units prior to installation in the main building.

The Contractor's men laid down shovels and took up rifles

By now we thought that at least some of our problems had been solved, but others came to take their place. The bullets began to fly in Nicosia, our fleet of transport was withdrawn for other more urgent use, some of the building contractor's men laid down their shovels and trowels and picked up their rifles and pistols before retiring to the hills. Counter Intelligence objected to those who remained, and, in particular, it was stated the foreman must go. (I seem to have heard that before somewhere). In due course, replacements were found, and work

went on, to be interrupted only by national holidays and fresh outbreaks of firing in the hills. Finally, in October, 1964. we really got under way. Let joy be unconfined. The daily convoy of 10-ton trucks began to arrive; additional technicians from other completed installation projects were drafted in and the building contractor's men again took up their shovels and trowels. In the marquees, shelves, once filled with small parts, began to empty and the once empty sub-unit frames rapidly became heavier as the components were built into them. As each sub-unit was finished, it was encased in a huge plastic bag to protect it from dust and damp. Soon, surprisingly soon, there are 28 plastic bags standing in a row.

A Myriad of Tasks to be Undertaken

Cable trunking was assembled and conduit piping sawn to length and taken to Dhekelia for threading—the Engineers there being the only people with two-inch dies. The drive equipment was also painstakingly realigned after the long period of standing unused. Cableforms were worked out on paper from dimensions, and reproduced in wire on the bench, ready for insertion as soon as the sets were assembled. The remaining sub-units for re-assembly were put together and parked wherever there was room to stand them. Absolutely everything that could be prefabricated was treated in this way, so that when the time came, the sets would appear on the floor as though by magic, growing from end to end and upwards, naked at first, then clothed in neat grey panels studded with meters. Massive sections of air trunking had to be jacked into position, cable trunking screwed to the walls. Transformers, chokes, rectifiers required to be wheeled into position; giant capacitators mounted into racks and cables by the hundred terminated as well as aligned, filters fitted and valves winched into their seats. Safety interlocks needed locating, doors hung, and a thousand details attended to in their turn. The new transmitters would then be ready for the first surge of power to bring them to life.

At the end of April, most of the team will be required elsewhere for another project, but I shall remain here to coax these brutes into life, more fortunate than they, in that I shall at least see the end of the job.

200 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 41

Winter Warfare Training in Hjerkin, Norway

Under the leadership of Major Spary (O.C. 1 A.A.C. Flight), 64 members of the Squadron went to Hjerkin, in Norway, for winter warfare training. Two courses were run between 1st and 22nd March. Hjerkin, which is about 300 km. north of Oslo, proudly boasts a railway station (with stationmaster and daughter), one hotel and a small detachment of Norwegian gunners. The Norwegian officers and men proved not only very hospitable, but very helpful. They provided all our skiing equipment for both courses.

With the aid of Major Spary, Lieutenant Nash, Corporal Fielding and Private George, the course fastened their skis and proceeded in a variety of unorthodox ways to tackle the slopes of Hjerkin. Before long, a tangled mass of bodies and skis littered the countryside. Miraculously, our instructors kept control, and before long everyone was able to achieve, after a fashion, a "snow plough" and a few simple manoeuvres. In particular, Lance-Corporal Smith, with unequalled determination developed his own unmistakable style of ski-ing.

Two Nights in the Snow

We were fortunate enough to have very comfortable quarters in Hjerkin, but for two nights these comforts were put aside in favour of sleeping out; the first night under canvas and the second in snow holes. At the scene of the snow holes, furious activitiy took place, as witnessed by the vast quantity of snow tumbling down the mountainside, followed occasionally by a carelessly-placed rucksack and, inevitably, by a few well-chosen phrases. After several hours' work it was a very wet and dishevelled band of soldiers who surveyed their finished snow holes with pride. A comfortable night was passed without incident, except for a few muffled cries heard by some at about 3 a.m., which it was decided were caused by a luckless soldier suffering from claustrophobia in his snow hole. The theory put forward by one soldier that it was the mating call of the Yeti is being investigated. By Saturday, Major Spary decided a change of air and scenery was called for, so a trip into Dombas was arranged. Everyone was left more or less to their own devices, and the name of the British "squadie" was upheld as they sought out the local "talent" with amazing speed, to improve Anglo-Norwegian relations (among other things). The more adventurous braved the ski-lift and made a fairly hasty descent, interrupted by a number of falls. Signalman Duncan with gay abandon attempted the downhill record. When he dug himself out of the snow and retrieved his skis, a helpful local tried to discourage him from making further attempts. The local tourists' hotel, with its nursery slopes, was well supported. Having "chatted-up" the hotel ski instructress, a number of soldiers started on free ski-ing lessons. Unfortunately there was no vacancies for evening classes.

The Dance that went wrong

A dance in Lesja (80 km. from Hjerkin) was promised for Saturday night, so the course donned their "glad rags" and made their way, hopefully, by 3-tonner. The first disappointment occurred in Lesja itself, when it was found that there was no dance at all. To make matters worse, the 3-tonner, on the return journey, was forced off the road and became firmly implanted in a snow drift. Our second 3-tonner (with winch) came to the rescue, whereupon Signalman Preston had an argument with the winch, which caused him considerable pain.

The previous night's disappointment was soon forgotten as we prepared for a visit to Snöheim, a Norwegian Army mountain hut, 15 km. north-west of Hjerkin. The first few kilometres of the journey were made in 3-tonners, followed by skiing, and finally by "Weasel" tow. The night was spent in Snöheim, and in the morning an attempt was made to conquer Snöhetta (7,500 feet), but with high winds and poor visibility, a less ambitious "stroll" was made. For the journey back, our trusty leader briefed us, as follows: Point your skis towards Hjerkin, give one push with your skis and you'll glide all the way back! Four hours and many falls later, back in Hjerkin, Lance-Corporal Smith and others were doubting the truth of this statement!

Formation Sign Presented

The course finished with a 4 km. ski race. Signalman Thaggard won first prize, but unfortunately lost his breakfast on the way round.

Sunday, 14th March saw the arrival of the second course, who were put through the same programme as the first. As before, Saturday was devoted to Dombas, but this time a dance was successfully arranged for the evening. Unfortunately, the type of dancing proved something of a handicap, as it was mainly Norwegian folk dancing. However, Trooper Humphries (with guitar), Signalman Hucker and Woodward came to the rescue with their own versions of the more current "hits." After the dance, some of the course returned via the Hjerkin hotel for a final fling before their departure on Sunday morning.

The Squadron Commander has already been beseiged with numerous requests for a return visit next year. Before our final departure, we presented a mailed fist, mounted and inscribed, to our Norwegian hosts, in acknowledgement of all their assistance. They were delighted with this, and we trust we shall be able to see it standing in its promised place of honour in a year's time.

The Padre becomes a Lineman and Corporal Harwood goes to Church

We have just completed our first Brigade H.Q. exercise. This was a movement exercise and consequently vehicles and men were all exhausted. At the last bowling night Corporal Harwood, one of our line crew commanders, challenged our Roman Catholic Padre to perform the duties of lineman for 24 hours. Corporal Harwood said that he thought Father Phelan would find it too much for him, and that he was prepared to attend Church every Sunday for six months if the Padre managed it. On Monday, when we moved out, Father Phelan reported for duty dressed as a lineman. He moved out with the Harbour Party at 07.30 hours and became a very good crew member for 28 hours, during which time we had moved five times and Corporal Harwood's crew had cabled up three locations. At the end of this move he donned his clerical clothes again and took up his normal duties, unanimously declared a NFQ BIII lineman and promoted local Lance-Corporal by his crew. Corporal Harwood starts his part of the bargain—very willingly—on Sunday, 11th April.

ACTIVITIES AT 207 SQUADRON

Cross country prowess, welcoming officers and Sergeants from the U.S. Army and a salute to the non-Corps officers who help to make up the Squadron (pictured below) (Captain Ward's in-tray tells its story)











Runners-up in the BAOR Minor Units Cross-Country held at Mindon on 10 February, 1965. 1. Front row, left to right: Signalman Stewart, Major Ford Cheshire Regiment, Signalman Crouch (Captain), Major Hellier, O.C., Signalman Withall. Back row, left to right: Signalman Bedford, Signalman Tate, Lieutenant Podevin, Signalman Evans, Signalman Kelly, Lance-Corporal Lanham. 2. Officers and Sergeants of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment U.S. Forces shown round a layout of the Command Cell during their visit. 3. Captain Bertie Ward, R.T.R. 4. Major (Q.M.) Bill Parker, R.T.R. 5. Lieutenant Tony Fry, R.A.S.C.

Visit of 2nd Armoured Cavalry Regiment U.S. Forces

A party of Officers and Sergeants from the 2nd Armoured Cavalry Regiment U.S. Forces which is affiliated to 7th Armoured Brigade Group visited us from the 9th-11th March. During the course of their stay they visited the Regiments under command, and also inspected a layout of the command cell of the Brigade Headquarters.

Traditionally, the competent performance of our many roles has called for an ability to work in harmony with all arms and services. Now there is a slight twist to this accepted concept. In the 'new look' Regiments and Squadrons in B.A.O.R. there is a requirement for Officers of different arms to work alongside, and with, Royal Signals in the 'rough and tumble' of regimental life. These Officers help to form the basic structure of these new units.

Coming from different Corps and Regiments of the Army, this distinguished company injects new thoughts, ideas and energies into our everyday life. For our Corps which is constantly in the public eye, this infusion is so beneficial to the maintenance of the dynamism essential to our Corps of the 'sixties.

In our Squadron we count ourselves singularly fortunate in having with us Major (Q.M.) Bill Parker, RTR—our Q.M.—Captain Bertie Ward, RTR—our Adjutant—and Lieutenant Tony Fry, R.A.S.C., as O.C. M.T. Troop. Remaining devotedly loyal to their Corps and Regiments they nevertheless give outstanding loyalty and service to our Squadron.

Outstanding Accomplishment of Corporal Rees

Corporal Malcolm Rees was selected to attend a course at the Seventh United States Army Non-commissioned Officers' Academy in Bad Toelz, Southern Germany. The course started in the latter half of February and lasted four weeks. The Academy was established to provide additional training for selected soldiers who have demonstrated by previous high standards that they are worthy of such training. The aim of the course is to develop the professional and personal attributes of leaders. This is done by teaching the basic principles of leadership and management and the technique of applying these in day-to-day situations.

The course entailed a lot of hard work. As well as periods spent in the classroom there were a number of tough exercises designed to test students both physically and mentally. A considerable stress was laid on personal appearance, military bearing and general tidiness of kit. In these qualities Corporal Rees distinguished himself by winning the Commandant's Inspection, thereby earning the General Bruce C. Clarke Award. This inspection is rigorous and exacting, requiring thorough preparation and great personal effort. The men who stood this inspection are some of the finest in Europe. Being selected as the best individual is an outstanding accomplishment.

We are very pleased that Corporal Rees won the award and very proud to have him as a member of the Squadron.

(*See picture on page* 150)



Corporal Malcolm J. Rees, 207 Squadron, receiving the General C. Clarke Award from Brigadier General James H. Lynch, Assistant Division Commander, 24th Infantry Division during graduation ceremonies at the Seventh U.S. Army Non-commissioned Officers' Academy. "The men who stood this inspection are some of the finest in Europe and being selected as the best individual is an outstanding accomplishment"

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS, ROYAL SIGNALS WING

The keynote of the Lent Term was co-operation with other Wings. Working with other arms within the O.T.C. is always refreshing, and the term has been very enjoyable for all concerned. Into the bargain ten people passed Certificate "B" and although we lost the competition against Oxford it was not by default.

The term began with a combined exercise with the R.A.C. Wing with members of the R.E. Wing making up numbers. Andrew Allen commanded the Signals Wing and despite his better judgement was obliged by the D.S. to withdraw. This was a combined R.A.C. tactics and groundwave exercise.

10½ Pint Cup Lost to Oxford

We were sorry to lose the 10½ pint cup to the Oxford Signals Wing after so many years. The present writer was not at Oxford, but he understands that Cambridge were better than ever, but Oxford were even better than that, by a margin of four points over two days. The competition was as usual divided into separate line and radio stages and run over a weekend, with suitable celebrations. The few members who have already recovered are very grateful to Oxford for their splendid hospitality, and also to Major N. B. Moss of the 3rd Regiment and his team of umpires. Credit should be given to Chris Gale, Andrew Allen, Kevin Diggens and George Houston, who trained the teams. Philip Cross ran a Radio Relay Recce Exercise for those not competing.

Rallye Militaire—Writer ditches Signals vehicle

The Rallye Militare was again a combined effort with other Wings. With last year's captain, Dick Paden, and only two others left from the winning team of 1964, we trained hard to retain the trophy. Unfortunately Dick himself had a minor accident early on, Martin Milling's vehicle had fuel trouble and the one vehicle with an all Signals crew (Chris Gale, Kevin Diggens and Andrew Martin) was leading the class five minutes before the half-way halt, when the present writer pulled the wrong handle and ditched it, so the Wing's stock of silver is a bit depleted at the moment.

"He met the enemy three times and ran away twice"

High point of the term was Exercise "Yorkshire Pudding," a full O.T.C. exercise where we combined with the R.E. Wing to provide an infantry force for the Infantry, R.A.C. and R.A. Wings to clear out of Feldom P.T.A. The "anti-admin" men were given their head and the force ran on faith and prayer, officially called initiative, for 30 hours in the best exercise many of us have ever been on. We were ordered to act as guerillas and under Andrew Martin and later Ian Crutwell of the R.E. Wing we did so with great gusto, aided somewhat by an enemy who watched our H.Q. for five hours without ever knowing what they were watching. Among the freshmen, John Eley did noble work as Intelligence-cum-Signal Officer, as did Hugh Beadle as a patrol commander. Andrew Allen was praised by the D.S. for his "Tenacity in fighting through to an objective," but claims that he met the enemy three times and ran away twice. The most outstanding work was done by David Kerr, a Sapper who has been accepted as an honorary member of the Signals Wing in recognition of his feat of administrative cliffhanging as Force R.S.M.

By the time this is printed, ten of us will have completed the O.T.C. Easter Vacation Course at Catterick, of which we hope to tell more later.

Incidentally, if any Oxford readers cannot get 10½ pints into, or out of, the cup, try drinking out of the lid!

210 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

Dusty Veterans from Radfan

Mountain climbing, safaris, accompanied operational intertheatre moves, wars in the Radfan, moving into a brand new camp. . . . More of an odyssey than notes, we said about our last lot—what else could happen? . . . Read on.

As the first dusty veterans returned from the Radfan hills, with Christmas almost upon us, the peaceful air of Aden was pierced with a series of bangs. "Blasting in the quarries for stone for the new camp," said we. "Bombs," said they, "double the guards!"

And so it goes on. We don't mind about the bombs, but we are not very happy about the guards, patrols, I.S. nets, search parties, etc.

The Mess is sorted out

In this confused atmosphere, we surveyed our new accommodation. Very nice, very compact—everything in one compound, shared with the L.A.D. The O.C. likes it; "no skivers here," he said, "one quick walk round in the morning and I have my grips on everyone." We were worried at first but, as he is always telling us, there are no insurmountable difficulties. Skiving continues.

What a mess it looked! Five hundred wooden boxes, 75 vehicles, 50 radio sets, an enormous pile of assorted signals equipment and 100 signalmen stuffed into one small compound. Fortunately, the O.C., Second-in-Command, R.Q.M.S., M.T.O., S.S.M., Foreman and Chief Clerk have done this sort of thing before. "Go out," they said, "and bring back all the workers who look as though they can be useful. Minimum force." We were the first to get electricity, power hoses, armoury doors and racking—Dexian racking—(every store; unfortunately there doesn't seem to be any left for the rest of the camp), flag-poles, etc. We missed the air-conditioning man, but no one else has that working yet, either.

Best catch of all was by the Chief Clerk, who produced quite the best-looking secretary we have seen. He's rather good at that sort of thing. Cor!!! (Sergeant Jamieson's remark).

Squadron Club gets under way

The first priority of course was to find a Squadron Club and after overcoming some nonsense from the Foreman about the importance of battery charging, the biggest and best room was appropriated. It looks a bit different now but we know that a clever chap like the R.Q.M.S. can explain the odd structural modification. "Bricks fell out, sir. So we put a door in to hide the hole." Now the club is thriving and with the Squadron Committee throbbing with ideas, we plan to rival the excellent "Gentleman's Rest" of our good friends at 222 Squadron.

Somebody's flag goes spare

Rather late on Christmas Eve a figure was seen at the top of the 10th Hussar's flag-pole. When asked what it was doing there it replied, "fixing the line." On Christmas Day the Forces Broadcasting Service announced that 210 Signal Squadron would give the 10th Hussars their flag back for 50 pints of blood and £10 to the Wireless for the Blind Fund. The O.C. suffered from indigestion, a settlement was reached and the

(Continued on page 152)

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flag returned, although they rejected our offer to throw in Lance-Corporal Goddard. To the Hussars eternal credit, the 210 Squadron guard commander who spent Christmas night with the Squadron flag round his waist, was unmolested.

Our Sportsmen Excel

We are very proud of our sportsmen, though you wouldn't think so to listen to us on the touchline. The footballers have done wonders, returning from the Radfan with an unbeaten record, they were too late to enter the league. H.Q. Company (league record, played five lost five) suggested a combination, and despite the millstone with thirteen wins in a row, we have only to win one more to clinch the Little Aden League. In the Allcomers Cup, we knocked out two major units before succumbing to the all-conquering 45 Commando and breaking a run of 28 consecutive victories. In the Army Cup we went one better and beat the Commando (first and only loss of the season) 5—2 with a magnificent display of soccer. Alas, we were knocked out in the semi-final by 4th Royal Anglians in our only really bad display of the season.

Corporal O'Donnel and Corporal Fitzgerald were both selected for the Army, which beat the R.A.F., although the latter was unable to play. Corporal Sydney, Lance-Corporal Walker and Lance-Corporal Bone ("best winger in Aden when he is awake") all deserve mention for their consistent good form.

The hockey team is still undefeated, but suffering from the loss of Major Hartnett and Lieutenant McLuckie. The cricket team has started with two seven-wicket victories, and the darts team sweeps all before it—especially the bar stock.

We even communicate

On the signals side, we continue to communicate. Our most interesting job is controlling a guard net (C11), which includes, on occasions, Marines, Sailors, Sappers, Paratroopers and Infantry, and all sorts of interesting places like Socotra and Perim Islands and odd outposts in the desert. Some interesting D11 schedules with U.K. and Singapore; very nice to hear from Staff Sergeant Glenville, 43rd (Wessex) T.A., again.

The technicians have got a bit swollen-headed since R.E.M.E. started to send them work, and you can't get a mug of tea now without being shown their record of work chart. This complicated document says that they undertook 266 jobs in March, but we think that this includes the screwing of each individual screw and, of course, all the record players, toasters, etc. Sergeant Tookey and his Comcen boys must be very efficient, because they say they pass a lot of messages, and we never see them doing any work.

The linemen don't lay much line, but are very useful (see football, darts, club, self-help, beer and beer above). And full marks to the administrators who keep things rolling, despite the most appalling difficulties.

Comings and goings

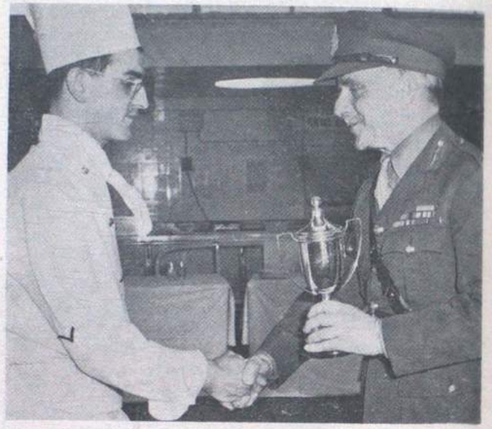
Four old faithfuls have left in the last couple of months. Major Mike Hartnett, Second-in-Command par excellence, pillar of the hockey team, entrepreneur of the P.R.I. and keen game watcher (especially birds). Lieutenant Jim McLuckie, good at all sports (indoor and out). Foreman of Signals Jones, who could repair anything, standing on his head blindfolded and with a can of beer in each hand. Not forgetting Lance-Corporal Fred Freeman—who is going to tell the stories now?

New arrivals always look completely bewildered, but they are soon as mad as the rest of us. Captains Mike Spence and Ron Saville, Second-Lieutenant Ian Turner and a heap of Indians have all started on the right foot.

Now we have almost settled in, we are looking for something different to do. We are buying two boats and have gone fishing crazy, with weekly one-day exercises to a local deserted island. Lance-Corporal Bone is shortly going climbing (with a C11) with the mountain rescue team in Ethiopia—must get him fit for next season somehow. And there are lots of other ridiculous things to be done if we only think hard enough—so watch this space for the next instalment.

243 SQUADRON, BULFORD CAMP

This month Royal Signals take a back seat whilst we extol the virtues of Lance-Corporal Ratcliffe of the A.C.C. attached to this Unit as a cook. (O.C.: "You would hardly expect him to be attached as a Vehicle Mechanic, would you?"—"Well sir, when I joined up one could hardly tell the difference!") But with Lance-Corporal Ratcliffe one really *can*, not only tell but *taste* the difference as the G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command said the other day when he presented Lance-Corporal Ratcliffe with the cup for the Advanced Individual Cookery Championship of Southern Command.



Lance Corporal Ratcliffe receiving the winners cup for cookery from Lieutenant General Sir Kenneth Darling, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command

Lance-Corporal Ratcliffe went to school in Stockport and first made his mark as a runner by becoming a Stockport Schools Miler. He then went to Holling's College, a domestic and trades college where he studied domestic science and sat and passed the City and Guilds Basic Cooking Certificate No. 150 and Cookery for Hotels and Catering Establishments Certificate No. 151. Whilst at the College he entered the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Technical Training Week competitions and won medals for high diving and the 100 yards free style swimming. He was now getting older and wiser and decided to join the Army. Aged 17 years and 9 months he entered the A.C.C. in August 1962. He served as a cook to Major-General R. W. Ewbank, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.A., and Major-General E. J. H. Bates, O.B.E., M.C., M.A., whilst at the R.M.C.S., Shrivenham. He was posted to 243 Squadron in October 1964 and this year entered the Salisbury Plain Sub-District Cookery Competition where he came first with 103.5 points, the 43 (Wx) Div./District Advanced Cookery Competition where he was runner-up with 86 per cent. against a W.O.II (S.Q.M.S.) Brooks of the 1 K.S.L.I. with 88 per cent. and then was entered for the Southern Command Advanced Cookery (Individual) finals on 25th March. He managed to get some time off from a course he is attending for the A.C.E. 2nd Class Certificate of Education, popped down to Salisbury, slaved over a hot stove for a couple of hours and, as our picture shows, was presented with the Winners' Cup by Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth Darling, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command. We are thinking of sending Lance-Corporal Ratcliffe on an upgrading course later on this year! (Stop Press: His upgrading course to B.1 starts on 6th September, 1965). So, for a B.2 cook he has not done badly at all. (The O.C. rather wistfully remarked that he would like to misemploy this chap but his rates probably came too high!)

Hundred Per Cent. Success

Now to the back seat. Our first course of Trainee Drivers has finished with 100 per cent. success and 10 happy men will soon be taking their place in the queue to get on the autobahns in B.A.O.R. But time never stands still and 243 never rests. It's time now for the bi-annual Southern Command Military Proficiency Course which we run, and what with the P.A. Van being booked practically solid until August, five men detached to work on the Blandford Project scheme (must make sure the School of Signals is well looked after) and the Recruiting Team busy girding their loins for another full, and, we hope, successful season of touring the South, the Squadron is beginning to assume its normal summer outlook—present in camp: O.C., C.C., S.S.M., S.Q.M.S.; detached: all the rest except the civilians. And that is very nearly the whole truth.

261 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 53

Since the publication of our last contribution to THE WIRE considerable changes of personnel have taken place within the Squadron, and many more are due to take place in the near future.

Major Allen handed over command of the Squadron to Major Johnstone at a short but impressive parade in the presence of the Chief Signal Officer Cyprus District, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg.

On the same parade the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was presented to Staff Sergeant J. Franklin. We all offer him our congratulations. Well done Staff—eighteen years undetected crime is an achievement of a high order.

We also offer our congratulations to Sergeant D. Sparrow on his well deserved award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List.

Major Allen and our long serving T.O.T. Captain, C. Brodley, have now left the island, bound for the colder climes of the U.K. Our best wishes for the future go with them and their families. At the same time we extend a warm welcome to Lieutenant Hutley, our new T.O.T. He is just in time to enjoy the beginning of our splendid summer.

High Standard Achieved . . .

At long last the Squadron Administration Inspection is over and all those with skeletons in cupboards can relax. The Administration Inspection officially began with a ceremonial parade. The Squadron wore No. 2 Dress with white buckskin



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The Chief Signal Officer Cyprus District, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, accompanied by Major M. Allen, chats to Signalman Panitzke during the Administrative Inspection Parade

belts and carried sterling machine guns at the shoulder, they made a most impressive sight. Wives of Squadron personnel were invited to watch the parade and Colonel T. H. C. Grigg took the salute. The Colonel commented on the high standard of turnout and drill, pointing out that many units would be proud to achieve the same standard set by the Squadron that day.

After visiting the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at lunch time, we rounded the day off by watching the semi-final of "The C.S.O.'s Cup" hockey match against 259 Squadron. C.S.O.'s cup matches with 259 Squadron are always something of a local derby, and fought with unflagging spirit to the bitter end. We were delighted to come away with a 3—1 victory.

All things considered we had an excellent Admistration day. All the sweat and toil of preparation were justified by the excellent report the Squadron obtained. The truth of the old adage "To get something out—you must put something in" must now be apparent to all.

Whilst we on the coast enjoy temperatures of 70° and wear shirt sleeve order, a few miles away in the Troodos Mountains the temperatures are often many degrees below zero. At Mount Olympus truly arctic conditions prevail, in fact, so deep is the snow that at times it has been possible to ski over the roof of the Guard Room.

This year the winter has been particularly severe, at one stage an appalling storm blew over 2,000 fuses and carbons and we are told that for a time things were somewhat chaotic. However, our man in Troodos, Corporal McManus, upheld the highest traditions of the Corps by keeping the line communications through.

Never in the history of the Squadron has the unit been so widely deployed as it is at present. Not only do we have our normal Airfield Troops at Nicosia, Akrotiri and El Adem in North Africa, plus our odd detachments at Troodos, Pergamos and Ayios Nicolaos, in addition, we are now serving in yet another country, Aden. Sergeant Waters and a detachment of ten men from Construction Troop are assisting 222nd Squadron, with the installation of a number of underground cables. Construction Troop is normally based at Episkopi and is the only Troop in the Command equipped for heavy cable route construction. Although the work on which the detachment is employed is 'old hat' the change of scenery is most welcome.

Finally we all offer our congratulations to Lieutenant Fulton on his recent engagement to Miss Janet Douse. He is the third officer commanding the Airfield Troop in North Africa to succumbe to the charms of the female inhabitants of R.A.F. El Aden.

As we were going to press the Squadron beat 48 Command Workshops R.E.M.E. by one goal to nil in the Cyprus Army Minor Units Hockey Final.

262 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 53

There seems to have been so much going on in the Squadron this past month that we've had difficulty in deciding what would interest old members of the Squadron and other readers of THE WIRE. In the end we've settled for what we consider to be the three most noteworthy events which give a good idea of the varied life members of this Squadron can enjoy.

Squadron Dance

It is a simple title for what is normally an everyday, or more aptly an everynight, event.

Such was the success of this particular function, however, that a more wordy account is justified.

Had this event taken place in Scotland it would truly have been "a gathering of the clans," if you substitute Royal Signals elements for clans and gather them from all points of Cyprus instead of Scotland. From the largest, 9th Regiment, to the smallest, Battalion Royal Signals Troops, they came, not forgetting the United Nations (644) in Nicosia and our own personnel from Troodos and Episkopi. Others we were pleased to see were members of the Swedish and Finnish U.N. Contingents.

The date was the 6th of March, and in the preparations and planning "Q" Best lived up to his name. Any aspect of the dance you care to mention would be truthfully prefixed by the adjective "Best." Band, buffet and cabaret acts all combined to make the evening yet once again another "best" of its kind experienced for a long, long time.

One highlight of the evening was the appearance of two ladies giving an impressive performance of "local" folk-dancing, being the type of dance more commonly known as belly-dancing. This is apparently appropriate since, as the onlooker will readily appreciate, it is that portion of the anatomy which is featured. Many an instructor at the School of Signals would welcome the degree of attention shown to these young ladies during their act!

A Day of Difference

On Thursday, 11th March, 1965, three members of 262 Squadron went to sea. This was in the literal sense of the word and not metaphorically speaking and was necessitated by the requirement to dump at sea, certain items of stores. With a week or so of recent fair weather behind them Lieutenant Loudoun and Sergeants Coole and Gorman were looking forward to the trip.

Arriving at the quay they were ushered aboard and were somewhat surprised to find a crew which completely consisted of khaki-clad members of the Royal Engineers. Provision of the vessel and crew made by Captain J. Hyde, Royal Engineers, Officer Commanding 471 Lighterage Troop, R.E., Famagusta. As the title of this Unit suggests, its duties are confined principally to port operating with tugs and lighters. The vessel on this occasion was a tug of some 70 tons to whose fussy appearance was added the military touch of Royal Engineer colours around the funnel, surmounted by the Corps badge, while from the mast flew the flag of the Port Section of Movements, R.E. The brass name-plate on the wheel-house gave a hint of history saying that the *Foundation Martha* was designed by a Montreal firm and built in Sorel by Less Chantiers Manseau Ltd., as long ago as 1937. It is believed her war years were spent doing salvage work off the Canadian coast with a team of sister-ships, or should it be sister-tugs?

Casting off at 08.00 hours we headed out to sea, passing the impressive monument to a bygone age, namely the battlemented walled portion of the old city of Famagusta on our port side (the one with the red light on!).

We expected to be sea-borne for some 5-6 hours which was to enable the crew to carry out engine trials and ensure our dumping was carried out at the prescribed depth. At a suitable spot dumping was carried out with vigour and not without a certain amount of macabre humour as sacks of material were, as one voice was heard to say, "Committed to the deep." Newly arrived Sergeant Gorman afterwards sat hopefully in the sun which was disappointingly mild on this day and the pleasure of the journey was marred somewhat by cool breezes and cloudly skies. This dimmed the usual bright blue of the Mediterranean waters but only having left snow and frost very recently doubtless it was sheer pleasure for him.

Hospitality on board was not lacking and within the limited confines of the cabin we sat and drank tea talking a certain amount of shop. On the Signals net we discussed radio and voice procedure, prompted by the presence of the necessary radio, and from the Sappers we learnt something of their duties and life at sea.

Time passed and both aspects of our mission were accomplished without incident and we headed back for port with Sergeant Coole taking his first lesson as coxswain. An interesting day was spent by the Royal Signals passengers who had learnt a little about a branch of the Royal Engineers of which they had only previously heard in message address form.

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CYPRUS VISIT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT

Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E.

General Whistler's visit to the island was a crowded programme and his attendance at the 262 Squadron limited to the morning of Friday, 2nd April, 1965.

It is no doubt debatable by such busy visitors as the General whether air travel is beneficial or otherwise. Certainly the presence of airstrips, light aircraft and helicopters all serve to maintain the pace in such hectic programmes as faced the Colonel Commandant.

Whisked into Dhekelia by an Auster of the Air Platoon 2nd Royal Anglian Regiment, piloted by Captain J. D. Billingham, Royal Signals, who commands the platoon, he was met by our O.C., Major C. B. Mercer, and taken to meet the Deputy Commander Cyprus District. From a start point at the Deputy Commander's office, he was set on a unit tour which took him through as many departments and elements of the Squadron's commitments as the limited time allowed.

He met our Radio Relay men who work alongside the R.A.F. at one end of the garrison in a Joint Army/R.A.F. installation. He met all our duty signal centre, systems and cipher staff in the middle of the garrison. He met a gathering of ladies of the Wives' Club with their husbands at the other end of the garrison. He met all our Field Troop, our M.T. Troop and our Exchange staff. He met all the senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron, oddly enough (and it is always the same venue) in the Sergeants' Mess.

By this time no doubt the General was glad of a slackening of the tempo and this was arranged when lunch was served in the Officers' Club, Dhekelia. Also present was our Chief Signal Officer, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, and additional to the Squadron officers and their ladies, Captain M. Bradbury of 644 Troop (UNFICYP) and Captain and Mrs. J. D. Billingham. Captain Billingham is just ending a tour of flying duties with the Army Air Corps and rejoins the Corps on posting to the 2nd Regiment.

One could boast that the Colonel Commandant enjoyed the company at lunch so much that he extended his stay by more than an hour. Maybe it was the relaxing view of the Mediterranean sea 50 yards or so away in front of the lounge windows. Whatever the reason we were suitably flattered and in assessing our impression of this brief but welcome visit conclude that our Representative Colonel Commandant has a keen interest not only in the technical ability of our Corps but also of all matters affecting the welfare and morale of the men and women who endeavour to maintain it.



262 Squadron dance. *Left to right:* Lance-Corporal Christie, Signalman Hogan, Private Kirby, Signalman Cameron



262 SQUADRON

The "family" nature of General Whistler's visit was particularly evident when he met members of the Squadron and their wives over a cup of coffee. (*Left to right:* Corporal Paton, the General, Sergeant James, Mrs. James and Mrs. Paton)

263 SQUADRON, c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

To the regular readers of our contribution to THE WIRE, it is only fair to point out that the notes forwarded by this unit, which appeared in the February/March edition, were given the heading of 237 Squadron. Perhaps the Editor believes that "a rose is just as sweet by any other name." (*Only sometimes! Please refer to a certain major unit's covering letter of 8th January, which read "contribution from 18th Regiment and 237 Squadron herewith.—Editor.*)

Great events have taken place in 263, insomuch as our officer strength has been increased by 50 per cent. Our new arrival is Lieutenant Brown, who has come to us from No. 2 Royal Signals Officer Communications Course. To him we say welcome to the fold and may your stay be a very enjoyable one.

During the month of February/March we had visits from quite a lot of very influential people; the list of names is well worth printing: Major-General J. B. M. Sloane, C.B.E., Director of Manning; Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, M.B.E., C.S.O., FARELF; Colonel P. F. Yeatman, M.B.E., C.R. Signals, Singapore; Colonel D. T. W. Gibson, M.B.E., C.A.F.SO., FARELF; Colonel G. H. Hoerder, M.B.E., A.A.G. A.G.11; Colonel P. S. Baines, M.B.E., annual Admin. Inspecting Officer.

All these senior officers showed great interest in the school and passed very complimentary remarks. The C.S.O. and C.R. Signals already knew of our problems before they arrived, and although neither of them arrived carrying a T100 teleprinter, they were very helpful indeed.

Hobart Plan

Colonel Gibson very kindly gave the Staff Sergeants' Course a lecture on the Hobart Plan, which was greatly appreciated by the students, for some of these it was the first time they had ever been informed of the general plan.

Staff Sergeants' Course Celebrates

Our last Staff Sergeants' Course passed off on 5th March with Colonel Yeatman doing the inspection. It was an extremely good course and six N.C.O.s obtained a "B" Grading. An end-of-course dinner was held, to which they invited their instructors, as the evening advanced a small migration took place from the Batik Restaurant to the Hotel Singapura. Being a very impressive body of men, the company was joined by Freddie, of "Freddie and the Dreamers" fame. To show this is not a FARELF tale, see photo on page 156.

On the sporting front, the basketball team won the league championship cup, which is completed for by 18th Regiment, 249, 263 and 237 Squadrons. A worthy effort, and praise must go to Sergeant Hogg, in particular, the team captain,



The Staff Sergeant's Course celebrate with Freddie of "Freddie and the Dreamers"

if praise is to be singled out; although the whole team played well in the final play-off against 249 Squadron, and richly deserved the congratulations given by the C.O., 18th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Millo, when he presented the cup.

In closing, congratulations to Staff Sergeant Pugh and Sergeant Newson in passing the Yeoman of Signals entrance examination and being accepted for a Yeoman of Signals Course.

266 SQUADRON B.F.P.O. 66

A Period of Intense Activity

March is the first complete month with the Squadron under new management. It has been a period of intense activity in every sphere of Squadron life.

The move of the Headquarters of Director of Borneo Operations has not only meant a great deal more work for Corporal Gordon and his tireless linemen, but necessitated the move of the Stores and M.T., which are now accommodated in a delightful rented house well away from the main Headquarters, so that the "Q" Staff can practice their maxim—"what the eye doesn't see, etc."

"M" Troop, aided, it is understood, by Yeoman of Signals Gwynne (whose unerring diagnosis of faults within seconds of arrival on the scene is gradually shattering the morale of Foreman of Signals Kelly) has embarked on a vast maintenance programme, as well as coping with a variety of running faults, which must invariably be associated with old equipment which has been running non-stop for long periods.

Competition Helps Comcen Efficiency

Traffic figures for March reached an all-time high, 86,000 messages were handled by the Comcen, whose efficiency has increased since the introduction of a Shift Competition. The shift rivalry is always keen, but when one realises that one shift's D.S.O. is a Naval Petty Officer, Petty Officer Redpath, another is supervised by Lieutenant Scarff, the other two professionals, Sergeants Eastwood and McLoughlin, will stop at nothing to preserve their reputations.

Squadron activities continue to grow apace, and should soon provide a diversity of facilities for off-duty hours. We take



South Sea idyll or idle? (see "Three Men in a Boat")



"THREE SIGNAL OFFICERS"

Left: Flight Lieutenant A. E. Andrews, R.A.F. (C.D.S.O. 266 Signal Squadron). *Centre:* Major J. H. Hild, Royal Signals (O.C. 266 Signal Squadron). *Right:* Sub-Lieutenant G. Evatt, R.N. (Staff Communications Officer)

delivery of a powerful motor-boat at the end of the month, complete with water ski-ing equipment, and also hope to obtain some canoes, which will provide another outlet for the energies of Squadron members.

Tighe Soccer Cup

The preliminary rounds of the Tighe Soccer Cup have started and mention must be made of the game which took place between S.H.Q. Troop and Comcen Troop last Saturday, an hour or so after the officers had enjoyed their monthly pilgrimage for a lunch-time drink in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Sergeant-Major Gibbs was in goal, and for the first half kept it intact by talking the opposition out of goals (those many people who have passed through the Squadron will realise how he achieved this with, of course, numerous references to the Rattle). Unfortunately, in the second half his patter ceased and soon the nimble-footed full-backs, the Second-in-Command and Quartermaster, could not prevent Sergeant McLoughlin and his team scoring four goals. If all the games are played in the same spirit and keenness, it will be a good competition.

Inter-Troop hockey has also started, and some very promising talent has been unearthed.

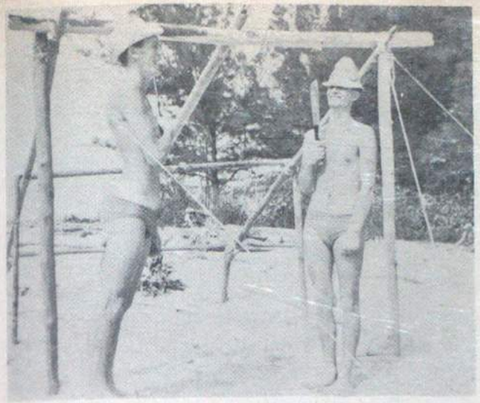
Rugby is still played on a Saturday evening against the R.A.F. The Squadron can no longer manage to field a team of its own, but continues to be the prime organisers in island football. Last week the "Squadron Team" included players from the Divisional Staff, S.A.S., Intelligence Company, A.A.S.O. and an Australian.

Interlude

A pleasant break from routine was provided by the G.O.C., Major-General P. M. Hunt, who gave a most interesting talk on operations in Borneo to the hierarchy of the Squadron. Question-time saw some original observations on tactics from Sergeant Thomas and our Chief Clerk, Corporal Ogley. Perhaps the General welcomed a fresh outlook!

Three Men in a Boat

The achievement of the month must be attributed to Lance-Corporal Borthwick, Signalmen Montgomery and Traynor who, in a boat recently purchased from one of the local fishermen, spent their leave circumnavigating the island. They had an exciting time with many adventures, including one when the South China Sea disappeared beneath them and they had to pitch their shelter on a coral reef, where they spent a wet, uncomfortable night until the navigator found the sea again.



Signalmen Mongomery and Traynor on parade
(See "Three men in a boat)

We shall be very interested to hear the account of the next project, when Lieutenant Easson and the S.S.M. are taking a party to the mainland with the intention of climbing Mount Kinabalu, which dominates Sabah from its lofty 13,500 feet.

Newcomers Welcome

Visits this month included the A.A.G., Colonel Hoerder, who we were happy to see and show over the Squadron. In a very short visit, he managed to speak to many soldiers, as well as talking to the officers and senior N.C.O.s.

It is noted from R.O.P.O.s received recently, that we have not been forgotten by Records, and would like to say how much we are looking forward to seeing some new faces here, and that if anyone warned for posting to 266 has any questions about our island paradise, we would be delighted to answer them.



THE BORNEO SCENE
A partial view of transmitter site with R.A.F. transmitter vehicles in the background

81st REGIMENT, A.E.R.

A Radical Change in out-of-camp training

Traditionally, the highlight of an A.E.R. Regiment's year has been the two weeks' annual training in the summer; Regimental life between camps has been rather loosely organised, and contact between individual members limited to the occasional social get-together organised on a territorial basis. The introduction of out-of-camp training for the Category I reservist of the A.E.R. has radically changed the concept of A.E.R. training. Whilst the annual camp still remains the focal point of the A.E.R. year, there is now a regular incidence of out-of-camp training activity which ensures a good measure of continuity over the twelve months. It is appropriate, therefore, in penning some notes about our activities, that we should look over the whole training year which we have



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recently completed; although memories of a camp ten months ago tend to grow a little dim when separated by the same period of civilian commuting.

Early or late, he liked his cup of tea

Our annual camp in 1964 took place in Blandford Camp, Dorset, where the landscape is beginning to look vastly different with the rapidly uprising new School of Signals. The training was a mixture of individual training, during which all tradesmen were given either refresher or upgrading courses, and a five-day field exercise on Salisbury Plain. Both facets of training were extremely successful, despite the foul weather which, in recent years, has invariably dogged our efforts to live and work in the field. This was also the last camp for our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Beckett, E.R.D. Frank Beckett has served with the Regiment since its formation in 1951, and has become so much a part of it that it is hard to imagine going to camp without him. All C.O.s have special idiosyncrasies, but all his were wholly friendly and sociable. His predilection for, according to time, a late night or very early morning cup of tea has provided many hours of sleepy, yet thoroughly enjoyable, argument. We wish him all the very best for the future. Our congratulations go to Major Mick Heaton, who has taken over command of the Regiment.

". . . Very fortunate to have been chosen for this exercise . . . "

We had hoped that a small detachment of linemen and cable jointers would perform their annual training in Singapore, but unfortunately this failed to materialise. However, two junior N.C.O.s of the Regiment participated in Exercise "Ever-Ready III," in Aden in October, 1964. An excellent report by one of them shows that they did a very useful job of work, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the process. The friendship and hospitality of 254 Squadron, to whom they were attached, was greatly appreciated. Indeed, the whole exercise may be summed up by the final sentence of the report, which reads: "I consider myself very fortunate to have been chosen for this exercise which was, to me, a wonderful experience."

Regular and Reserve get together

Our out-of-camp training took the form of a four-day week-end in November, 1964, and two-day week-ends in January and February, 1965. All were spent at Catterick Camp under arrangements made by the Training Brigade, Royal Signals. Our hosts on these occasions were 8th and 11th Regiments who jointly organised our welfare, and some really first-class programmes of technical and military training. We are most grateful to all members of these Regiments who gave their week-end to make the training the success it undoubtedly was. There is a great value in such personal contacts with Signal Regiments of the Regular Army, whether in Catterick or overseas. They permit the A.E.R. to be brought up to date with the latest development and thought in communication practice and equipment. Equally, if not more important, they present an opportunity for Regular and Reserve Signals people to get to know one another better.

47th REGIMENT T.A.
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

News in Brief. — To 14th Regiment — our thanks! The highlight of last month's training programme was a visit by a Middlesex Yeomanry team of thirty all ranks to 14th Regiment in the West Country. Arranged by our Training Major, Major W. H. H. Parkes, and Major C. McDevitt, of 14th Regiment, the visit was a great success and much was learnt, to say nothing of our appreciation of the hospitality received.

"Indefatigable"—the only word to describe the efforts of our remarkable R.S.M., W.O.I. Giles, whose exceptional ability in getting the best out of T.A. personnel is too well-known to need further mention here; suffice to say that on top of everything else, he has just directed a most successful N.C.O.s' drill and duties course, ably assisted by W.O.II J. Rose, the P.S.I., at our Uxbridge T.A. Centre.

"For exceptional services to the welfare of his brother officers"—was only part of the expression of thanks made to our Officers' Mess Secretary, Captain J. C. Udell, M.B.E., by the Commanding Officer, when, at a recent mess dinner, he made a presentation to Captain Udell on behalf of Mess members to mark their special appreciation of Captain Udell's tireless efforts on their behalf.

Our special congratulations to Signalman P. C. O'Leary, of "D" Squadron, on winning the boxing championship of the London Federation of Clubs.

65th (CITY OF LONDON) REGIMENT (T.A.)

Lord Mayor Entertained

Some time ago the Officers of the Regiment entertained at dinner the Lord Mayor of London, Sir James Harman, G.B.E.



The Lord Mayor talks to members of the W.R.A.C.

Other guests included Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., and Brigadier J. E. Henderson, D.W.R.A.C. The Lord Mayor was escorted from the Mansion House by motor cycle outriders provided by H.Q. Squadron. On arrival at Worship Street, the Lord Mayor was invited to inspect the "Skinners Guard," commanded by Lieutenant J. Webster.

A transformation to the Other Ranks' canteen has recently taken place under the guidance of R.Q.M.S. Silverman. The new club being opened in December; much hard work had been done by re-designing and painting the entire club and the committee run flourishing social evenings.

The Disabled Enjoyed Themselves

The Regiment was again delighted to welcome back many disabled ex-Service men from the Star and Garter and Roehampton Homes. We were supported in our endeavour by the Mayor of Shoreditch. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and many a wheel chair "wobbled" out of the door at the end of the evening.

The efforts of our team in the Courage Trophy deserve the highest praise. This annual competition took place on 13th/14th March under the most awful weather conditions. Twenty-one teams from T.A. Regiments in London took part in this exercise of military skills, including marching, first aid, driving and cooking to name but a few. At the end of the first day 65th was in the lead. Unfortunately we had bad luck in one event coming well down the field, this resulted in our final placing —fourth. Our thanks go to Captain G. Green, Corporal Ritchie, Lance-Corporal Guinnessy to mention only a few of the team. We understand that Sergeant Terry Andrews' Irish Stew was superb—well done.

Farewells and 'Hellos'

The Quartermaster, Major A. W. Fisk, retired at the end of last year. After five years with the Regiment we miss him and Mrs. Fisk and wish them all the best for the future. His place has been taken by an old friend, Captain W. A. Timbrell, who served as R.S.M. with the Regiment previously.

Major C. D. Burgess and Captain A. H. Sowerby have left the Regiment on transfer to A.E.R. and are joining 92nd Regiment. Major E. G. Gilbert joins the Regiment from 44th (H.C.) Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A. as Senior W.R.A.C. Officer. All are delighted to hear that a very old friend of the Regiment, Mr. E. F. Maltby, C.B.E., has been appointed Honorary Colonel to our sister 92nd Regiment (A.E.R.).

One of our newest arirvals has surprised us all, Sergeant P. F. Scottorn, the Radio Technician P.S.I., succeeded in winning the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society contest in February on G3 LUN. Our telegraph operators had better beware.

Army Hockey Player



Corporal A. W. T. (Paddy) Coldwell, presently with 30th Signal Reg'e ment who is only 21 years of age has already played right back at hockey for the Corps, the County of Dorset, the Army and the Combined Services.

He has received commendations from sports correspondents for his speed of recovery and his hard Shooting.

He was born in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin and is an ex-Harrogate apprentice. In fact he was selected to play for the Army whilst still a boy. He is an all round sportsman, and has decided to become a pilot, Royal Signals.

Sporting Shorts

In the Flyweight Class at the Army Individual Championships, Lance-Corporal P. Teasdale (16th Battalion, R.A.O.C.) knocked out Corporal R. Quirk (2nd Signal Regiment) in the first round, and in the Featherweight Class, Signalman F. Waters (2nd Signal Regiment) knocked out Signalman N. Keenan (2nd Signal Regiment) also in the first round.

Corps Football.—Stockton/Billingham Technical College 1; Royal Signals 12. Played on 27th March.

Three members of 24th Regiment were in the Army side which beat the Royal Navy at Portsmouth recently by 4—1. They were Lance-Corporals A. Sutherland and A. Forrester, and Signalman A. Gordon.

Association Notes

CROYDON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

During an informal meeting on 18th April, about 25 members being present, Mr. L. J. Rebbeck, the Chairman, called to order. He spoke for a few moments of the sadness we all felt at the loss of our Colonel-in-Chief. The members placed on record their sorrow at the death of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Patron of the Association. The Chairman also gave a brief account of the meeting of the Representatives of Branches of the Association. A strong party is to attend the Dinner of the Aldershot Branch. Arrangements for members to attend the Reunion at Catterick are deferred to the May meeting.

CATTERICK BRANCH

The Annual Dinner was held in the Depot Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on Friday, 12th March, by kind permission of R.S.M. S. J. R. Dunlop and members.

Unfortunately our President, Brigadier A. C. Cox, was unable to attend but we were very pleased to welcome in his stead Colonel D. G. Jones.

The other guests were R.S.M. and Mrs. Dunlop—11th Regiment; R.S.M. I. D. C. and Mrs. Currie—School of Signals; R.S.M. T. J. Licence—24th Regiment; R.S.M. D. F. and Mrs. Rees—8th Regiment; G.S.M. and Mrs. Peacock—Garrison H.Q.; W.O.I (Superintendent Clerk) and Mrs. Burn, Training Brigade, and Mr. A. Rooney, Chairman of the Catterick Branch British Legion.

In proposing a toast to the guests the Chairman expressed the thanks of the members to R.S.M.s of the Catterick regiments for allowing the Branch to hold its monthly meetings in their Messes during the past year—but for their kindnesses the Branch would be homeless.

In replying Colonel Jones, who is Inspector of Trade Training, gave us an interesting resumé of Corps affairs and a glimpse of its future.

After dinner, the assembly was treated to a most entertaining conjuring show by Brigadier Ponsonby to whom we are most grateful for bringing his suit-case with him and working for his dinner.

HARTLEPOOLS AND DISTRICT BRANCH

A meeting of the Hartlepools and District R.S.A. was held in Ye Olde Durham Club, West Hartlepool, on Friday, 2nd April, by kind permission of the committee of that club.

A motion expressing the regret of the Branch on the passing of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, was adopted unanimously.

It was learnt also that Mr. Mossman, a Branch member, had suffered an injury and the matter was being looked into by the Secretary.

The Chairman, Mr. E. T. Waite, M.B.E., declared the total money collected by the Branch during the house-to-house collection in an area allocated them by the West Hartlepool authorities was £55 16s. 8d.—a really magnificent effort on the part of the member collectors and ladies of the Branch.

Mr. Stan Irvin, Secretary of the Branch, outlined points he would be seeking to raise at the 19th annual meeting of the Branch Secretaries which he would be attending.

Mr. Bill Milburn was welcomed as a new member to the Branch.

It was observed that the Secretary had obviously wangled the meeting to be held at the Ye Olde Durham Club on this eve of departure for the Chelsea conference so that he could become accustomed to sitting at the conference table—in style and in the grand manner. The Ye Olde Durham Club possessing such a magnificent conference table!

The Secretary made a point that members attending the Association Reunion should acquaint him forthwith to assist in making the arrangements.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during March, 1965:

	£	s.	d.
24th Regiment	56	2	8
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)		19	0
42 Squadron R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.)		17	6
3rd Regiment (27 Unit Branch)	8	0	0
School of Infantry	5	0	0
41st Regiment T.A. (2 Squadron)	1	0	9
44th Regiment T.A. (3 (S.C.A.) Squadron))	2	0	0
Central Vehicle Depot, R.A.O.C. (Sergeants' Mess), Tewkesbury	1	0	0
59th Regiment T.A.	1	0	0
7th Regiment	70	18	0
13th Regiment	21	0	0
16th Regiment	25	10	2
16th Regiment (Wives' Club)	4	10	0
16th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)		15	5
225 Squadron		7	3
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	5	1	2
9th Regiment	24	3	7
261 Squadron (Air Formation)	10	0	0
Glossop and District Branch	21	0	0
Birmingham Branch	5	0	0
Anonymous	80	0	0
Various Individual Donations	17	10	6
Total Receipts	£361	16	0

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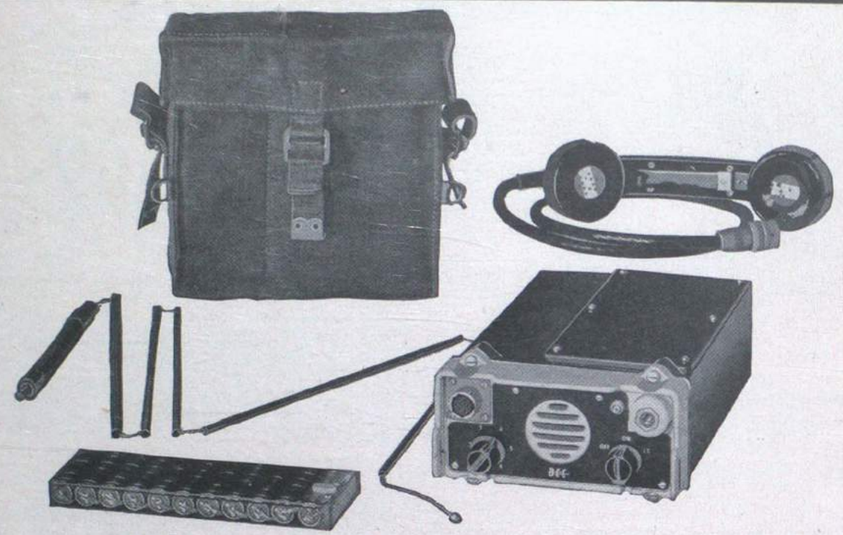
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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JUNE-JULY • 1965

Vol. 19 *(New Series)* **No. 7**

Editorial

All will be delighted to hear of the 7th Regiment's fine success in winning the Army Hockey Cup at Aldershot on the 28th April. This result is particularly gratifying as this is one of the few Army team championships which the Corps has not previously succeeded in winning.

It will, perhaps, be of interest to our readers to note the fine record of the Corps in the major Army team championships over the years. It is as follows:—

Association Football		
1931	4th Divisional Signals	Runners-up
1952	7 Training Regiment	Runners-up
1953	7 Training Regiment	Winners
1956	2 Training Regiment	Winners
Rugby Football		
1948	Signal Training Centre	Winners
1949, 1950, 1951	1 Training Regiment	Winners
1953, 1954	1 Training Regiment	Winners
1957	1 Training Regiment	Winners
1959	1 Training Regiment	Winners
Boxing		
1923	The Training Battalion	Winners
1924	The Training Battalion	Runners-up
1925	The Training Battalion	Winners
1927	The Training Battalion	Runners-up
1928, 1929	"A" Group Signals (Aldershot)	Winners
1951, 1952, 1953	2 Training Regiment	Runners-up
1956	2 Training Regiment	Runners-up
Cross Country		
1924	The Training Battalion	Winners
1947, 1948	2 Training Regiment	Winners
1949, 1950	1 Training Regiment	Winners
1953	1 Training Regiment	Winners
1955	1 Training Regiment	Runners-up
Athletics		
1923, 1924, 1925	The Training Battalion	Winners
1949	1 Training Regiment	Runners-up
1954	1 Training Regiment	Winners
Hockey		
1965	7th Signal Regiment	Winners

THE REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT IN MIDEAST

During his tour Major General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., was seen by at least 90% of Royal Signals personnel serving in M.E.L.F., and very many were able to chat with him. The informal and relaxed nature of his visit is reflected by these pictures













1. "Now that's an extremely interesting point Sergeant." General Whistler talking to Sergeant Bagwell of 'B' Troop, Bahrein.
2. "Don't worry about the shirt"—talking to Signalman F. A. Croft (216 Squadron).
3. "Of course, Sir, complications do arise." Sergeant G. Horne, 15 Regiment, explains the Joint Comcen to the General.
4. "You really like your job then?"—talking to Lance Corporal J. Angus (216 Squadron).
5. The Camel Guard of the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron which was inspected by the General.
6. "I quite agree with what you say"—talking to Corporal J. MacDonald also of 216 Squadron.

MAJOR GENERAL A. M. W. WHISTLER, C.B., C.B.E. VISITS THE MIDDLE EAST

In Middle East we occasionally think of ourselves as a "Forgotten Army"; however, as our cool season developed into our hot season this year, we were well recompensed. Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., the Representative Colonel Commandant, visited us all and managed to survive a rather hectic programme. The Middle East is rather scattered and inevitably the General had a lot of travelling.

ADEN

GENERAL WHISTLER arrived on 23rd March. He was accompanied by C.S.O. (M.E.) Colonel G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E., during his Aden visit, while Captain M. C. Spence acted as A.D.C. After a very late lunch the General attended a Royal Signals Cocktail Party held in 15th Regiment Officers' Mess. We trust the escorts and guards required by the local I.S. situation impressed the Colonel Commandant with the rigors of life in Aden.

Next morning General Whistler put on his A.C.D.(S) hat to address Signals Officers on the joint working in the M.O.D. (This was most useful as in a joint atmosphere on the ground here we occasionally wonder what M.O.D. are doing!)

Quickly changing hats again the General visited the **Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron.**

On arrival at Seedaseer Lines the Colonal Commandant was met by Brigadier C. G. T. Viner, M.C., T.D., Force Commander, Aqeed Nasir Buraik Aulaqi, M.B.E., senior Arab officer, Major J. S. Agar, Squadron Commander, and an immaculate Camel Guard.

After inspecting the Guard, the Colonal Commandant visited the Headquarters COMCEN and the F.R.A. Signal Squadron.

The General then met all Royal Signal members of the Squadron and their families in the Jimmy Club for pre-lunch drinks. During his visit to this Club he kindly presented, on behalf of the Squadron, a Squadron plaque to Mr. Ernie Eastough, MPBW, for his help to the Club.

A quick but we hope an enjoyable visit was brought to an end by lunch in the Officers' Mess with Arab and British officers.

On Thursday, 25th March, the Colonel Commandant visited two very different aspects of signal life in Aden. After meeting C.S.O. (A.F.M.E.) (Group Captain A. Fry) he went to see **222 Squadron (Air Formation)** (Major L. Beaumont) where, accompanied by C.S.O. (A.F.M.E.), he visited Squadron Headquarters H.Q. The Colonel Commandant inspected a small parade before proceeding to "K" Troop at Khormaksar Airfield.

There he met the acting Station Commander, Wing Commander W. L. Green, D.F.C., and inspected a formal parade commanded by Captain J. D. Bromley (O.C. designate) supported by the outgoing O.C. Troop, Staff Sergeant K. F. Duffey (F. of S.). After a flying visit covering all aspects of our work on the airfield, the Colonel Commandant took a tea break with the Duffey family.

Fortified by the tea break the General and his A.D.C. in Aden (Captain M. C. Spence) travelled out to Little Aden to see **210 Squadron (Brigade)** (Major N. A. Butler). The A.D.C. had no fears of losing a very senior officer en route as he belongs to 210. General Whistler's visit to the Squadron was essentially a relaxed and informal affair with the emphasis on meeting soldiers and their wives.

After meeting the Brigade Commander, the General was whisked down to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to meet the Squadron Wives, and then he walked across to the Squadron Compound and had a look round our new accommodation.

The General's main aim was to talk to the soldiers at their work, 210 soldiers are never slow to talk, so everyone was happy. He showed particular interest in Corporal G. A. Garside's home-made boat, Corporal A. Smith's Wendy House (made out of a D11 Airtech container crate) and the various displays of self help. We only hope that the Barracks people and the Command Secretariat are equally impressed when they find out what we have been doing to their new buildings.

The piece de resistance took place at 12.30 hours, when we all adjourned to the Squadron Club. The O.C. explained to the Colonel Commandant that after much discussion about how to get rid of the enormous profits the club kept making, we had decided to buy every member an inscribed tankard on his leaving the Squadron. This system was just about to start and we thought that it was appropriate to give the very first tankard to General Whistler.

Unfortunately, Q.R.s forbid the giving of testimonials to senior officers, and it had therefore been decided to loan the tankard to the General for one hundred years. The O.C. then formally loaned the tankard to General Whistler. Major Butler added that he hoped we would not be considered ungenerous but one hundred years was a long time and would the General mind signing the 1033 which the R.Q.M.S. happened to have handy.

The inscribed tankard was duly christened and General Whistler met more members of the Squadron. The General and the officers then proceeded to the Officers' Mess where they had lunch with the Brigade Commander and leading members of his staff.

This should have been the end of the programme but General Whistler decided that he would like to see one of the new quarters. At 15.00 hours much to the surprise of Mrs. Butler, who had just emerged from her siesta, a fleet of cars appeared at the O.C.'s house. Divorce proceedings are pending.

Finally, at 15.30 hours, the Colonel Commandant left the barren rocks of Little Aden.

On Friday, 26th March, the Colonel Commandant visited **15th Regiment** as recorded in last month's WIRE.

BAHRAIN AND SHARJAH

Next day the General flew by R.A.F. Argosy to Bahrain, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Hallett, C.S.O. (M.E.L.F.). He was met by Major H. D. V. Chappell, who acted as his A.D.C. for the remainder of the visit.

That evening he experienced a film-show in the Mess, and met officers' families. (Officers who have served in Bahrain and know the curiously arbitrary system by which films are sent for showing in that station will savour the word "experienced"—this time it was a tear-jerker.)

It was not until his arrival at **3 Squadron, 15th Regiment,** early on the Monday morning that the Representative Colonel Comandant learnt of the Colonel-in-Chief's death. In an exchange of messages the Master of Signals agreed that General Whistler's tour should continue. The sad news gave a background of peculiar poignancy to a series of visits which were in any case essentially family occasions.

The visit to 3 Squadron (Major C. A. M. Robertson) followed the usual pattern of such occasions, one man after another being pleasantly surprised to find that the General was much more interested in him as an individual than the equipment beside which he "happened" to be standing. This was especially the case in the Bahrain Army Telecommunication Workshop, where, in complete contradiction to the apparent laws of nature, Royal Signals technicians, under Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. G. McKeon, work in complete amity and accord with R.E.M.E. tradesmen under a Staff Sergeant artificer. No one in the workshop seems to find anything odd in this—they are too busily occupied in the common tasks of getting the stuff repaired!

The Colonel Commandant then showed a keen professional interest in the workings of the Joint Communication Centre which, as A.C.D.(S), he did much to father and an equally keen interest in the men who make it work. At least one operator, when asked how his circuit was doing, gave a much

more candid reply than he would have done if he had remembered that Colonels Commandant do not wear gorget patches.

Then on to R.A.F. Muharraq and "**B**" **Troop, 222 Squadron** (Lieutenant I. E. Kerr), and a few words with their linemen, cable-jointers and technicians.

The next day, Tuesday, showed an equally full programme, beginning with 1st Parachute Battalion Group where Lieutenant J. Graham introduced the Colonel Commandant to the resident detachment from **216 Squadron,** some of them with a most impressive number of jumps to their credit and all with an air of being ready for anything that lies ahead. They had just finished the crude excavation of what was to be either a fish-pond or a cooling-off pool—opinions varied—and were only too happy to have the benefit of their distinguished visitor's first-hand experience of the durability of such pools when lined with polythene sheet.

The next call was at **601 Troop (Ship)** (Captain J. M. Gray) where Staff Sergeant (Yeoman of Signals) C. Heaps had organised a well-timed NAAFI break during which members of the Troop explained to the General what the Troop's job is, how they do it, and what **else** they do.

On Wednesday the Colonel Commandant flew down the Gulf by R.A.F. Beverley to Sharjah, starting as usual at about dawn. The aircraft quartermaster, having never set eyes on a Representative Colonel Commandant before, chose to ask ours whether he knew which passenger was General Whistler. The reply was both brief and accurate.

At Sharjah, Major J. D. Morris introduced the General to both British and Arab soldiers of the Trucial Oman Scouts Signal Squadron, all of whom discussed their work in a thoroughly relaxed atmosphere. Then on to the Signal detachment of the Armoured Car Squadron there, and to four isolated but cheerful members of "K" Troop, 222 Squadron.

Luckily (for once) the aircraft, which had anyway been delayed to meet the Colonel Commandant's programme, now refused to start for a couple of hours, and the General was able to take a brief view of the surrounding countryside. This included a visit to the local suq, including Sheik Robin, the silversmith. ("Why do you call him Robin?" "Well, it's short for robbin' ****, actually.")

The following morning, with very great regret, we saw the Representative Colonel Commandant take off for Cyprus to continue his tour.

These brief notes can give only an outline of a very arduous programme and even then miss some of the highlights—the social evenings with two Troops for one and the lunch in H.M.S. *Meon* for another. At one time or another more than 90 per cent. of Royal Signals serving in M.E.L.F. had the chance to see their Representative Colonel Commandant and very many of them were able to chat with him. We hope that he was pleased with what he saw; we were truly delighted to see him.

Lance Corporal M. Baker

Royal Corps of Signals,
attached 22 Special Air Service Regiment

ALL will wish to join THE WIRE in congratulating Lance-Corporal Michael Baker on the award of the Military Medal for gallant and distinguished services in the Radfan Area of Southern Arabia.

The citation, published in the *London Gazette* of 30th April, reads as follows:

Lance-Corporal Baker was a member of 3 Troop, 22nd Special Air Service Regiment, engaged in operations against enemy tribesmen in the Radfan Mountains. On the 30th April, 1964, 3 Troop, having infiltrated through enemy lines some four miles the previous night on a lone mission to mark a Dropping Zone for a parachute drop, was pinned down by heavy enemy fire all day. The Troop finally managed to break out of this position at last light in the face of heavy enemy opposition, from some 20-30 tribesmen. Baker was wounded in the knee by three bullets immediately prior to the breakout. Despite this, he fought his way out with the remainder of the Troop in a fierce hand-to-hand engagement, and got through the enemy encirclement. On the way back to our own lines, Baker and another man covered the rear of the Troop and, noticing that they were being shadowed by three tribesmen, laid an ambush. They killed two and wounded the third, thereby ensuring the safe withdrawal of the Troop. Lance-Corporal Baker managed to reach our own lines without assistance, and without delaying the progress of the rest of the Troop, despite his serious wound. Throughout the action he displayed a devotion to duty and unselfishness which, coupled with his bravery in acting as rearguard for the Troop, although wounded, undoubtedly contributed a great deal towards the successful extrication of the Troop.

Lance-Corporal Baker, who comes from Southern Ireland, joined the Corps in 1958. He is a Life Member of the Royal Signals Association.

Starting a New Career

By Yeoman G. A. E. Gavey (late Captain Royal Signals)

After 27 years' service in Royal Signals, ex-Staff-Sergeant Len Loates started a new career on 1st April, 1965, as a Yeoman Warder at H.M. Tower of London. He spent his last five years at the Army Apprentice School, Harrogate, on the administrative side (see WIRE April/May issue).

Len Loates is now 54 years of age so that if he remains a Yeoman Warder until the maximum retiring age, i.e. 70 years, he would have 43 years' service to the Crown.

Len tells me that he would be prepared to take on cricket and hockey umpiring once again on his final retirement.

On the other hand my final retirement is nearly due having done 31 years Army service and a little over 16 years as a Yeoman Warder.

We hope that another R. Signals W.O.I will shortly be accepted for a Wardership—by name "Knobby" Russell, also of Army Apprentice School, Harrogate.

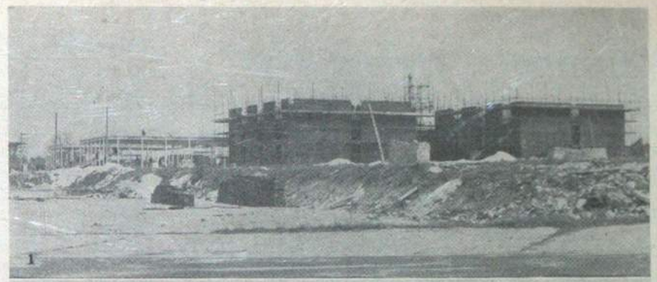


Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey (left) and Yeoman Warder C. L. Loater
Both are dressed for Church Parade on Easter Day.

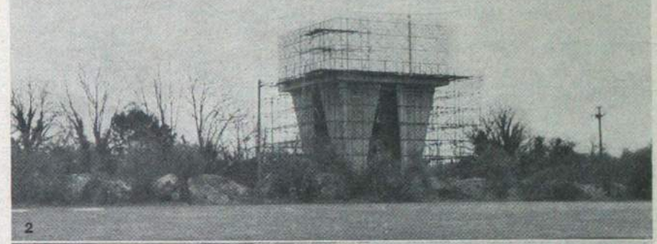
The Shape of Things to Come is now a little Clearer

IN the March - April issue of "The Wire" we published Progress Report No. 1, illustrated by a page of pictures to show what progress had been made on the Blandford Project, which was commenced in June of last year. Comparison with the pictures below will show substantial further progress has now been made. Spring weather and a plentiful supply of bricks has given fresh impetus to the rebuild, and new buildings are much in evidence, spreading across the landscape.

Foundation work on all Phase I buildings is for the most part completed, and the main effort is now going into the erection of external and internal walls. The Water Tower is now nearing completion as is also the NAAFI Families Self-Service Shop.



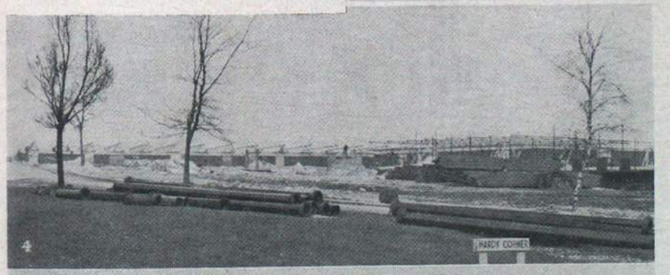
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Good Progress is made on the Blandford Camp Project

1. Officers Mess—Dining Room and Ante Room together with Junior Officer Sleeping Blocks Nos. 1 and 2.
2. Water Tower.
3. NAAFI Families Shop.
4. School Workshops and Technical Stores.
5. School Workshop.

Personal Column

London Gazette

All will wish to join the "Wire" in congratulating Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, M.B.E., T.D., D.L., on the honour conferred on him by being appointed A.D.C. to H.M. the Queen as notified in a recent London Gazette.

Regular Army

Lt. R. A. Houghton to be Capt., 7th April.
Major W. G. Geddes, B.Sc.(Eng.) retires 31st March.
Lt.-Col. L. V. McNaught-Davies retires 26th March.
Capt. E. W. P. Foley, M.A., to be Major, 22nd April.
Major B. Sellar retires on 1st May.
Lt. (T.O.T.) L. R. Churchill to be Capt. (T.O.T.), 1st May.
Capt. J. A. Montague to be Major, 8th Feb.
Capt. (T.O.T.) Hogan to be Major (T.O.T.), 5th May.

Territorial Army

Capt. (Actg. Major) A. D. Hall to be Major, 15th April.
Lt. S. F. Holness to be Capt., 1st March.
Lt. M. M. Ross is granted the acting rank of Capt., 1st March.
Capt. (Actg. Major) J. Duff to be Major, 26th April.
Capt. (Actg. Maj.) I. H. Cohen to be Major, 28th April.
Lt. (Actg. Capt.) A. G. Lyster to be Capt., 29th April.
Lt. R. H. Hammerton to be Capt., 1st April.
Capt. D. G. Colbourne to be Major, 1st April.
Lt. T. A. Bland to be Capt., 15th March.
Capt. (Actg. Maj.) W. B. Marnoch to be Major, 11th May.

Births

HOWARD.—On 28th May at Campbelltown, Argyll, to Clare (nee Whistler) and Bruce Howard—a son. Balinakill Farm, Clachan, By Tarbert, Loch Fyne.

Deaths

FLETCHER.—Ex-C.S.M. W. Fletcher, M.M., M.S.M., on 8th April, aged 76. C.S.M. Fletcher served with the Corps from 1920 to 1930. He gained the M.M. at the Seige of Kut-al-Amara in the 1914-18 War. Later he served with the R.A.O.C. from 1939 to 1945. His son also served in the Corps and his grandson is an Apprentice at Harrogate. He was a Life Member of the Association. Great sympathy is expressed to his widow.

Movements Officers—June

Major J. E. L. Adams ... ... To CAFSO, Germany.
Major J. N. Burrell, M.B.E. ... ... ,, H.Q., Malta and Libya.
Major N. L. Baker ... ... ,, H.Q., AD Radio Service
Major H. D. V. Chappell ... ... ,, H.Q., Northern Command
Major B. C. Complin ... ... ,, 259 Squadron
Major T. P. Canham ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain J. Cooper ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) J. W. Douthwaite ... ,, 224 Squadron
Major P. A. Dally ... ... ,, H.Q., MELF.
Major (T.O.T.) A. Eeckelaers ... ,, 8th Regiment
Major P. H. Flead ... ... ,, 3 H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Second-Lieutenant R. P. Gravestock ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Major T. E. Grice ... ... ,, H.Q., MELF.
Second-Lieutenant R. C. F. Homewood ,, 11th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) F. Iveson ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Lieutenant R. R. Johnson ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) D. A. L. Murray ... ,, 9th Regiment
Major J. A. Massey ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) F. J. Pavey ... ... ,, 51st (H) Regiment
Captain R. Ping ... ... ,, Army Apprentices Sch. Harrogate
Second-Lieutenant M. H. L. Pickford ,, 8th Regiment
Major B. H. Parsonage ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Major M. W. Pollard ... ... ,, H.Q., COMCAN.
Major N. W. P. Pearce ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major T. I. McL. Robinson ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Major J. Ridge ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Major J. A. G. Stokoe ... ... ,, S.S.O., Hannover
Captain (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Lieutenant E. C. Byrne, B.E.M. ... ,, 9th Regiment
Major M. W. Simms-Reeve ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
Lieutenant A. K. Wright ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major L. C. P. Jaggard ... ... ,, H.Q., Royal Signals, Cyprus.
Lieutenant (Tfc.) E. W. G. Hill ... ,, H.Q., 17 Div./COMLANDBOR
Lieutenant (Tfc.) T. C. O'Toole ... ,, 644 Troop.

Promotions

It is anticipated that the 1965 edition of the Blue Book will reach units by mid-June, 1965.

No further details of promotions for promulgation in THE WIRE will therefore be submitted until early June, 1965. This list will cover promotions authorised in the period of April and May, for publication in the July issue of THE WIRE.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

June, 1965

W.O.I (F. of S.) R. Reid ... ... To 14th Regiment
W.O.I D. K. Wallis ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
W.O.II J. A. G. Barnaby ... ... ,, H.Q., Training Brigade
W.O.II D. G. Ellen ... ... ,, H.Q., R. Signals, Singapore.
W.O.II J. B. Morrison ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II W. R. D. Clark ... ... ,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.II J. Oxberry ... ... ,, Blandford Project Staff
W.O.II J. J. Elliott ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II S. A. Brice ... ... ,, 263 Squadron
W.O.II P. Durrant ... ... ,, 633 Troop
W.O.II J. A. Esson ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II G. S. Heasman ... ... ,, 208 Squadron
W.O.II R. P. Loats ... ... ,, 257 Squadron
W.O.II K. Palmer ... ... ,, 228 Squadron
W.O.II I. A. Reid ... ... ,, 644 Troop
W.O.II J. B. Rose ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
W.O.II D. R. Armstrong ... ... ,, 63rd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II D. Wood ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II C. E. Timson ... ... ,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.II J. B. Skinner ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II R. J. Bell ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
W.O.II J. R. Overton ... ... ,, 3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. C. Boulter ... ,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. Jones ... ... ,, 240 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) M. R. Davies ... ,, 10th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) F. M. Stock ... ,, 1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.II (F. of S.) L. J. Noakes ... ,, 10th Regiment
W.O.II D. W. Gunstone ... ... ,, 45th Regiment (T.A.)

Staff Sergeant J. B. Lindsell ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. T. Waumsley ... ,, Joint Communications Unit
Staff Sergeant R. Cockcroft ... ... ,, 327 Squadron (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant R. G. W. Hayes ... ,, Edinburgh University O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant R. B. McAlpine ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant L. V. W. Ings ... ... ,, 651 Troop
Staff Sergeant P. R. Foster ... ... ,, 262 Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. Heaps ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. S. Pemberton ,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. J. L. Harries ... ,, Q.R.I.H. Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant T. A. M. Downie ... ,, 518 Troop
Staff Sergeant D. Pollard ... ... ,, School of Signals

Sergeant K. E. Cowler ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant A. Aitken ... ... ,, 64th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant B. Law ... ... ,, 259 Squadron
Sergeant F. Ward ... ... ,, 257 Squadron
Sergeant D. C. E. Silk ... ... ,, 6th Inf. Bde. Group H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. F. V. Knight ... ... ,, 640 Troop
Sergeant C. Jukes ... ... ,, Army Air Corps Centre
Sergeant E. H. Webley ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Andrews ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant R. Eastwood ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant G. T. Farmer ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant T. J. M. Peters ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant I. L. V. Edington ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant C. Moore ... ... ,, 4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant W. Y. N. Grierson ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant T. R. Morse ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant F. C. Froggatt ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant J. Rocke ... ... ,, 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regt.
Sergeant N. M. Donnelly ... ... ,, 30th Battalion, R.A.O.C.
Sergeant A. Smith ... ... ,, H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps.
Sergeant D. Connery ... ... ,, H.Q., Far East Land Forces
Sergeant G. Reynolds ... ... ,, Royal Signals Records
Sergeant D. A. Newell ... ... ,, 601 Troop
Sergeant P. O. Moody ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant L. G. Didlick ... ... ,, 233 Squadron
Sergeant P. J. Milne ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
A/Sergeant R. G. Walkinshaw ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant C. H. Richardson ... ... ,, 263 Squadron
Sergeant B. F. Welch ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant G. Miller ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant F. A. Ashcham ... ... ,, 205 Squadron
Sergeant E. N. B. Ferguson ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant K. Harris ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant K. O. Davis ... ... ,, 11th Inf. Bde. Gp. H.Q. and Signal Squadron.
Sergeant P. Jackson ... ... ,, Army Apprentices School
Sergeant A. J. E. Irons ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
Sergeant J. D. Keating ... ... ,, Army Apprentices School
Sergeant R. K. Hopwood ... ... ,, Army Apprentices School
Sergeant G. S. Lowe ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant H. Shevlin ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant H. C. Stickley ... ... ,, 640 Troop
Sergeant G. D. Corbett ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant J. B. Burns ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant F. Sims ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant G. A. Downie ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant B. Jepson ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant R. P. Mortenson ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant R. M. Limb ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant P. J. Replow ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant M. J. D. Groom ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant A. W. A. Chadton ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. S. Alyson ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant A. F. Dyer ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant W. D. Carr ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant D. G. E. Treharne ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant L. Sant ... ... ,, School of Signals

Obituaries

BRIGADIER F. R. W. JAMESON, D.S.O., M.C.

Brigadier Frank Robert Wordsworth Jameson died on Saturday, 8th May, at the Croydon General Hospital.

He was at Cambridge University when the First World War broke out. He immediately enlisted into the H.A.C., with which he served until 1916. At the time he was commissioned into the R.E. in 1916 he was the only one of the section which he commanded who had not been either killed or wounded. In the R.E. (Signals) he won a D.S.O. and three M.C.s as a Brigade Signal Officer in 23rd Divisional Signal Company in France and Italy.

In 1939 he joined the Officer Emergency Reserve, joining 18th Divisional Signals. When the Second War started he moved with part of the unit to Egypt. With 70th Divisional Signals he served in Tobruk until its relief, again in the thick of it although nearly fifty.

Being a good linguist "Jimmy" Jameson was transferred to Civil Affairs in 1942 and through successive posts in that branch rose to the rank of Brigadier.

He was tireless in organising the association of his war-time companions, particularly those of 23rd Divisional Signal Company, who still meet, and will miss him at their June meeting.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow, son and daughter.

A fuller tribute will appear in the Summer issue of the Journal.

BRIGADIER W. T. HOWE, O.B.E.

We are sorry to hear that Brigadier Howe suddenly died in Australia on 17th April.

William Tuxford Howe was born in 1892 and enlisted in the R.F.A. in 1907.

His first acquaintance with Signals was when he was attached for service with the Indian Signal Service in 1915 and went to Mesopotamia as Brigade Signal Officer 41st Independent Brigade in 1916. He continued to serve Signals in one capacity or another for almost another 50 years, until 1962, when he retired, for the second time, from the post of Secretary of the Royal Signals Institution.

During the First World War he served with distinction in Mesopotamia and N.W. Persia and was awarded the O.B.E. and Mentioned in Despatches four times.

He was Commanding Officer of 2nd Indian Divisional Signals at Quetta when the 1935 earthquake struck. He led the fine work which that regiment did in re-establishing communications within Baluchistan and with the outside world. The then Commander-in-Chief India, Field-Marshal Sir Philip Chetwoode, wrote extremely highly of the work of Signals and Lieutenant-Colonel Howe was awarded a commendation by H.E. The Viceroy.

He then continued to serve in India, becoming C.S.O. Eastern Command/Western Command and finally in 1942 D.D. Signals G.H.Q. India as Brigadier.

In 1954 he became the first full-time Secretary-Editor-Treasurer of the Royal Signals Institution. He started the administrative work of the Institution from scratch and continued in the chair for another eight years. The Institution owe him a debt of gratitude for his work in those early formative years.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Betty who is still in Australia.

A fuller tribute will appear in the Summer (July) issue of the Journal.

R.O.111 Vacancies at the School of Signals

Two ROIII vacancies are now open at the School of Signals—one in the Planning Wing and one in Tactics Wing.

The School is moving to Blandford in the first half of 1967, and officers who are selected will be expected to move with the School. Officers who are interested should please write immediately to the Commandant, School of Signals, giving service details and asking for further particulars.

COLONEL G. C. WINCKLEY, O.B.E., M.C.

It is with very great regret that, as we go to press, we record the death on 4th May of that well known and popular figure in the Corps, Colonel George Winkley.

He commenced his service in September 1914 when he enlisted in the Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. He was soon commissioned, in October 1914. He served throughout the First War in France, winning the M.C and bar.

After the war he was seconded to the Indian Signal Service and continued to serve in India with only one short break until 1939.

During the Second War he served in the Middle East, as O.C. Egypt Command Signals and 6th and 8th Divisional Signals, then again to India for a short time, back to Middle East and then to U.K. and North-West Europe as Commanding Officer of 11th Air Formation Signals which provided the land-line communications for No. 83 Group R.A.F. in the North-West European Campaign. He was Mentioned in Despatches in 1939 and for his work in the North-West European Campaign he was awarded the O.B.E. in June 1945.

Early in 1945 he became Chief Air Formation Signal Officer (Colonel) British Air Forces South East Asia. He retired from the Army from this appointment in April 1948.

George Winckley who loved his golf, his riding and his bridge was popular and well thought of wherever he went. At the Peshawar races in which he rode frequently he was always worth backing. He will be very much missed by his many friends, both in the Corps and outside it, who served and played with him with pleasure and happiness.

Our great sympathy goes out to his widow, son and two daughters.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. B. BOYLE, C.B.E., Q.C.

Arthur Brian Boyle died on 1st May. He was the son of Colonel Walter Boyle, O.B.E., T.D., the well-known ex-Commanding Officer of 49th (Yorkshire) Regiment.

He was commissioned in the Territorial Army in 49th Divisional Signals in 1932 where he served until 1938, when he went onto the Territorial Army Reserve. In the meantime he had been called to the Bar, Middle Temple, in 1936. In 1939 he was embodied and rejoined 49th Divisional Signals. After attending an early War Course at the Staff College he went to 2nd Divisional Signals and then as G.S.O.3, to G.H.Q. B.E.F. From there he went to the War Office, finally in 1942 becoming G.S.O.1 (Lieutenant-Colonel) Military Assistant to the then C.I.G.S., Field-Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke, in which capacity he accompanied the C.I.G.S. to the major conferences of the War Leaders at Casablanca, Washington, Cairo, Quebec, Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam. After the war he practised on the North-Eastern Circuit and became Recorder of Sunderland in 1960 and Recorder of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1961.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his father Colonel Walter Boyle and to his sister Lady Wrangham.

Ex-Boys' 11th Annual Reunion Buffet Supper

A new venue this year by courtesy of the 41st Regiment (Princess Louises Kensington Regiment) T.A.

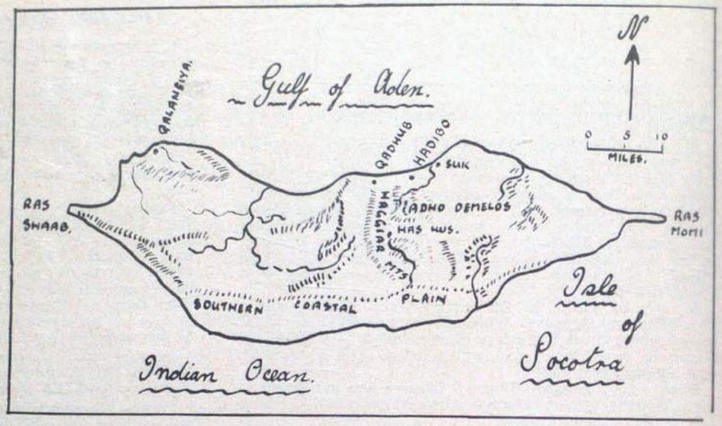
SATURDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 1965, 6.30 p.m. at the Hammersmith T.A. Centre (Hammersmith Broadway Tube Station, turn right, cross over the road, and the T.A. Centre is about 40 yards down). Lounge suit or uniform. Supper ticket, 12s. 6d. per head, obtainable from Captain J. V. Harding, 58th Signal Regiment (T.A.), Wolseley House, Fallings Park, Wolverhampton. Crossed cheques/postal orders made payable to Royal Signals Ex-Boys Dinner.

Please book as early as possible.

● Have you placed a standing order for a copy of "The Wire"?

Why not do so now?

ISLAND without DOGS



Being an account of a visit to the Island of Socotra by W.O.II T. Ash, Trucial Oman Scouts Signal Squadron

(Once again we are happy to highlight a story which tells of a member of the Corps performing an unusual job in a remote part of the world. We are indeed grateful to W.O.II Ash for the account that follows and hope that it may encourage others to tell us about their adventures. —Editor.)

* * *

There is, to the south-east of Aden, an island. It's name—**Socotra.** Recently a party was despatched to this island for a fortnight and I was fortunate enough to find myself attached in the role of interpreter. I make no claim to be an expert on the Arabic language, but having done a course at the Command Arabic Language School in Aden prior to joining the Trucial Oman Scouts I felt reasonably safe.

About Socotra Itself

A few words on the geographical location and history of Socotra will not be amiss as, until fairly recently, it was one of the little known corners of the Empire. Even today the name Socotra will not "ring a bell" with many people outside the South Arabian area.

The island lies some 300 miles E.S.E. of Aden and about 175 miles from the coast of Africa. The shape is roughly oblong with a length of about 72 miles and a width of about 28 miles at its widest point.

The interior of the island is mainly mountaineous with the Haggiar Mountains forming the main range. The highest peak being in the region of some 4,900 feet above sea level. Mostly the mountains stretch as far as the sea but there are several small coastal plains in the north and an extensive one in the south. There is plenty of fresh water in most parts of the island especially in the mountains where there are many small pools and running streams.

The vegetation in coastal regions with fresh water is, as one would expect, mainly date palms and low scrub. In the mountains the vegetation is quite surprising, the slopes of the mountains are thickly wooded with many varieties of trees, some of most peculiar and almost prehistoric shapes. Above the 2,000 feet level the Dragons Blood Tree is prolific and Socotra has been referred to as the Dragons Blood Island. The mountains also support extensive fields of grass which supply the Bedu with their grazing grounds.

In the time of the ancient Egyptians the island was renowned for its production of frankincense and myrrh and undoubtedly enjoyed a more prosperous civilisation than it does today. In more modern times the island was colonised for a brief period by the Portuguese and was nominally Christian. The Portuguese did not remain for long but were slowly driven from the island by disease and a hostile population.

Today the population of the island has been estimated at around 10,000 (there are no Europeans), 7,000 of these being Socotri Bedu living a troglodyte life in the mountains. Their language is Socotri as opposed to Arabic and their physical features are small and finer than the Arab.

Their sole occupation is the herding of their flocks of goats and herds of cows. At one or two places in the mountains the Bedu have small plots of cultivation, of dates, fruit and grain, but only for their own consumption.

The remaining 3,000 of the population, chiefly a mixture of Arab and Socotri, live in the coastal areas, mainly in the north of the island. They obtain their livelihood from fishing and the cultivation of dates, tomatoes, melons, yams, etc. Pearl fishing is also carried out at certain times during the year.

Socotra enjoys the status of a British Protectorate, the ruler is Sultain Eisa. The capital, Hadibo, the only town of any size, lies on the north of the island on the western edge of a small coastal plain. Several waddis drain into the plain from the Haggiar bringing fresh water. The courses of these waddis are easily discernable by the abundance of date gardens and habitations.

Establishing Ourselves

It was on this plain that our Beverley landed, just after mid-day on Friday, 19th February, and discharged our party of 26. We soon established our small base camp under the interested gaze of many of the local populace to whom our arrival must have provided an interesting diversion. The vultures, which are numerous, also kept an eye on us.

It was not long before the Sultan's Wazir, Ibrahim ibn Khalid, arrived on his camel from Hadibo. He knew of our impending arrival so we were not unexpected. With the O.C. of the party we then set about establishing friendly relations. This was very soon achieved and the Wazir arranged to attach four soldiers of the Sultan's guard to us as guards and guides. The Sultan's "army" numbers 12 strong, there is no rank but the senior soldier, Awadh ibn Abdullah, is the "army commander." Quite a number of the "army" are not of Socotri origin but have come over from the Hadramaut and sign for a year's service, at a £7:10sh per month.

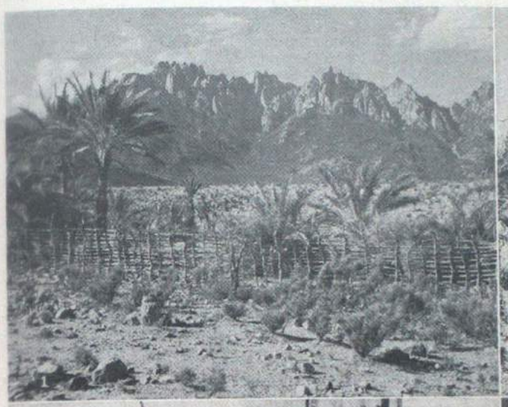
The following morning several patrols went out for the day to investigate routes from the plain into the Haggiar and along the coast. I should point out that there are no roads on the island and no motor vehicles, communications are basic, if you want to go from A to B you walk, or ride a camel or donkey if you are fortunate enough to have one.

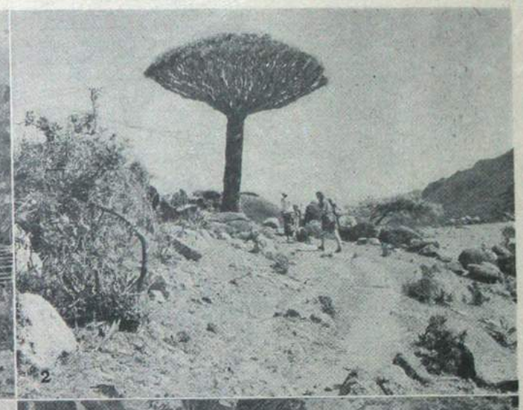
A Visit to Hadibo

Soon after breakfast I set off over the plain for Hadibo with our three medical orderlies and Said ibn Abdullah, one of the Sultan's soldiers. I had previously arranged to call on Ibrahim and then open a dispensary so that the medical orderlies could treat the sick of Hadibo, there being no doctor on the island.

Having entertained us to tea, Ibrahim took us to the dispensary normally occupied by a local dispenser, but at the time

Scenes from the Island without Dogs...













1. The Haggiar Mountains. 2. A Dragons Blood Tree. 3. The author with Said Ibn Abdullah and two R.A.M.C. Orderlies at the local dispensary. 4. Loading donkeys. 5. An unusual tree. 6. A Vulture shot straight through the eye by Said Ibn Abdullah

away in Mukalla on the mainland for training! The word soon travelled round that free medical treatment was available (the local dispenser charges when he is present) and we were overwhelmed with patients of every shape, size, sex and age. Fortunately we had Said posted on the door otherwise treatment would have come to a grinding halt.

At 3 p.m., having been going at full blast since about 9 a.m., we decided that enough was enough, our stocks, carried in ruck sacks were running low and and the time had come to lock up shop. From the dispensary, once we were able to tear ourselves away, Said took us to the Hadramaut Bedouin Legion detachment in Hadibo. There was only one signaller present but he made us most welcome, tea was supplied which was just what the doctor ordered as far as we were concerned.

From the HBL we visited Hadibo's main shop; there are only two worthy of the name. The shopkeeper, Mohammed, was highly delighted to be able to entertain us; we had previously treated his wife and daughter. His stock consisted mainly of bolts of cloth, dates, beads, tinned fruit (several tins of which he presented to us) with a few eggs, various food stuffs and the basic necessities of life. He did have some rather attractive locally made blankets which were a good buy at 15sh. each. From Mohammed's shop we made our way back to our camp along the beach, arriving just in time for the evening meal.

Overnight Patrol

The following morning, Sunday, 21st February, two patrols set out along the coast, one to the east and one to the west. I accompanied the west bound party. The patrols were to stay out over night and each man carried his sleeping bag, day's rations and small cooking stove in his pack.

We set off from our camp at about 08.00 and crossed the plain to Hadibo. From Hadibo the plain extends a further mile westwards, at this point the mountains slope down to the sea and the track begins to wind up and down the rugged coast line. This track is quite difficult in places and littered with fallen boulders many of which have been polished to a high sheen by the passage of travellers over the centuries.

The view to the sea from our elevated position was like looking into an aquarium, there were many patches where the sea bed was of white sand, the water blue and crystal clear. We could see quite plainly many of the denizens of that rocky coast, sharks, rays and many schools of smaller fish.



One of our good friends—Suleiman—with a local at his side

The journey along the cliff track took us some three hours with several short stops for a drink and rest. Eventually we descended to another coastal plan. As we came down we could see, about a mile ahead of us, the town of Quadhub.

We decided to spend the night under a cliff on the edge of the sea. There was a fairly large date garden nearby with a well, so our fresh water was assured; so also, as we discovered that night was our quota of mosquitoes! Naturally with the sea nearby the obvious thing to do was to get in it after our rather hot trek. This we did despite the thought of the monsters we had previously seen. Apart from an eel bite on the foot of one of our number, we were not molested.

We Explore Further

On Wednesday the O.C. wanted to despatch four patrols into the mountains and along the coast for a period of from four to five days. It would be necessary to hire donkeys and guides for these patrols, so on the Tuesday morning, 23rd February, I set off once more for Hadibo to see Ibrahim, the Wazir, to make the necessary arrangements. The medical orderlies accompanied me again with replenished stocks of medicine.

At 06.30 on Wednesday, 24th February, all was ready for our departure, with the exception of our donkeys and guides!

Nearly an hour later one man on a donkey was seen approaching the camp. This proved to be ex-Sayid Ali ibn Mohammed, the local Muggadem (an area chief). He told us that he had been ordered by the Wazir to supply us with donkeys and guides, but, he went on this would cost 10 shillings per donkey and 10 shillings per day per guide-cum-donkey-walloper. This put our expenditure on the patrol to double the amount already agreed with Ibrahim. I explained we had settled the financial arrangements with Ibrahim and were not going to accept this exorbitant increase. Ali was adamant 20 shillings per day it must be. There was only one thing for it, cancel the patrols for the day and Ali and I would go to see Ibrahim for his ruling.

When Ali and I arrived at Ibrahim's house he was engaged on official business concerning the death of one of the inhabitants of Hadibo. Eventually he arrived, full of apologies for keeping us waiting. Sherbert was served, social courtesies exchanged, I then put our business before him. Ali also had quite a lot to say! After a certain amount of discussion Ibrahim apologised for this misunderstanding, he had, he said, failed to make the finances clear in his letter to Ali.

In the morning the donkeys and guides duly appeared at the appointed time. For a short while confusion reigned, there seemed to be donkeys everywhere, the guides were all shouting at once and their kit for the journey, somewhat more bulky than ours, was strewn to the four corners of our area. At last everyone was sorted out into their respective patrols and the donkeys subjected to loading. Truly the most ill-used creature on God's earth. As each patrol became ready it set off. The patrol I was to accompany was headed for Adho Demelos, the main north south pass in the Haggiar and some 4,000 feet up. Our party consisted of the O.C., myself, Sa'ad bin Abdullah of the Sultan's guard, two British ranks, and our friend Ali. Our donkey was well and truly laden as we set off south across the plain to the waddi which was to be our route to the pass.

We travelled along the right-hand side of the waddi, the bottom was strewn with large boulders worn smooth by the passage of water over the years. There was plenty of vegetation all around us in the form of low trees and scrub. The track was fairly level to start with and the slow rise in altitude hardly perceptible. About 09.00 Ali told me that he wanted to stop in an hour's time so that he and Sa'ad could pray and have something to eat and drink. The O.C. was not too happy with this idea but, as I pointed out, I had agreed with Ibrahim we would stop for prayers so he agreed to Ali's request. I think Ali felt that he had at least scored one victory!

The rest for prayers was very welcome, especially as it included coffee and dates. We rested under what must have been a very ancient tree judging by its size and gnarled trunk, countless travellers must have welcomed its shade. We recommenced our travels and slowly wound our way upward. The track was becoming more difficult and steep and the donkeys were finding it slow going clambering over the many boulders.

We were now at an altitude of some 2,000 odd feet and the view to the north down the waddi over the plain to the sea was quite impressive. The going was pretty hard now but every step took us a few inches over the rocks of all shapes and sizes. The donkeys could only move very slowly and we soon left them—and Ali—some way to the rear. Just before 17.00 we reached our objective, the top of Demelos pass. Peaks towered on either side of us and we found ourselves on an open grassy area with outcrops of rocks and stunted trees.

Investigated by the Locals

Our next step was to find a suitable spot, with water nearby, for our camp. This was soon located and as soon as Ali and his donkeys arrived we set about cooking our evening meal and making ourselves comfortable. There was plenty of dry wood available so a good fire lightened the darkness of the now swiftly descending night. Quite a number of Bedu came to investigate us, we had seen them from a distance on our way up and had waved to them. Ibrahim had warned us that they were a timid people (not all of them by any means), and asked us to be careful not to frighten them as they were very nervous of rifles. Muggadem Ali was obviously well known to them and they saluted him by touching their nose or forehead to his right hand, the greeting of a subordinate to a senior. The standard dress of the Bedu is a sarong type loin cloth and a cloak of material of similar dimensions. Nearly all of them carried at their waist three crude knives contained in a common scabbard. By the time it was dark they had left us for the sanctuary of their caves and stone and earth dwellings.

We were up with the sun the following morning to the

accompaniment of the shouts of the Bedu echoing round the peaks as they drove their flocks to graze. We had decided to make our base at Demelos and go out on day patrols in various directions during our stay there.

The O.C., myself and one of our British ranks with Sa'ad decided to go over the pass to the south and investigate the path of the waddi. We left Ali and our remaining two British ranks at Demelos to look after the kit and donkeys who were having the meal of their lives on the abundant vegetation.

We started descending from Demelos into the waddi below. The descent, if anything, was steeper than the ascent from the north and the track very rough, winding up and down the irregular slopes. The vegetation and scenery was similar to that on the northern side of the pass. Eventually we found ourselves on a hill overlooking a wide waddi curling away to the south. A mile or two down it we could see a small date garden and a couple of large pools. There were a number of Bedu caves in the side of the waddi and stone and earth dwellings on the slopes. This was the village, if such it can be called, of Has Hus to which we were headed.

. . . We half expected a Dinosaur . . .

By the time we reached Has Hus we reckoned that we had descended the best part of 2,500 feet. We decided to penetrate further down the waddi from the village of Has Hus. The waddi was now a hundred or so yards wide at its bottom and appeared to be very nearly level. The bed was littered with large smooth rounded rocks. The slopes on either side were covered with peculiar trees, the trunks were grey in colour, fat and smooth, gradually tapering to a point at the top. From the tops sprouted small twig like branches with a few leaves and pink blooms. The whole impression of this part of the waddi was of great age, we half expected a dinosaur to lumber round the corner, it would not have been out of place. Slowly the vegetation began to die out and we were entering barren country. At this point we decided to retrace our steps towards Has Hus. In the early afternoon we stopped at the top of a small pass for lunch and a very welcome rest. After a long hot climb back up the pass we eventually arrived at our base on Demelos. The following day it was my turn for rear party while the O.C., Ali, Sa'ad and the rear party of the previous day struck off to the east. My day was spent pleasantly enough once the fog had been blown away. The local Bedu soon made their appearance and I entertained them to tea and biscuits. They reciprocated with a bowl of warm spiced cows milk which proved to be very palatable. I made the acquaintance of one Salem Kichen among their number; he enjoys a certain notoriety on the island and our paths were to cross again on the morrow. Our wanderers returned in the late afternoon having had an interesting tour which included lunch with some Bedu in their cave.

My watch has its attractions

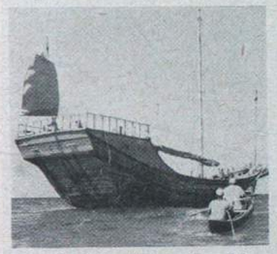
We were up early on Sunday morning to make ready for our impending departure. I had taken my watch off to wash and laid it on a nearby rock, when I went to put it back on it had gone—and so had Salem Kichen, who had been present with other Bedu in the hope of more biscuits! The previous day he had told me (he spoke a fair amount of Arabic) that there was no need to worry about our kit as no Bedu would dream of taking anything. He forgot to mention that he was the exception! Ali was most annoyed that this should have happened as he was responsible to the Wazir for our well being. He went off and found Salem who denied knowledge of the theft but said he would look for the watch and meet us down the track if it was found. He also enquired if he would get a reward of five shillings for finding it. My answer to this was an emphatic *no*.

We were soon ready to leave and started to make our way down the waddi to the north. After about 20 minutes we saw Salem Kichen sitting on a rock outcrop some 100 yards above us to the left. Ali broke off and went to him, something glinted in the sun as Salem handed it to Ali. Within five minutes my watch was back on my wrist none the worse for its temporary stay with Salem. Ali was mumbling about the "evil one" and how he had better stay in the mountains or he would find himself deficient of a hand! I sincerely hope the old rogue doesn't suffer the consequences prescribed by the law of Socotra.

Enter a strange Junk

Monday, 1st March, was to be a rest day so most of us ended up on the beach. During the afternoon we saw a dhow cruising off the coast, it had a peculiar shape and looked more like a Chinese junk, but China was a long way off. Suddenly it altered course towards us. We swam out to it and discovered to our amazement that it was a Chinese junk, the *Chang Feng*, crewed by six Frenchmen, one Dutch, two Swiss and a Canadian. Who was more surprised to meet who I can hardly say. When they saw Europeans on the beach they had turned in to investigate.

They were sailing from Hong Kong to Cannes on the French Riviera, Socotra was their first landfall since leaving Colombo. The Captain introduced himself as Maurice Herman, a steward of Air France; one of the crew members was a Boeing 707 pilot also of Air France. How are the mighty fallen! They aimed to take three months over the voyage which was by way of a holiday and sell the *Chang Feng* on arrival in France. When we had completed introductions and explained the local set up to them I took the Captain and his bearded second-in-command (the Boeing pilot) into Hadibo to meet Ibrahim. Ibrahim was most intrigued with them and we had quite a long conversation, but he declined an offer to go aboard. That evening parties were going full blast both at our camp and on board the *Chang Feng*. Maurice invited some of our party to a cruise along the coast for some fishing the next morning. I had to go to Hadibo to see Ibrahim in the morning but Maurice offered to pick me up off Hadibo for lunch, an invitation I accepted gladly.



The Chang Feng all the way from China

The following day at 1 p.m. Said and I having successfully passed the morning socialising in Hadibo, were at the appointed place of pick-up. The beach was crowded with the local Arabs who had turned out to see the junk and several canoes escorted our dinghy to the *Chang Feng*, including that of the Emir al Bahr (Harbour Master type), after his 40 shillings port dues. Once on board we found lunch prepared from the fish of the morning's catch which we washed down with red wine from the vineyards of France. After lunch we cruised up the coast and eventually anchored off our camp. In the early evening, Maurice and some of the crew wanted to go to Hadibo in search of souvenirs, so off we went, but this time on foot. We first called on Ibrahim as Maurice wished to give him a small gift before he departed in the morning. By the time we left Ibrahim's it was well and truly dark, so he lent us a paraffin lamp and Said was appointed lamp bearer. We made our way to Mohammed's shop where Socotra managed a few invisible exports to France. We staggered back to camp loaded with half a bale of dates and several blankets. The next day we said farewell to our friends of the *Chang Feng* and they set sail for their next port of call which was to be Jibouti in Somalia.

And so we say farewell

The time had now come for us to think about departing from Socotra ourselves. We were scheduled to leave the following day, Thursday, 4th March, but our Beverly was delayed in Aden and did not arrive until after midday on Friday. Ibrahim was present to bid us farewell, also the Sultan's eldest son, Eisa. Muggadem Ali, Awadh the "Army Commander," Said and Sa'ad from the Sultan's guard, who were very interested in getting to Sharjah to join the Scouts, excellent soldiers they would make as well. Altogether there was quite a large crowd, many we knew but many we didn't. I had six Socotris entrusted to my care for the flight to Bahrain, four men and two wives, they were embarking on the Hajj to Mecca and we had been able to arrange to take them with us to Bahrain.

I was sorry to leave Socotra, a fortnight was not enough by far to investigate even a fraction of the island. I think we made a good number of friends during our stay and I hope some day it will be possible to return.

I trust the title of this article is self-explanatory—there is not a single dog on the island!

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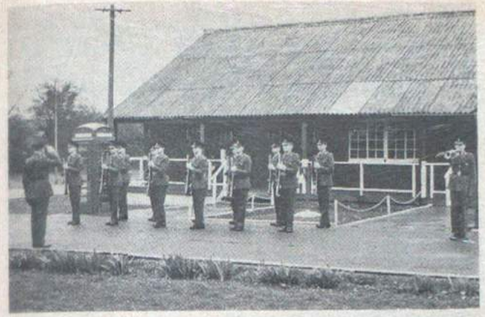
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The General Salute on the occasion of the visit of General Swainson

3rd REGIMENT, BULFORD CAMP

"Swainson Day"

It seems like only days ago that the Regiment waited anxiously for the then Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., to visit his old Regiment. It was with much disappointment that we received news, only a few days before the event, that due to ill health, the General would have to postpone his visit.

The days roll away so quickly, though, and in no time at all, the postponed visit became reality. The barracks took on that usual appearance near the advent of an important visitor. Grass appeared overnight in certain areas, even daffodils and tulips seemed to spring up from nowhere. To add to the preparations, the Garrison Works Officer sent painters on an unscheduled contract to start the exterior decoration of the barracks—such, of course, simply added confusion to our preparations.

None the less, the Commanding Officer returned from his successful tour of B.A.O.R. with the Divisional rugby team, and on 6th April, Major-General and Mrs. Swainson arrived in Bulford. A formal dinner party at Arras House started the visit, and the following morning the General returned to have a look at his old Regiment. Tradition and respect demand Quarter Guards on such occasions, and who are we to break with either? With Sergeant Cutler in charge of the guard and Signalman King playing the General Salute, General Swainson received the honours he rightly deserves.

After coffee with the officers, the General inspected a typical Joint Comcen Watch, made up by soldiers of the Regiment, Airmen from 50 Tactical Support Unit, R.A.F., and sailors from H.M.S. *Mercury*. The object of the day was nearing, when, after official introductions to No. 1 Squadron, General Swainson received the golden key and opened 'His' Room.

The 'Swainson Room' plays a dual purpose in Regimental life—to provide a permanent Air Support Operations Centre for both Staff and Operators, and a morse and tele-typewriter training room.

There followed a short briefing in the Whistler Room, and a tour of the barracks, including all the important places, with the usual demonstrations.

Before enjoying a lunch-time drink in the Sergeants' Mess, the General presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sergeant Gwynne, "R" Troop, and then to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

In the afternoon the General was joined by Mrs. Swainson in watching the Regimental Soccer XI playing in traditional form against the local R.E.M.E. Workshop, and later the Regimental Seven-a-Side Rugby Tournament. After three splendid games, 2 Squadron came out victorious and Signalman Radley received the cup.

The Wives' Club completed the afternoon's proceedings by entertaining both our visitors to tea. Later that evening at Arras House, General and Mrs. Swainson were entertained at an informal "fork supper," with several of the officers of the Regiment, and after breakfast the following morning they took their leave. If they enjoyed their return to their old Regiment, as much as we all enjoyed having them, then the postponed visit was worth waiting for.

A week after, we had the privilege and pleasure of a visit by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., a full report of which will appear in next month's issue.



3rd REGIMENT SEVENS

Back row, left to right: Second-Lieutenant Buckley, Major Moss, Second-Lieutenant Waugh. *Front row, left to right:* Sergeant Boyle, Lance Corporal Aston, Signalman Radley, Signalman Stephens

Our Sporting Successes

In the world of sport we continue to hold our own. The Regimental six-a-side hockey proved a happy, if drizzly day, coinciding with the Divisional seven-a-side rugby, in which we reached the semi-finals. Corporal Springer, of "R" Troop, came third in the Individual Epée at the Southern Command Fencing Championships, and has been selected to represent the Army versus the R.A.F. in a tetrathlon match. Signalman Hadley, of "O" Troop was selected to represent the Army versus the R.A.F. at chess, and although the Army lost the match, Hadley won his particular game. He has been selected to represent the Combined Services versus the Civil Services on 29th May, and enters the under-21 National Chess Championships at Hastings in August. It is sad to report that we were defeated in the final of the Command Hockey Cup.

4th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

After a year of "experimental integration," the Regiment was re-shaped on 1st January to fit a new establishment, and the Adjutant and Orderly Room staff were faced with a mass of documentary work to fit everyone into his new niche. As an indication of what integration means at divisional level, we focus attention this month on the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The Mess has more than 130 members, including over 30 Warrant Officers, and well under half the members wear the Royal Signals cap badge. That part of the notes which follow, relating to the Mess, has been written by one of the members.

In this part of Germany, the last two or three weeks of the official winter training season were warm and sunny, but our hopes for a pleasant start to summer training were quickly dampened, for it rained almost non-stop for our first three exercises. However, these provided the Regiment with a satisfactory "shake-out," and everyone now knows what is required of him.

We Prepare for visit of H.M. The Queen

We are now preparing to take part in the parade being held at Sennelager on the occasion of the visit of H.M. The Queen to Western Germany. The Regiment is putting nine officers and 222 men on parade, as well as undertaking a number of signal commitments for the parade. The German public is greatly interested in the Queen's visit, as a glance at any local magazine will show. The Regiment was chosen to feature in a film, to be shown on German television at the time of the visit, on how the soldier in BAOR spends his leisure time in Germany. A television team from Zweites Deutches Fernsehn spent a week-end with the Regiment and expressed surprise and interest in the variety of activities open to the soldier during his time off duty, while Sergeant Harris and his wife, who were selected to feature in the film, seemed to enjoy the experience.

Among the personalities of the Regiment, Major Peter Robertson and Captain Doug Keeling have left us, being dined-out in the traditional way, and we have recently welcomed Captain Bill Simpson, Lieutenant "Tank" Nash and Lieutenant Jim Johnson.

Continued on page 176

Wide Range of Sporting Successes

As we start another summer training season it is perhaps appropriate to review the Regiment's sporting successes over the past 12 months. It may be that not everyone in the Regiment realises how much sport has been played, and how much success achieved:

Athletics.—Fourth in the Divisional Championships; third in the Morrison Cup; Corporal Baines was subsequently fifth in the Army mile.
Basketball.—Runners-up, Divisional Championship.
Canoeing.—Winners, BAOR Championship.
Cycling.—Winners, BAOR 100 km. race.
Cricket.—Runners-up, Divisional Championship.
Darts.—Winners, Herford Garrison League.
Football.—Semi-finalists, Royal Signals Cup; fourth Westphalian League Championship.
Hockey.—Runners-up, Divisional Championship; winners, BAOR Six-a-Side Cup.
Rugby.—Divisional representatives, BAOR Seven-a-side Cup.
Sailing.—Second in Royal Signals Passage Race.
Tennis.—Sergeant Addlington, winner, Divisional Individual Championship.
Boxing.—Semi-finals, Divisional Championship.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

What can you do when the R.S.M. sends for you and says: "I want you to write the Sergeants' Mess WIRE notes; it need not be more than 6,000 words." I tried to explain that I really didn't have time, but he had an answer, as usual: "TIME! British Summer Time started over a month ago, what have you been doing with the extra hour?" You can't win!

A Mess photograph was taken a few weeks ago, the first since integration. There were 15 Regimental cap badges represented. A lot of credit is due to W.O.I V. H. Stephens for the way he has moulded these 15 cap badges together to make this the best Sergeants' Mess in Germany (well, we think so anyway) And not being satisfied with building up a splendid spirit amongst its members, he then turned his attention to the building itself, casually mentioning at a Mess meeting that he was not very impressed with the present bar. Within a week a team of do-it-yourself experts, headed by W.O.I E. Parkins, R.E.M.E., descended on the bar and completely modernised and redecorated it. We now have a bar befitting the Mess, with wall fish tanks behind the bar, fitted carpets, and even a chicken grill (where the living-out members can purchase the required peace offering). Everyone agrees that it is a first-class job, and an excellent attribute to the Mess. Of course, the R.S.M. has now another problem on his hands: how to get the members to go home at night.

Over the Easter week-end, by way of a change, a car rally and treasure hunt was organised by our L.A.D. Staff Sergeant, "Duggy Starky" and was won by Sergeant Lee, R.A.O.C., navigated by W.O.II (Y. of S.) McPherson. "No maps are required, just follow the route card," said the instructions. The time given to complete the course should have been 1½ hours in the morning and after lunch in the Mess a further route of approximately 1½ hours in the afternoon. There were still some competitors who had not returned by 16.00 hours, but perhaps we shouldn't go into that. All-in-all, it was a great success and we are looking forward to another rally over Whitsun.

We welcome to the Mess W.O.I Yeldham, R.A.S.C., and his family, and wish his predecessor, W.O.I L. Barlow, R.A.S.C., and family, who are leaving for Aden in the near future, every success and good luck in his new appointment. We are also sorry to say cheerio to Staff Sergeant Nick Nichols, Sergeant Phillips and Sergeant Storrie, R.A.O.C. We wish them good luck and a safe journey.

Well it's not 6,000 words, sir, but I did my best! When shall I call to collect the 'extras'!

GOOD VALUE

In order to turnover stock the Association offers the following items at greatly reduced prices as below:—

Royal Signals Car Badges	£1 1s. 0d.
Royal Signals Motor Cycle Badges	15s. 0d.
Woollen Corps ties (old pattern)	6s. 0d.

The above prices include postage.

The Corps Band Returns from the Far East and says . . . Thank You!

It was a Wonderful Time!

The Corps Band has now returned from the Far East after a very successful tour. In retrospect, the Band looks back at some of the 'off-duty' experiences enjoyed on the tour. All members agree that they had a wonderful time and wish to say 'Thank You' to all those un'ts who so wholeheartedly entertained them.



Musician G. Rive and "a friend"

AS the fierce tropical sunlight filtered through the tangled branches above, and the blood-hungry leeches waited in eager anticipation of the bachanalia which inevitably must follow heavy rainstorm, a most peculiar assortment of men in brand-new, perfectly pressed olive-green uniform, were pushing relentlessly through the Malayan jungle, each man standardly armed with camera, water-bottle, and floppy hat. These were some of the members of the Corps Band enjoying their time off! Others, less energetic, perhaps, were despoiling themselves on the beaches at Port Dickson, whilst yet others were engaged in a variety of nebulous activities, all according to taste, of course.

Some were left at home . . .

Nevertheless, it must be agreed, in retrospect, that a thoroughly good time was had by all, and that the 1965 tour of the Far East was an experience that nobody would like to have missed. Here, our very sincere sympathies are extended to Lance-Corporal Coomber and his twelve apostles, for whom duty demanded that they should remain in Catterick.

For our first ten days we were the very grateful guests of 18th Regiment at Princess Mary Barracks, Singapore. Several trips were organised during this period, and a lot of our free time was invariably spent at the excellent swimming pool on the camp; it is interesting to note here that nearly all our non-swimmers became quite proficient before we left. Most of the Band suffered from sun-burn during these early formative days, but this was mainly due to ignorance: but not so, however, the mosquito and bed-bug bites, which also took a heavy toll. Somehow or other we managed to struggle through though, and soon everyone was back down in the town, re-sampling most of the delights that the Orient has to offer.

Aground on a Coral Reef

Our first trip was a tour of Singapore harbour by landing-craft, and the highlight of the morning was when we ran aground on a coral reef. It must be the same impish characteristic that causes microphones to fail at Corps Balls! There was no damage, however, and the tide soon lifted us free, but it was very exciting while it lasted—too much so perhaps for Musician Clements, who unfortunately, isn't a very good sailor . . .

The afternoon provided a somewhat "lubricative" tour of the "Tiger" brewery, and we were introduced to beer in all its various underclothes; a far cry from the finished product, thank goodness! It was very interesting to learn that the hops came all the way from Kent—providing a little-known British export!

Four days too early—but everyone laughed!

An unexpected tour of the island occurred a few days later. A swimming pool barbecue had been arranged with the Band



Members of the Band enjoying a first class reception at 18th Regiment

of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and we were to be their guests over at Changi. By a most unfortunate circumstance, however, communications had somehow or other become inadvertently crossed, and it wasn't until we had arrived at our venue with armfuls of swimming tackle that we discovered that our hosts weren't expecting us until Tuesday—four days later! Everyone enjoyed a good laugh though, for the misunderstanding was taken in typical spirit, and we were well-compensated by the excellent entertainment we received when the big day really did arrive. Unfortunately, the swimming pool had since been put "out-of-bounds" by the Medical Officer, but it didn't deter either band from having a thoroughly good time. Our thanks must go to Mr. Pearson, the Bandmaster, for a really first-class "binge."

Fishing and . . . ice cream!

Our fishing friends in the Band found time to wet a line in several of the very good fishing ponds on the island. Fishing in Singapore is very different from rural England, being about as peaceful and quiet as Hampstead Heath on Whit-Monday, but the facilities are excellent, and for two dollars, you get a well-stocked pond, bait, chairs, shelters, rod-rests, landing-nets, and even an ice cream man on a motor-cycle, but, unfortunately, no guarantee of success!

From Singapore we moved up-country to Seremban, where we were the guests of 4th Royal Tank Regiment, at Poroi Camp, and where all our administration, both on and off duty, was taken over by a veritable wizard, Sergeant "Jungle Jim" Phillips, of the 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment. It was he who very bravely offered to take us into the jungle, and a most enjoyable trip it proved too. It was a unique experience for us to wade, fully-clothed, along two miles of rocky river bed, but with the air temperature well up over the nineties, we found it a most refreshing medium for travel.

The Cave of the Bats and the Sacred Five-Legged Bull

From Seremban, we moved to Kuala Lumpur, where we were afforded excellent accommodation at Bourne School. Unfortunately, our visit was brief, but Sergeant Phillips managed to squeeze in a tour of this architecturally-magnificent city, and we visited the museum, lake-gardens, and the Batu caves. These caves, which were featured in a recent "Adventure" programme on B.B.C. Television, proved most interesting, and the 247-step climb to the Cave of Bats was exhausting but rewarding. It was here that we saw the famous sacred Brahma Bull, with five legs, the extra limb growing from its shoulder, and normally, we were told, he's quite placid and tame, but the sight of forty cameras all aimed in his direction and clicking like mad must have unnerved him somewhat, for he suddenly charged the nearest group and chased round the field for a bit, much to the discomfort of some and the mirth of others—all according to where you happened to be at the time!

Excellent Hospitality—our sincere gratitude

All through Malaya we were accorded the most excellent hospitality from every unit, and here we should like to express our very sincere gratitude to all those who helped to make the tour a success. In particular, we remember three units who gave us unforgettable receptions: The Malayan Federation Signals at Kuala Lumpur; The Commonwealth Brigade at Terendak; and the 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment (who, incidentally, have a fine collection of silver) at Seremban. To these units in particular, we extend a very warm and heartfelt "thank you."

From Malaya we travelled back to Singapore, to await our return flight to the U.K. These last few days, and our last few dollars, were spent shopping, and Change Alley did a roaring trade in cheong-sams and battery-operated toys, for by now everybody had become quite expert at bargaining. But fate was on our side, for our Britannia flight was unexpectedly delayed and we were able to linger for several more precious hours—at Singapore Airport.

Unforgettable Memories and Many New-Found Friends

Then at last we really were on our way, leaving behind a great many new-found friends, but bringing back a store of unforgettable memories of a tour that we all sincerely hope may come again very soon—though it is nice to be home again!

Letter to the Editor

"SIX PROUD WALKERS"

(The Editor has received the following letter from W.O.II R. A. Lawry of 252 Squadron.)

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the article "Six Proud Walkers" in the March/April number of THE WIRE. I feel, however, that they gave the impression that all six joined Boys' Company on the same day, when they did not. If my memory serves me correctly, Major Marsh, Major Trelawny and Captain Ilett joined in 1942. Their original numbers being of the 2547 . . . group. W.O.I Brown (2548640) and W.O.I Clark (2548646) joined in April 1943. W.O.I Walls (2548988) joined in December 1943.

We in this Squadron thought we had a similar claim when for a short time the three Warrant Officers in the Squadron were ex-Boys of the same intake, October 1943. They were: W.O.I (F. of S.) Ribchester (2548945), W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Link (2548944) and W.O.II (S.S.M.) Lawry (2548933). W.O.I Ribchester has now left us on being commissioned, his place however has been taken by Lieutenant De Witt, another ex-Boy of April 1944 intake.

We also have W.O.II (S.S.M.) Pearsall (2548668) in our sister Squadron across the water, 253 Squadron.



A glimpse of the obvious from Singapore

Sent in by Flight Lieutenant W. W. Fawley (ex-Corps) now serving with the R.A.F. Comcentre at Changi, Singapore. He would like to hear from old friends in the Corps.

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Sixty Years Satisfactory Service
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DAILY DELIVERIES IN YOUR DISTRICT

The writing of THE WIRE notes for the Regiment now gives represenatives of various ranks an opportunity to show their literary talent. This month's article is the work of Coropral E. H. Tai, a Comcen Operator of 4 Squadron.

April saw a quickening of the pulse of the Regiment as the restrictions of the winter training season were cast aside. At the beginning of the month 1 and 4 Squadrons, the co-inhabitors of North Camp, disappeared into the depths of the Sauerland on Squadron exercises, for which the theme tune might well have been "Mud, mud, glorious mud." The rumour that they did so in order to avoid preparations for the visit of the Adjutant General, on 8th April, is thought to be not altogether unfounded. Just before Easter the hockey team, still flushed by its success in the B.A.O.R. Championship, left for England to begin preparations for the Army Cup final. At this time the small bore team were still waiting for the results of their postal shoot in the Army Competition. Easter came and went and provided a welcome break from the mad whirl of soldiering in B.A.O.R. It seemed to have a splendid effect on the rugby team, which travelled to Dortmund on the 24th to take part in the B.A.O.R. seven-a-sides. They didn't quite manage to win the competition, but they held the mighty Duke of Wellington's to a close match in the final.

Expectant waiting and then . . . jubilation!

Shortly after this event the Regiment moved out on exercise "Hot Spot I," to put to the test the skills acquired in the winter months. On the evening of the second day of the exercise the Regiment in the field and the families in their homes waited expectantly for the result of the hockey match being played in Aldershot, far away in England. At last the news was flashed through and jubilation was complete. Not only had the hockey team won by three goals to one, thus making the Regiment the first Royal Signals unit ever to be Army champions, but the small bore team had made it a double victory by winning the Unit Small Bore Championship for the fourth time in five years. Pictures of the teams which took part in these events and some of the cups which they have won this season are shown elsewhere in this issue.

The Army Hockey Final

Shortly after the thrilling match against D.C.L.I., described in the last edition of THE WIRE, the Hockey Officer, Lieutenant Geoffrey Allen, while looking at previous results of the Army Hockey Championship, found that for the last twelve years the U.K. team had always come out on top. This seemed to indicate that the team used to playing on grass had the advantage. He therefore decided that if the game at Aldershot, on 27th April, was to be won, his team would need the maximum amount of practice on grass pitches. With the kind help of the Junior Leaders Regiment at Newton Abbot they were entered in the Paignton Easter Hockey Festival (the fact that to Staff Sergeant Angell, Sergeant Meekings and Corporal Richardson, Denbury was a second home, had nothing to do with the choice of venue!).

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Lineman	Class III to II	7th December, 1965
Lineman Technician	Class II to I	18th January, 1966
Lineman	Class II to I	11th January, 1966
Comcen. Operator	Class II to I	4th January, 1966*
Radio Operator	Class II to I	4th January, 1966*
Electrician Driver	Class II to I	18th January, 1966
Telegraph Operator	Class II to I	11th January, 1966
Driver, R. Signals	Class II to I	18th January, 1966
Electronics Technician	Class III to II	11th January, 1966
Radio Tech. (Light)	Class III to II	18th January, 1966
Radio Relay Man	Class III to II	11th January, 1966
Clerk Technician	Class III to II	4th January, 1966
Staff Operator	Class III to II	11th January, 1966
Comcen. Operator	Class III to II	11th January, 1966
Radio Operator	Class III to II	4th January, 1966
Telegraph Operator	Class III to II	11th January, 1966
Switch. Op. (WRAC)	Class III to II	24th January, 1966

* Two courses.

Preparations for a Splendid Victory

The team found it strange playing on grass at first and lost their opening game. Thereafter, they never looked back, either on the field of play or in the Spa Ballroom. Their remaining four games were all won, despite some reasonably stiff opposition from the club sides they met. After Easter the flesh pots of Paignton and Torquay were exchanged for Aldershot, where more strict training was the order of the day. Most of the team were very well accommodated by 216 Signal Squadron in their brand new barracks; some others chose to either live out or commute daily. A practice match against Aldershot Services was lost by two goals to one, but the final warm-up, an excellent cut-and-thrust game against Corporal White's old school, was won.

The final was played on the beautifully-kept Officers' Club ground against the R.A.P.C. Depot and Training Centre from Worthy Down, who had beaten the MOD in the proceding week. A morale-boosting goal by Staff Sergeant Angell in the opening minute of the match warmed the hearts of the many Signals spectators who had come to cheer, including a coach load from the Regiment, who had very nobly paid their own fares. A quick hail storm scattered all but the most loyal of these supporters a few moments later, but after this the game settled down. Both sides had strong defences; both showed much promise in mid-field. The 7th had superiority in their forwards, and many attacks through their fast wingers, Corporals Luis and Oliver, probed dangerously close to the R.A.P.C. goal. One such attack resulted in their second goal, pushed past the 'keeper by Captain Moss to make it 2—0. In the second half the Regiment went further ahead, but then seemed to lose some of their effectiveness. The R.A.P.C. staged something of a recovery and eventually scored a consolation goal. The final result, 3—1, was never in doubt, and it was a proud team that received its medals from Major-General Duke at the end of the game. A picture of the captain receiving the Army Cup is shown elsewhere.

Small Bore Shooting (*See also page 201*)

The Regiment has for some years attained good results in this sport, and the record of the team this season shows that these results are likely to continue. The finals of the Rhine Army Championship were shot at Sennelager, but despite an excellent 98 by Corporal Pilkington in the final match, the team finished second to 1 R.I.F. The Army Unit Small Bore Championship was fired in the Regiment, after many protests from the Adjutant, who had to find invigilating officers at short notice. As noted earlier, the results, when announced, added a further success to the Regiment's wins in 1960, '61 and '62. H.Q. Squadron were runners-up in the Company Cup. Much of the success in this sport in recent years has been due to the hard work put in by Captain Fred Pavey, the team captain. By the time this article is in print, he will have left the unit, bearing with him best wishes from all ranks for the future.

Rugby

The Regiment has a great deal of rugby talent at its disposal, but it has proved very difficult to get all the players together in one place throughout most of the season. Consequently, the earlier results were disappointing: Second-Lieutenant Bill Backhouse had a lot to contend with in the Mess from the members of the hockey team, whose star happened to be in the ascendant. However, the team came into its own at the end of the season in the various seven-a-side competitions; in the single week, from 17th to 24th April, it brought home trophies from the Bielefeld Sevens, the 4th Division Sevens, and a most handsome shield for holding "The Dukes" to a score of 9—5 in the final of the Rhine Army Championship.

Vale R.S.M. J. J. Gerrard

These few lines would be incomplete without an appreciation of W.O.I Gerrard, who left the Regiment this month to take up his new appointment as Quartermaster of 11th Regiment. Many in the Corps know him; his bearing and manner have struck fear into the hearts of many soldiers, but all respect him. Not idle words, these, his standing in the Regiment, in which he was first R.Q.M.S. and then R.S.M., has been amply shown on such occasions as the annual Christmas dinner. Officers and men alike have been privileged to serve with him, and they send their very best regards to him and Mrs. Gerrard in their new life in Catterick.

The 7th make their mark in the Record Book

They win the Army Hockey Cup—first time for the Corps—in splendid style: In 7-a-side Rugby they grapple with the powerful Duke of Wellingtons and only just lose. They get in to the final of the Rhine Army Small Bore Championships and pull off the Army Unit Small Bore Championship.



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[*Photographs* 1, 2, *and* 3, *are by Courtesy of The Aldershot News*

1. **Hockey: The Captain of 7th clears the ball away during a Pay Corps attack with Sergeant Meekings there to give assistance.**
2. **Lieutenant Geoffrey Allen becomes the first Royal Signals team captain to receive the Army Hockey Cup. Presenting the cup is Major General G. W. Duke.**
3. **Army Hockey Cup Winners.** *Back Row (left to right)*: **W.O.II Broadbent, Corporal White, Sergeant Meekings, Lieutenant Allen, Staff Sergeant Angell, Corporal Richardson, Captain Moss, Corporal Luis.**
   Front Row (left to right): **Corporal Oliver, W.O.II Carpenter, Corporal Poultney.**
4. **Small Bore Team: Winners of the Army Inter-Unit Championship.** *Back Row (left to right)*: **Lance Corporal Keighley, Corporal Wilson, Corporal Pilkington, W.O.II Broadbent, Corporal McGookin.**
   Front Row (left to right): **Captain (Q.M.) F. J. Pavey, Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Davies, Lieutenant (Tfc) W. C. Lombard.**
   Not included in the photo—Corporal Barber.
5. **Trophies won this season by the Hockey and Rugby teams: Army Cup in the centre.**
6. **Rugby 7-a-side team.** *Back Row (left to right)*: **Corporal Zoing, Lance Corporal Morris, Lance Corporal Cairns, Corporal Lawson**
   Front Row: **Lance Corporal Drika, Second Lieutenant Backhouse, Lance Corporal Kubu**



Discussion at 259 Signal Squadron (COMCAN)
Left to right: Sergeant L. Green, Corporal R. J. Brown, R.E.M.E., Staff Sergeant F. Orr, General Whistler, Corporal M. Harding, R.E.M.E. and Colonel T. H. C. Grigg

The Representative Colonel Commandant visits Cyprus

Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., visited Cyprus in his capacity of Representative Colonel Commandant from 1st-6th April, 1965. His islandwide tour commenced with a call on the Commander U.N. Forces, General K. S. Thimayya, D.S.O. Both Generals were found to be already firm friends, both having campaigned together in wartime Burma. This was followed by a visit to 644 Troop (UNFICYP) where members of other detachments, including 640 Signal Troop, were also assembled. The first day ended with a flight to Episkopi in an Auster piloted by Captain J. G. Billingham, Royal Signals.

On the following day it was the turn of 262 Squadron (Cyprus) where he was able to meet the families, call on No. 1 Garrison Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Dhekelia and lunch with the officers and their ladies. The next day 9th Regiment (Radio) acted as host to the Colonel Commandant.

Instead of an elaborate programme which had to be curtailed owing to the death of H.R.H. The Princess Royal the Colonel Commandant took the opportunity to speak to the military and civilian members of the Unit at their places of duty.

The weather was most unkind when 259 Squadron (COMCAN), 261 Squadron (Air Formation) and 538 Troop (1 Y. and L.) were visited. Nevertheless the windswept transmitter and receiver sites were seen but the rather cheerless conditions were soon forgotten in the congenial atmosphere of the Episkopi Garrison Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The memorable visit was concluded by calls on the A.O.C.-in-C. and G.O.C. and finally with a cocktail party at 9th Regiment (Radio). We in Cyprus are most grateful to the Represenative Colonel for undertaking this strenuous tour and we were sorry he had to contend with rain and gale force winds instead of the sunshine we normally expect our visitors to have.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

Your correspondent is taking a lot of leg-pulling since his last ecstatic article about blue water and sunshine. The weather has been foul—lowest temperature ever recorded in May—thunderstorms . . . wind . . . name it, we've had it.

Sailing. There have been some fine days, and the sailors have been out, either sailing or working, putting the finishing touches to one of the ten Albacores held by the Famagusta Services Sailing Club. Their fleet also contains nine Fireflies and a very pretty picture they make, racing off the Famagusta Beach.

One of the hazards these sailors face, peculiar to Famagusta beach, is that off-shore winds are funnelled between the blocks of flats along the beach and any unwary helmsman sailing into one of these intense draughts can suffer a spectacular capsize. Publicity is added to discomfiture since most of these flats are occupied by members of the Regiment, and very little happens at sea that isn't noticed by someone.

The deep-water sailors are still involved in the refit of *Cito*, and are also smartening up *Goldammer*, an Army Cruising Association 50 square-meter, which the Regiment is now looking after. This is expected to be in the water in a few weeks and Beirut is only 120 miles away after all.

Water Ski-ing. There have been some days when the sea has been calm enough for ski-ing, and some interpid souls have been delighted to discover that some of last year's painfully acquired expertise remains with them. It's apparently like learning to ride a bicycle—the skill, once acquired, stays with you. This is a disappointment to sadistic non-skiers who were looking forward to a repeat of last year's entertainment when dogged learners took tumble after glorious tumble in showers of white foam and blue water.

You can see from the above paragraphs that you don't need to join a Ship Signal Troop to enjoy a life on the ocean wave. Join 9th Regiment and you have a navy to choose from!!!

Soccer. The season has now officially closed with the Regimental team being awarded the Lefkaritis Cup, presented to the Army team coming highest in the Major Units League. We were only surpassed in the League by the powerhouse teams of R.A.F. Akrotiri. Four of our players, Corporal Cooke, Signalman Burr, Signalman Pegg and Signalman Newham, were awarded Army colours for their performances with the Army team during the season.

Harewood Club. Corporal Brace writes: Eleven members of the Harewood Club enjoyed a trip to Beirut over the Easter break, flying from Nicosia to Khalde on the 15th. On Good Friday we had a conducted tour of Beirut visiting the museum and a Persian carpet factory. This latter was a fascinating place with dozens of carpets in wool and silk. A pure silk rug takes two people a year to make and costs only £50 for a rug 6 ft. by 4 ft. 6 in. Worth saving up for! We were unable to visit the Jeitta Grotto since it was flooded and a visit to Byblos was arranged instead. Most of the party, however, took the opportunity to visit the gold market—a street where every shop is a goldsmith's and one feels as though one is walking in Aladdin's caves. Easter Sunday was occupied with a trip to Baalbeck to see the Acropolis—reputedly the largest and best preserved piece of Roman architecture left in the world.

We left the Hotel Biarritz on Monday morning and returned to Cyprus thoroughly delighted with our excursion, and all determined to make another trip sometime during our Cyprus tour.

Visitors. We had a steady stream of distinguished visitors during the period of March and April. Unfortunately most of them had very crowded schedules and were unable to stay with us for very long. General Whistler's visit is covered in another article from H.Q. Cyprus District but we did have Colonel Mansergh to ourselves for a couple of days. During this time he was thoroughly "grilled" by all ranks as to prospects and promotion, but serious discussion was properly balanced with enjoyment.

10th Regiment, Hounslow

Radio Amateur Club Established



"G3-NOT" being operated by Sergeant Tanner

The Regiment's Amateur Radio Club, call sign G3 NOT, has recently been established and is run by Sergeant Tanner. It is largely due to the efforts of Sergeant Tanner, Lance-Corporal Miles and Lance-Corporal McKelvie that the station has been made operational. The first Royal Signals member to be worked was Sergeant J. Akehurst G3 OAZ of Newton Abbott.

At the time of writing the station is operating mainly on 80 and 20 metres, single sideband, and the never let you down Charlie Whisky. The rig consists of a KV Vanguard Transmitter and two AR 88D for AM, a National NCX3 SSB transreceiver for the 80, 40 and 20 metre bands and a KW trapped dipole and ground plane for 20 metres. Our working schedules are Tuesday and Sunday mornings and we look forward to hearing from other Signals members in the future.



DEWAR CUP WINNERS
Standing: Corporal Welch, Lance Corporal Anglesea, Lance Corporal Bremner (ACC), Corporal Cheetham
Sitting: Staff Sergeant Ellis, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Howes, Major A. Sawyer, Captain W. Farmery, Staff Sergeant Hill

A Gratifying Success in the London District Rifle Meeting

The annual London District Rifle Meeting was held at Pirbright on 27th and 28th April in weather traditional to this meeting. On both days there were strong winds, very heavy showers and the occasional thunderstorms. By a strange coincidence the showers were always at their heaviest when one of our details was firing.

Despite the eternal Signals problem of getting all team members off shift in order to practice and the unfortunate and unavoidable absence of our team captain, Major A. Sawyer, during the training period, we did manage to get in a few days practice on the range.

It is no small reflection on the keenness and skill of our teams that we won the Dewar Cup awarded to the champion Minor Unit of the meeting. This is particularly gratifying as it is the first time a Signal unit has ever achieved this.

A Busy Time Ahead with the Royal Shows

With the Regiment's annual administrative and technical inspections behind us, we are now preparing for the busy two months of June and July when the Regiment provides the communications and technical assistance for the Royal Tournament, Royal International Horse Show, the Queen's Birthday Parade, and not to mention the ACF/CCF camps and Recruiting Displays.

The Regiment wishes Major John Garlick all the best in his new posting to the Defence Communication Centre, London District; we may now have the chance of seeing a write up in THE WIRE on what does actually go on at the D.C.C. (*The Editor is always willing.—Ed.*)

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

EXPORT - - each 9/5
U.K. incl. P. Tax - „ 10/1
(Postage Extra)

T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY
Nr. DONCASTER



TREE PLANTING OR . . . THE SNOWY GURKHA

Thanks to the generosity of units and individuals throughout the Corps the harsh outlines of Helles Barracks will, in years to come, be tempered by the presence of many types of tree. Some of the trees have been 'Officially' planted by their donors, others have not as yet been able to get to Catterick to "do the honours." Where and when we can, donors are asked when in station to perform for posterity. The presence of the C.O. designate of Gurkha Signals, Major W. P. W. Robertson, was hailed by the PRI as an auspicious occasion and declared that the trees would be 'planted,' W.O.I (FOS) Jitman Gurung officiating on behalf of the W.O.'s and Sergeants Mess and All Ranks Gurkha Signals. The ceremonial spade was produced, taken, and the ceremony rounded off with a pint or two in the W.O.'s and Sergeants Mess.
Gurkha Signals please note the weather conditions

11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Training Brigade Parades to Bid Farewell to Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E.

Whilst the snows were on the ground (not those of a Catterick Easter Monday!) the idea was conceived of a farewell parade for the Brigade Commander, based on the normal pass-off parade but including a representation from each of the regiments forming the Training Brigade. After the initial conference it was decided that the parade should be a secret and this proved to be the greatest problem.

Somehow it was achieved and at 10.30 hours on 14th April Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., arrived on Helles Square assuming he was to take the Pass Off Parade of Nos. 2 and 7 Troops of 11th Regiment; finding instead representative squadrons from 8th and 24th Regiments, the Royal Signals Display Team, Radio and Line laying vehicles with crews and Royal Signals Staff Band in full dress, a total of nearly 300 all ranks on parade.

The parade under command of Major W. B. Foote, O.C. 1 Squadron (Recruit Training) of 11th Regiment on his 32nd and last parade prior to posting, continued with the inspection followed by a march/drive past. After the advance in review order the Brigadier was driven past the assembled troops escorted by outriders of the Display Team, to the strains of 'Auld Lang Syne.'

As he drove off, the thoughts of many on Helles parade ground went back over the last two and a half years of his command and no doubt it was remembered that during this time nearly half of the Corps had passed off in the same way.

The best wishes of 11th Regiment go with him and his family on his appointment in B.A.O.R., where no doubt he will meet many of those advised to have "moral guts," "intestinal fortitude" and "a full life."



Brigadier A. C. Cox O.B.E. being driven past the assembled troops escorted by riders of the Display Team after a parade of over 300 troops at Helles Barracks to bid him 'farewell'



The New Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., having a drink in the Sergeants Mess . . . he met the majority of the members . . .

Visit of the new Brigade Commander: Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E.

Culminating a month full of activity we had the pleasure of a visit from our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E. He commenced by taking the recruit "pass off" parade of Nos. 1 and 6 Troops, and continued with a visit to the Sergeants' Mess, and had lunch in the Officers' Mess.

After the parade he met recruits and their parents in the J.R.C., expressing his appreciation to the parents for the interest they were taking in their sons welfare and the Regiment.

In the Sergeants' Mess the Brigadier met the majority of the Mess members. He is seen in the attached photograph discussing "the paper war" with O.R.Q.M.S. W.O.II L. Curtis, R.Q.M.S. Edwards, S.S.M. Gill (P.M.C.) and Staff Sergeant Morrill (P.E.C.) completing the picture. Only too soon the Commanding Officer whisked the Brigadier away to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

Finally in the afternoon a quick tour of Instructional Wing and the Depot Squadron gave the Brigadier his first, but far from last, insight into 11th Regiment.

Best Recruit



Signalman Malcolm Baker

Signalman Malcolm Baker enlisted at Stoke-on-Trent on the 12th February. He lives at Biddulph, near Stoke-on-Trent, where he attended Wolstanton County Grammar School. He was a member of the School Cadet Force and played Rugby for the School and for N. Staffs.

He intends to make the Army a career and his ambition is to rise as high as possible.

The best recruit on the Pass Off on 30th April he now goes to the Regiment's Potential Officer Troop.



Signalman Douglas Geoffrey Hart

Douglas Geoffrey Hart enlisted at Nottingham on 16th February.

He attended Beeston Fields Secondary Modern School and intends to make a career of the Army.

A former member of the Army Cadet Force for four years, he attained the rank of Sergeant and passed Part I and II Certificates. The best recruit on the Pass Off on 16th April he now goes for trade training as an Electrician Driver.

14th REGIMENT, GLOUCESTER

"A pretty crowded week"

At about 3 p.m. on 7th May, the words "they're here!" heralded the arrival of the Corps Band to the Regiment and the start of a pretty crowded week. The main purpose of the Band coming was for them to be on parade at the "Inauguration of TARE" at Boddington on the 12th May by the V.C.G.S., Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Baker, K.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., but having got them within our clutches we naturally intended to make the most of them.

On Saturday evening, 8th May, the Band Beat Retreat on the Regimental Square—this we were viewing with considerable apprehension for the "met." boys confidently forecast heavy rain precisely at the time planned for the Retreat, so out came the prayer mats and at 18.00 hours precisely in the presence of His Worship The Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor W. J. Lewis, and a good assembly, the Band marched into view from the foot of Robinswood Hill. Our fevered wishing had been successful and despite a cold wind, low cloud and a threat of rain the Band gave a tremendous display. This was the first time that the "Glockenspiel" was played in public and it proved to be a very worthwhile addition to the Band instruments.

A rude awakening for local citizens

The following day at 2.30 p.m. the citizens of Gloucester who were quietly digesting their Sunday dinners received a rude awakening when the Band in full dress assembled at the Cathedral Close and with a mightly martial crash marched off through the streets of the city to the Park. This had a splendid effect for by the time they arrived at the Park it was rather like the "Pied Piper of Hamelin"—several score of the citizens fired by the stirring spectacle were bringing up the rear! The Band then gave a most successful concert to a highly appreciative audience which again included the Mayor of Gloucester, who at the conclusion of the concert said some very kind things about the Band and the Regiment. To add to the Corps picture we had the Southern Command Recruiting Display from 243 Squadron in the Park and this had its fair share of visitors during the afternoon.

Monday evening was the Regiment's turn to have the Band to itself and they played a delightful Concert which demonstrated completely their virtuosity, and which was, from the audience's point of view, over all too soon.

By now all thoughts were on the "Inauguration of TARE" ceremony and Tuesday was taken up by both the Regiment and the Band in preparing for the next day.

Inauguration of T.A.R.E. and farewell to the W.R.A.C.

Wednesday, 12th May, dawned at Boddington—a beautiful early English summer day. The parade, commanded by Major R. C. Anderson, comprised a detachment of Royal Signals personnel under command of Lieutenant W. A. Price and a detachment of W.R.A.C. under command of Second-Lieutenant J. Barker, W.R.A.C. The detachments were formed up on the flanks of the Corps Band.

When the guests which included the Mayors of Cheltenham and Gloucester, C.S.O. Southern Command Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., C.S.O. COMCAN, and Colonel J. R. West, M.B.E., had arrived the parade received the Director W.R.A.C., Brigadier J. E. Henderson and the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, O.B.E., D.S.O., with General Salutes. Barely had they taken their seats when the helicopter carrying the V.C.G.S., Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Baker, K.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., appeared over the trees and landed on the roof of the Tape Relay Centre. The V.C.G.S. was met by the Commanding Officer, and preceded by two orderlies, Sergeant Froggatt and Sergeant Casey, moved to the saluting base to be received by a further General Salute. After inspecting the parade General Baker said that the new equipment at the centre represented a significant technical advance and the British Army now had the most advanced centre in the world; he went on: "progress inevitably brings changes—the installation of the new equipment means that fewer operators are required to man the Centre; this then, is responsible for a sad occasion, the W.R.A.C. have no longer the responsibility of the work here. They came in 1940 when they were known as the A.T.S. and have done a magnificent job ever since—they will be sadly missed." The General concluded by congratulating the parade

Continued on page 184

A big day at the 14th Regiment . . .

Inauguration of new T.A.R.E. system



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1. **The Royal Signals Detachment Commanded by Lieutenant W. A. Price being Inspected by the VCGS.**
2. **The Royal Signals Detachment March Past.**
3. **The V.C.G.S. unveiling the Commemorative Plaque.**
4. **The W.R.A.C. Detachment Commanded by Second-Lieutenant J. Barker W.R.A.C. march out of Boddington to the strains of 'Auld Lang Syne.'**
5. **Staff Sergeant Garvey explaining the intricacies of the console to the V.C.G.S. (Their Worships the Mayors of Gloucester and Cheltenham amongst the guests).**



The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals marching through the city of Gloucester

on their turn out and drill and saying that it was particularly satisfying for him to see that a technical Corps was equally proficient in the soldierly arts.

The V.C.G.S. and the guests then moved into the Tape Relay Centre for a briefing and the 'Inauguration Ceremony.' The briefing is a carefully staged presentation which aims to give an introduction to COMCAN and the role of the Regiment within COMCAN. **The reaction of the V.C.G.S. on the conclusion of the briefing was to say "That is the best briefing I have ever attended. It was finely done"—a very generous and satisfying comment.**

The party then proceeded to the TARE Control Room and to the whirring of TV cameras and flashing of bulbs the V.C.G.S. unveiled a plaque presented to the Regiment by The Standard Telephone and Cable Company Limited and so TARE was officially brought into being. The V.C.G.S. then sent a message to all stations on the network which read:—

> "On this occasion of the official inauguration of TARE at T.R.C. Boddington, I send you on behalf of the Army Board, my appreciation of the vital service you are performing and my best wishes for trouble free operation in the future."

The V.C.G.S. and the guests saw the message pass through TARE on its way to the addressees and then under the guidance of Major R. S. Cathmoir and Captain E. G. T. Merry they toured the building.

The parade meanwhile had re-formed with the Royal Signals detachment lining the exit to the Tape Relay Centre compound. As the V.C.G.S. left the building and returned to the saluting base the W.R.A.C. detachment appeared from the side of the building and marched past to their Regimental March and thence through the Royal Signals ranks who were at the "Present." The music changed to "Auld Lang Syne," and as the last girl went through the exit the gates were ceremonially closed behind them. The then marched away out of sight with the strains of the music fading away—a very moving and memorable sight. The Royal Signals detachment re-formed, marched past the saluting base and into the T.R.C. building. This was a day that will not be forgotten quickly in the Regiment, it was quite splendid. After lunch in the Officers' Mess, the V.C.G.S. left by helicopter to return to the M.O.D.

That evening the Regiment completed the day with an All Ranks' Dance at which the Corps Band once again made all the difference between an ordinary occasion and a special one. The week is now coming to a close with a Dinner Dance in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at which 90 guests will have a last opportunity to see the Band and as they leave tomorrow for Bulford an apt tune to play them out would be "Will ye no come back again?"

645 Troop

The time has come to publicise a new Troop which has come into being to carry out the important task of providing rear link communications from a Force H.Q. into the Strategic Communications Network.

The Troop was formed in August 1964, from O.C. Lieutenant W. A. Price, two senior N.C.O.s, nine Juniors and three Signalmen; training started in late August at Fort George, Inverness, where we soon got into the swing of things. Corporals Toovey and Gardiner were most successful in their spare time, in persuading the local rabbit population to join us for lunch.

After a spell of ironing snags out, November found us in El Alem, for the annual exercise. In spite of nature's lack of co-operation in the form of electrical storms over Malta, communications were good, and requirements well fulfilled. Lance-Corporal Powlett was kept busy dissuading the Arab locals from dismantling his transmitter truck—they seem to covet our excellent equipment.

We then found ourselves rather inactive, with some of our equipment being away for modification. The boredom was relieved by a brief map reading exercise on Dartmoor, where Signalman Moore decided to bathe in one of the streams, but omitted to remove his clothes first. He has since recovered, but now refuses to visit the showers without his water wings.

We then joined in with the T.A. and other units, on Exercise "Cotswold Chase," when the Troop, together with some of 14th Regiment's trainees, captured nine of the would be escapers. The O.C., Corporal Gardiner and Lance-Corporal Powlett later volunteered for Exercise "March Hare" in Yorkshire, this time on the escaping end. Unfortunately, they were soon captured along with many others, due in part to a misunderstanding with the American contingent.

In April we took part in a demonstration at Catterick Camp, where we received typical welcome from the weather. In addition to our own equipment, we had with us a new type of American Log Periodic Antenna on trial.

Sportwise, the Troop is quite active, with Corporal Smurthwaite and Lance-Corporal Paterson footballing for the Regiment. Having won the Wessex District Final in March, the team repeated their winning run at the Southern Command Finals.

Support for the Regimental rugby team is provided by the O.C., Sergeant Winning and Corporal Gardiner, playing in the local league. The cricket season rapidly approaching, our West Indian chum, Lance-Corporal Powlett is to be seen in the evening oiling his bat and chanting calypsos. Bods from the Troop will be entering for various events in the coming Regimental sports, and we shall also provide an 88-stone tug-of-war team.

Later in the year, the Troop is expected to double in size, and form two detachments, with all our equipment eventually in air-transportable containers.

Tired of being beseiged by marriage applications from his his Troop, to marry girls of the W.R.A.C. Squadron on camp, the O.C. has himself finally succumbed. He was married to Second-Lieutenant L. K. Short, W.R.A.C., on 19th April in Swansea. We all wish him the best of luck and welcome her to the clan.

Football *(Picture on page 185)*

Under the guidance of Major E. Cooper, capably assisted by Sergeant J. W. Stemp, R.A.O.C., the football team has had a very successful season. On their way to winning the Wessex Division/District Minor Units Cup, they played and defeated the following teams:

The Wessex Brigade Depot by 6—4; 18 Company R.A.S.C. by 7—1; H.Q. Southern Command by 2—0; and in the final, 95 C.D.O. (Lt.) Regiment, R.A., by 6—2.

The winning of this final automatically put them forward to the semi-final of the Southern Command Competition, opponents being C.A.D., Bramley, winners of the Aldershot District Competition. This was played at Bramley, and the score was C.A.D., Bramley, 3, 1 Squadron, 14th Regiment, 13.

In the final of the Southern Command, they met the R.T.R. and again were victorious, to the tune of 3 goals to 1.

In the Gloucester Thursday League, the final result was played 20, won 16, lost 3, drawn 1, goals for 120, against 28, which made them runners-up to the Gloucester Police.

However, this was not their final success, for they got to the final of the Pope and Fletcher Cups, only to be narrowly defeated by their old rivals the Gloucester Police.

From this season the unit have gained three trophies and the fourteen members of the team can display five medals to their credit. All in all, a very satisfying season.

Conversation Piece

"Now let's see—the Corps Band is visiting the Regiment from Friday, 7th May, to 14th May."—"Really, sir?"

"There will be about sixty of them, can we cope?"—"No sir."—"Well, sort it out."—"Yes sir."

"Now we must make the most of this."—"Absolutely, sir."

"Right, we'll have a beating of Retreat on Saturday, open to the public, of course, and follow that with cocktail party in the

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL TEAM



1 SQUADRON 14th SIGNAL REGIMENT
WINNERS SOUTHERN COMMAND MINOR UNITS CHAMPIONSHIP

Back row: Sergeant J. W. Stemp, Corporal P. C. Smurthwaite, Lance Corporal Patterson, Corporal R. Garrod, W.O.II P. Smith, Lance Corporal R. C. Broadhurst, Signalman R. R. Anderson

Middle row: Corporal W. Allan, Major E. Cooper, Major R. C. Anderson, Lance Corporal J. Glenn, Sergeant Rogers, Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Emley, Sergeant Pfeiffer

Front row: Signalman A. J. Lea, Signalman T. Watt, Corporal A. K. Howes, Signalman J. Wilson

Mess; any problems there?"—"One or two."—"Well, sort them out; then on Sunday the Band can give a concert in the park, we can couple this with a recruiting display; and here's an idea, the Band can march through the City first—get that sorted out with the City, the police, etc." (Pause).

"Monday we'll have a band concert in Barracks—a good families' function—have we got somewhere to do this in?"—"No sir."—"Well, sort it out; now what about Tuesday?"—"Well, we have got the VCGS coming on Wednesday to inaugurate TARE, and perhaps a rehearsal . . . "—"Fine, do that, then on Wednesday, as you say, there is the parade and, of course, the official luncheon; by the way, who is coming, apart from the VCGS?"—"Oh not many, sir, just the S.O.-in-C., D.W.R.A.C., District Commander, the C.S.O., C.S.O. COMCAN, the local Mayors, ATV, *Daily Mirror*" . . . (runs out of breath).

"Ah yes, well, no problems there! Incidentally, how is the VCGS coming?"—"Chopper, sir."—"Ah, hah, what happens if it rains?"—"I'll think something up, sir."—"Right, now that evening we'll have an all ranks' dance."

(Pause on both sides).

"Thursday; now let me see. Oh yes, you and I are going to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for a dinner dance, and then on Friday the Band leaves us for Bulford."

"Must they, sir."

15th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 69

XV

Visit of the G.O.C.

Since our last notes were submitted, the Regiment has been honoured by a visit from Major-General J. H. Cubbon, C.B., C.B.E., the G.O.C., Middle East Land Forces. This was the General's farewell visit prior to his giving up command on retirement. Knowing that the General liked talking to soldiers at their normal place of work, it was arranged that the whole of his time with the unit was spent visiting the various Troops and departments doing just that.

Christopher Signs the Visitors' Book

Our T.O.T., Major Frank Pedley, whose son Christopher is the newest addition to his family, has now been christened. The service was conducted by our Regimental Padre, the Rev. Ian Baillie. Ex-apprentices will recall that Padre Baillie was Padre at A.A.S., Harrogate, prior to his move to Aden. During the gathering in the Officers' Mess after the service, the Colonel decided that as young Christopher was visiting the Mess for the first time, he must sign the visitors' book. Accordingly, his signature, or rather his fingerprint, is now recorded for posterity.

Congratulations!

Lieutenant Arthur Gent's many friends will no doubt be as surprised and delighted as we were at the announcement of his engagement. It is understood that the wedding will be held in U.K. in June. All members of the Regiment offer their congratulations to Captain and Mrs. Macheath on the arrival of their first child. Readers may think that the officers of the Regiment are hogging the majority of these notes. This is because currently the officers are setting the pace, with two births during the last three months, and another expected any day now.

"Movements"—and the R.A.F. are there

Just in case anyone thinks we are all births and marriages, let us hasten to add that life is just as hectic as ever here in Aden. Sergeant Lock, who has been running an FAC course for officers of the Federal Regular Army and Federal National Guard, had an unexpected encounter with some of the local dissidents. He writes:

"Two FRA, one FNG officer and myself had been taken up-country for the day by helicopter in order that the officers could practice calling down airstrikes on dummy targets. We were in a restricted area in which it was known there should be no human life, either friendly or otherwise. During the morning we noticed movement about four miles away. A quick check by radio with the local FRA headquarters confirmed that they had no troops in the area and agreed with the possibility that the movement seen was that of dissidents. The student FAC officers accordingly called down a rocket and cannon strike by Hunter aircraft from R.A.F. Khormaksar. So far we have not been officially informed of the result of the strike, although no further movement was seen.

An Example of what the Services Can Achieve

All members of the Regiment were surprised recently when Corporal Stoker, R.E.M.E., of our L.A.D., was unexpectedly medically evacuated to U.K. This was as a result of his son developing a serious kidney complaint. This evacuation was a first class example of what can be achieved in the Services when the occasion demands. Corporal Stoker first knew of the nature of his son's illness late one night, and by 06.00 hours the following morning, he was on his way on a Britannia aircraft that was specially taken over for the purpose. The result was that about a hundred passengers had to wait for another aircraft. We all hope that his son will make a speedy recovery.

Royal Corps sends Greeting to Belgian Signals on their 100th Anniversary

The following is the text of a signal sent by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., to the Chief Signal Officer, Belgian Army, on 23rd April:

> "Much regret unable to be present with you personally. On behalf of all ranks, Royal Corps of Signals, I send you and your Corps fraternal greetings on the occasion of your 100th Anniversary, with our congratulations, and in the sincere hope that the links between our two Corps forged in two wars will continue to be strong and bright."

The following reply was received from the Director of Signals Belgian Army:

> "Have been touched by your very kind message on the eve of our hundredth anniversary celebrations, and convey to you the thanks of my whole Corps. Belgian Signals also hope to maintain and reinforce in the future the links between our two Corps."

Shooting the Ardeche

an Anglo-French venture by Kayak

By Lieutenant A. K. Wright



A lunch break for French bread and sausage. Sergeant A. Allen and the author of this article Lieutenant A. K. Wright

An Exchange of Letters

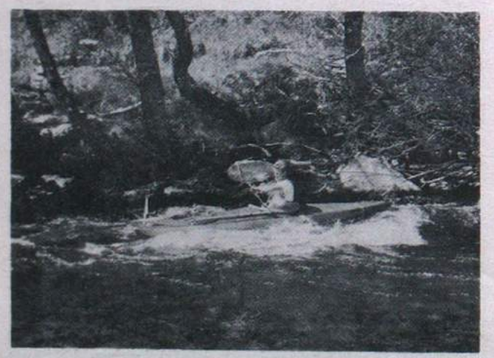
The idea developed from an exchange of letters between our Second-in-Command, Major R. P. D. Painter, and Commandant Pierre Titon of the Ecole D'Application de l'Artillerie at Chalons-sur-Marne.

Both are enthusiastic kayakists, and they have been "doing business" in the canoeing world for some time. While planning various Anglo-French projects involving Adventure Training, Commandant Titon offered to show the River Ardeche to a team from 13th Regiment during a week of his leave. Arrangements were finalised by the following telegram:—

> "Merci votre lettre 24 Mars/autobus avec notre equipe fera rendezvous la gare Pont Aubenas matin 12 Avril entre huit et dix heures/bonne chance bon voyage/ Robin Painter."

Magnificent Craft

During the week before the trip, we had held a sort of canoeing instructors convention, to upgrade some trained B.A.O.R. canoeists to Instructor standard, and to conduct these tests we were lucky to have Sergeant A. Allen from 1 (B.R.) Corps, one of very few Canoe Testing Officers in B.A.O.R., and a first class canoeist. It was he who accompanied me to rendezvous with Commandant Titon at the town of Pont Aubenas on the River Ardeche, deep in central France. We took with us two Kleeper T67 single folding Kayaks—magnificent craft—and a minimum of personal kit including sleeping bags, "pup" tent and basic cooking gear. After a two-day journey by road in the Unit Nuffield Trust Minibus, we made our rendezvous with Monsieur le Commandant at the railway station at Aubenas at breakfast time on Monday, 12th April.



Sergeant Allen passes a swift point

Pierre Titon is a real character, very typically French with charm and determination. He had decided that the Ardeche should have more water flowing, to make our passage of the Ardeche Gorge possible without killing ourselves, and therefore got in touch with the local authorities and organised them to open a series of sluice gates above Aubenas—he was entirely successful, needless to say!

After assembling our kayaks on the river bank, we said goodbye to our minibus, driven so very ably by Corporal "Big Jim" Seddon, and saw him off for his long drive back to the Regiment. Then we set off downstream in line astern, with Commandant Titon leading, quite unaware of the thrills and spills to come.

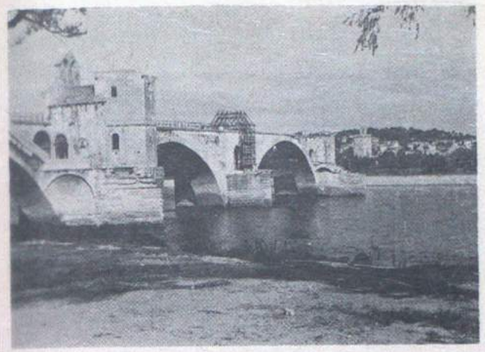
Fantastic Speeds at Times

Within two minutes of our departure we were shooting our first rapid, and we began to get an idea of what was before us. In fact the run lasted for three and a half days, and we found ourselves riding a water shute of almost continuous rapids up to international Grade 3 standards. The countryside through which we passed was beautiful, with limestone canyons and gorges, and villages so picturesque that we both felt it would be very worthwhile to go and explore them at leisure. The river was of sparkling clear water in which rocks and trout abounded, and the current reached fantastic speeds at times, particularly where there were many rocks to dodge and deep rapids to shoot.

The end of the first day saw two slightly damp individuals and a very active Frenchman preparing to camp at Balazuc, a small and rather primitive village which was built on the site of an old Roman settlement. Pierre Titon soon made us familiar with village life, introducing us to the baker, the tobacconist—an old lady with a bureau showcase in her best kitchen—and the only café in the area, complete with locally made wooden stools and a very ancient frigidaire ice box. We ended the day surveying a formidable looking rapid further downstream, whilst consuming a bottle of the local wine, French bread and victuals of the district.

Capsized!

Pierre Titon had ordered a start the next morning at the civilised hour of 8.30 a.m., and once again we set out to face the "water music." The level of the river had lowered considerably that night (perhaps they had closed the sluice gates again!) and as a consequence the "going" was much more difficult. I experienced my first capsize that day, and was drenched within the first half hour. A change of clothing saved the situation, leaving only bruises as relics of the episode, and we were soon under way again. The journey took us past Vallon Pont d'Arc, where there are many attractions of which the large natural rock archway over the river itself if of particular beauty and interest. It was at this point that we were met by a German canoeist who told us that there were many hazards ahead. His warning proved to be well founded, but efficient "recces" by Pierre Titon prevented further mishap. Later the river began to get more placid in longer stretches and, towards our final stop at Pont St. Esprit, we encountered some civilised though dangerous looking weirs, some of which had long since become disused.



The original old bridge at Avignon and . . . journeys end

Farewell to a Very Friendly Guide

It was at Pont St. Esprit that we had to say farewell to Commandant Titon, who had been our very friendly guide through dangerous waters. His leave was due to end the next day, and the parting seemed to signify the end of a full three days of excitement. This was not the end of our trip, however, as we had the River Rhone to contend with the next day. It is true to say that the two rivers are in no way related in character—whilst the Ardeche is a boiling fury tumbling over rocks, the Rhone is a wide and fast moving river with a few dangerous currents, and seemed to be rather an anti-climax after the rapids of the Ardeche.

We completed the journey to Avignon by 3 p.m. that day, and spent a very enjoyable sightseeing tour of the town whilst waiting for the transport to pick us up. We returned to the Unit bronzed and full of tales of adventure, with determination to taste again the thrills and spills of the Ardeche some day. *Vive l'Entente!*



Married at Holy Trinity Church, Hounslow.

Signalman D. Vickers of 13th Regiment to Miss Ann Hayden, daughter of Sergeant T. Hayden 10th Regiment on Saturday 27th April. The best man was Signalman P. Milligan of 30th Regiment.



CHOOSE WISELY

When considering hire purchase schemes you will want to know the answers to these questions:

- Can I buy my car through a local dealer with the advantages of preliminary tests, best after-sales service, lowest delivery costs and best price for my present car?
- If posted to another country can I take the car with me without formality or fuss and the necessity to find a guarantor?
- Will the HP company finance freight charges and import duty in the event of my being posted?
- Can I obtain cover against most of my liability to purchase tax and import duty in the event of premature repatriation?
- Will the HP company arrange first-class insurance cover at reasonable cost and obtain prompt cover if I am posted abroad?
- Do I get free personal insurance?
- Are the HP charges low and without extras, such as subscriptions?

THE KEY TO SECURE OWNERSHIP

You will be able to answer "yes" to each question if you . . .

CHOOSE NAAFI HP

UK: Naafi will finance the purchase of a new car or a used car (up to five years old) from a dealer or from another member of H.M. Forces.

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For further details ask your Naafi manager or write or telephone Controller of Credit Services, NAAFI, London SE11. RELiance 1200



W.O.I Taylor, Signalman Buckley, Signalman Halliburton on the lower slopes of Sgurr Alasdair



The upper part of Sgurr Alasdair with a view of Sgurr Dearg across the corrie

Exercise "Mountain Goat"

Location: Glenbrittle, Isle of Skye.
Duration: 23.00—19th March, 1965, until 14.30—26th March, 1965.

BY SIGNALMAN F. BUCKLEY, O.R. 1 TROOP

(The O.R. 1 Troop of the 11th Regiment is composed of young men who join the Corps and are given special training as they are thought to have potential officer qualities.—Editor.)

The O.R.s 1 of 11th Regiment, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, realised why this exercise was called "Mountain Goat" well before we had started climbing. One had to have the quickness and agility of these creatures to transfer from train to train and to boat which were to get us to our destination.

Once we were in Skye we settled down to enjoy a hard working week of climbing.

The view was truly marvellous

On the first day of climbing some members of the party started off their climbing experience with a bang by climbing Alasdair's Great Stone Shoote which at this time of year is covered with a thick layer of tightly packed snow. The ascent to Sgurr Alasdair at 3,309 feet took approximately four hours. The view from this height was truly marvellous. We could see for miles around and overlooked the remainder of the Cuillin Hills brilliantly lit up by the sun. Once at the top we had then to find a way down which at first we found difficult to find but eventually we chose our descent route. We (the beginners), were a trifle worried during the ascent so when we saw the proposed descent our feelings were mixed. Anyway we had to go and except for almost needing a replacement to take over W.O.I Taylor's job as I.C. of the Troop we made terra firma safe and before night had really settled in.

Three energetic days

The next three days were spent individually with Captain Pickup, of the Regiment, climbing a 300 foot rock face which needed different climbing tactics on each stretch of the rock. Those that were not climbing went on 15-20 mile walks across country and around the coast to explore it. The whole area around our temporary home was filled with beauty and interest. Such places as Glenbrittle Forest, Glen Eynart and Rubh 'and Dunain which was abundantly populated by seals.

On the fourth day a party of climbers went up to the hills again to attempt various climbs around Sgurr Squmain. One of these was a very steep ascent covered in snow. This was not at all frightening but at the top of this there was a 40 ft. chimney which leant out towards a drop and whilst Captain Pickup went up it like an expert we didn't.

On the fifth day, our day of departure, Captain Pickup took two of us for a climb before leaving at 14.00 hours. This climb was along scree and up a gully of precariously positioned rocks up to 2,012 ft. on Sgurr Dearg. The main difficulty on this climb was that every time we chose foot or hand holds we would test them for security only to find that they would come off in our hands.

Well organised, interesting and thoroughly enjoyable

During our stay here we did come across the inevitable local who, warned us not to climb those mountains. He most probably has only looked at them through a window; we are made of thicker blood.

Whilst there might be some amongst us who only wish to climb sandcastles the overall impression is one of thanks for a well organised, interesting and thoroughly enjoyable time.

Corps Mobile Display 'Quicksilver'

ITINERARY, 1965

June 19th - 20th	Aldershot Army Display
June 23rd - 27th	Plymouth Army Week
June 30th - July 4th	Bristol Show
July 13th - 15th	Great Yorkshire Show
July 20th - 22nd	Peterborough Show
August 3rd - 10th	Huddersfield Show
August 13th - 15th	South Shields Show
August 20th	Darlington Show
August 25th - September 13th ...	Northern Ireland
September 14th - 25th	Liverpool Week
October 12th - 19th	Hull

Motor Cycle Display Team Engagements

July 17th	Horsham	Horsham Carnival
July 21st	Filey	Butlin's Holiday Camp
July 24th	Chepstow	Chepstow Agric. Show
Aug. 1st	Filey	Butlin's Holiday Camp
Aug. 14th	West Bromwich	West Brom Gala
Aug. 22nd	Filey	Butlin's Holiday Camp
Sept. 12th	Alcester (Ragley Hall)	Ro.S.P.A. Demonstration

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . to be read by the Corps.

Ascent of Mount Kinabalu

It's only 13,455 ft.

(SUBMITTED BY 266 SQUADRON)

A few weeks ago the idea crossed S.S.M. Gibbs' mind (one of his favourite clerks had just muttered "pretty short journey") that he would like to spend his leave climbing Mt. Kinabalu which is in Sabah (N. Borneo) and at 13,455 ft. is the highest mountain in Borneo.

S.S.M.s being what they are he began to make a list of equipment and stores for his trip and fairly shortly afterwards the following members of the Squadron found themselves nominated as bearers to accompany him: Lieutenant Easson, Corporals Ogley, Milburn, Blake, Neal, Lance-Corporal Caulfield (R.M.P.), S. A. C. Caukwell, Christiansen (R.A.F.).

The narrative is now taken up by one of the party:—

"The first stage of our journey was by air from Labuan to Jesselton, the capital of Sabah. We stopped there the night and next morning were met by Sergeant MacMillan, who is the N.C.O. in command the 1st Gordons Signal Troop. In two of his Land Rovers we were taken to the Kinabalu National Park H.Q. which is at the foot of the mountain some fifteen miles from Ranau. This journey was made over some of the worst tracks imaginable and took five hours. The Park H.Q. consisted of two huts, one belonged to the Park Ranger and the other was made available to us for cooking and sleeping.

. . . Our Neighbours Seemed Very Friendly

After Sergeant MacMillan had left, we made ourselves comfortable, had a meal and made preparations for the next day. We walked down to the small village of Bundu Tohan to see what kind of folk were to be our neighbours for the next few days. They certainly seemed very friendly.

The next day we met our guide and set off on our first climb. The mountain looked forbidding and progress was slow, probably because each man was carrying a 50 lb. load. It was a shattered party which arrived at Kamburongoh Radio Relay Station (7,500 ft.). Before we moved off after lunch we made arrangements with the P. & T. engineer to leave some of our equipment there.

By 15.00 hours we arrived at Layang-Layang (9,000 ft.) where we stopped the night. The air here was cold and the lichens covering the trees gave them a weird ghostly appearance. Using a A510 loaned to us by 1st Gordons we worked our daily schedule to them at Kota Belud, forty-five miles away. By early evening we were all tired and after a good supper we lay down to what turned out to be a cold, sleepless night.

We were up early next morning feeling stiff and not particularly enthusiastic to go on. However a good breakfast put us in a better frame of mind and off we went behind our guide who incidently was a tough old man, well over sixty but as nimble as a goat.

Exotic Flowers of a Brilliant Red

The mountain slope seemed to get steeper but as we got our second wind climbing seemed easier—for some. By midday half the party had arrived at Panar Laban Camp, and we decided to stay there for the night so that we could complete the climb to the summit in the early morning before the clouds had formed. Throughout the afternoon the stragglers arrived tired but in good spirits.

At this height the trees had given way to small bushes which grew flowers of a most exotic colour but with a preponderance of brilliant red.

Before us towered a huge mass of granite which we had to climb in the dark next morning. We were glad to have a guide.

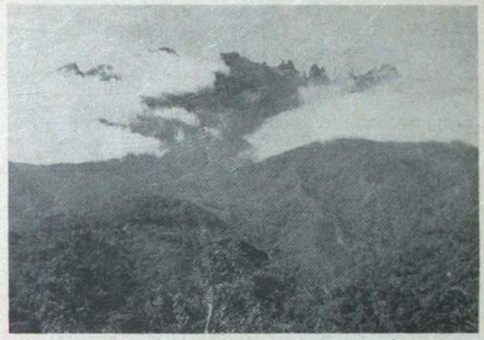
After making our daily contact with the Gordons we had curry à la maison and spent another cold sleepless night. We longed for those warm sleeping bags which we had in B.A.O.R.

Gunting, our guide, woke us at 03.00 hours; cooked breakfast on the embers of the previous night's fire and enjoyed a cup of tea. If the so-and-so who was in charge of the brandy hadn't left it at Jesselton we would have enjoyed it more.

At 11,000 ft.—A Wonderful Sight!

For this final climb we left our equipment behind and made good progress. At 11,000 ft. there was a short rest and we witnessed a wonderful sight; the moon was still full and silvery to our right, on our left was a big golden sun just coming over the horizon. We were so impressed that we stayed to watch the sun rising.

Continued on page 190



South face of the mountain—the route taken by the climbers



AT EASE

Left to right: Lieutenant Easson, Corporal Ogley, Lance Corporal Neil, Corporal Blake



W.O.II (S.S.M.) Gibb (centre) discusses arrangements

Resuming the climb, the rock face became steeper and eventually we reached a plateau with peaks all about us. Gunting pointed to the furthest peak and said that it was the highest point but he was going to show us something before we climbed it. He took us to the edge of the plateau; looking over made our blood freeze, we were gazing down Law's Gully, a 6,000 ft. chasm. It was quite awe inspiring but we didn't stay too long at the edge.

Before attempting the final climb to the summit, coins were thrown in a little pool at its foot as a penance for setting foot on the Sacred mountain.

We Reach the Top—and the World is at our Feet

We reached the top at 07.30 hours and the whole world seemed to be at our feet. We could see the whole coastline of Sabah, from Labuan 100 miles away, round the northern tip of Lahad-Datu to Tawau nearly 200 miles away.

The descent was almost an anti-climax but we spent a couple of days cleaning up at the Park H.Q. whilst waiting for Sergeant MacMillan to take us back to civilisation.

Perhaps the whole trip was summed up by one of the R.A.F. chaps, for whom this was a first taste of living rough. Although covered in blisters and boils, he said "You know you pongos aren't bad at all."

Volunteers Required

1. SECONDMENTS. Volunteers in the ranks and trades shown are required to fill vacancies in the following Forces/Units:

a. FEDERAL REGULAR ARMY ADEN (Tour 18 Months)
Corporal ED December, 1965.
Signalman ED September, 1965.
Corporal/Lance-Corporal Radio Tech. (Lt.) 1 NOW
Corporal/Lance-Corporal Radio Tech. (Lt.) 1st September, 1965.
Corporal/Lance-Corporal Radio Tech. (Lt.) 1st October, 1965.
Corporal/Lance-Corporal Radio Tech. (Lt.) 1st November, 1965.
Corporal/Lance-Corporal Radio Tech. (Lt.) 1st December, 1965.

b. TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS (Tour 18th Months)
Sergeant Telegraph Op./Radio Op. December, 1965.
Sergeant/Corporal Radio Tech. (Lt.) NOW

c. BRITISH ARMY TRAINING TEAM KENYA (Tour 2½ years)
W.O.I Foreman of Signals December, 1965.
Sergeant/Corporal Radio Tech. (Lt.) 4 NOW

d. BRUNEI MALAY REGIMENT (Tour 2½ years)
Sergeant Radio Tech. (Lt.) NOW

e. MALAWI ARMY (Tour 2½ years)
Sergeant Telegraph Tech. NOW

f. ZAMBIA ARMY (Tour 2½ years)
Sergeant Telegraph Op. NOW

g. ARMY OF THE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA (Tour 2½ years)
W.O.I Foreman of Signals December 1965.
W.O.II Foreman of Signals December, 1965.
Sergeant Clerk Tech. NOW
Corporal Radio Tech. (Lt.) 3 NOW

h. SUDANESE ARMED FORCES (Tour 18 months).
Sergeant Radio Tech. (Lt.) October, 1965.

2. Volunteers are also required to fill the following vacancies:

a. GURKHA SIGNALS (Tour 2½ years)
W.O.II Foreman of Signals NOW.
Staff Sergeant Yeoman of Signals/Signal Centre Sup. September.
Staff Sergeant RD November, 1965.
Sergeant Electronics Tech. October, 1965.
Sergeant Radio Tech. (Lt.) NOW.
Corporal Radio Relay Tech. NOW.
Corporal Line Tech. November, 1965.
Corporal Telegraph Tech. NOW.
Corporal Cypher Op. 7 NOW.
Sergeant Cypher Op. NOW.

b. SAS
Sergeant Telegraph Op. 3 NOW.
Sergeant Radio Tech. (Lt.) 2 NOW
Corporal Telegraph Op. 3 NOW.
Lance-Corporal Telegraph Op. 1 NOW.
Signalman Telegraph Op. 7 NOW.
Corporal Cypher Op. 1 NOW.

c. ARMY AND SPECIAL RECRUITERS
Sergeants (or Corporals recommended for promotion)—Any trade (except T trades)
Vacancies will occur during 1965 in the following areas:

BELFAST (A) Urgently Required	PETERBOROUGH (A)
BLACKBURN	SALISBURY (A)
MANCHESTER	STOKE-ON-TRENT
NORTHAMPTON	WREXHAM
NOTTINGHAM	

(A) denotes Army Recruiter.
ACI 219/62 refers to Army Recruiters and may also be used as a general guide to the qualities required in Special Recruiters.

d. ARMY OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL
Sergeant Instructor (ERE 1) 1st October, 1965.
Nominations are required as early as possible as the N.C.O. selected must attend an Instructors' Course prior to posting.

e. ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL/ALL ARMS JUNIOR REGT.
Platoon Sergeants—any trade (except T trades).

f. TERRITORIAL ARMY/UNIVERSITY O.T.C.—P.S.I.s.
W.O.II—any trade (except T trades and Staff ops.).

g. 95 COMMANDO REGIMENT, R.A.
Corporal Radio Tech. (Lt.) NOW.

h. SHIP SIGNAL TROOP
Corporal Telegraph Op./Radio Op.
Lance-Corporal Telegraph Op./Radio Op.
Signalman Telegraph Op./Radio Op. Class II tradesman.

j. 46 SQUADRON R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.)
Signalman Telegraph Op. Class II tradesman.

k. LIGHT AIRCRAFT PILOTS
Volunteers are required for training as Light Aircraft Pilots. Applications should be forwarded to Officer-in-Charge Records in accordance with DCI (Army) 41/64.

l. 3 COMMANDO BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sergeant/Corporal Cypher Op. NOW.

ARMY DEPARTMENT CONSTABULARY
Vacancies occur periodically in the Force for Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s who are about to leave the Service. DCI (Army) 32/64 refers.

REGULATION PATTERN
ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS
Light Blue/Navy/Green, ratio 3:1:3 two leather straps, two buckles.
Home —11/- each plus 1/- post
Abroad—10/- each plus 1/- post

Wall Shields 7' x 6' Royal Signals	32/-
Blazer Badges "Superior"	44/-
"Quality" Car Badges	38/-
Ties Royal Signals	
Pace Sticks	120/-
Sergeants full size Regimental Walking Canes, Malacca, Ball, Pear or Thimble Cap, Crested	54/-
Export	44/-

Flashes embroidered to special designs.
Ties made specially to any design.
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Air Commodore O'Hanlon watching linemen at work



The complete detachment from 81st Regiment (AER)

21st REGIMENT, R.F.P.O. 43

Welcome Visit from A.E.R.

It's not often that we get the opportunity to welcome our friends in the Reserve Army. This year two parties crossed the Channel—the first, five Officers and thirty-four N.C.O.s and men of 81st Regiment A.E.R. who were hotly pursued by twenty-six linemen and drivers from 46, 49, 50 and 64 Regiments T.A., both to do their annual camp with the Regiment.

Their programme of work and play has kept the A.E.R. fully occupied and they seem little the worse for successive late nights and early starts. The T.A. have not really yet had time to get started. To round off their camp the party from 81st Regiment planned and carried out successfully a short exercise with No. 1 Squadron and a Detachment from the R.A.F.(G) Communications Centre. They can tell their friends who were roughing it at Blandford that they also had to earn their pay. We should like to welcome the complete Regiment next year.

Our Marching Team is Good—but we do want competition!

The Marching Team this year has passed to the hands of Lieutenant Chaddock, following Second-Lieutenant Cartwirght's departure to Catterick.

We started the season with a very mixed bag. Some were complete newcomers. Others in the persons of Corporal Holmes and Signalmen Croucher, McDonald and Schindler were "veterans" of the Nijmegan Marches.

Every self-respecting Dutch town has its own walking club, and each club holds a competition once a year. There are different age groups for the children, and most clubs have marches ranging from 5 km for the 7 to 10-year-olds to 40 km for adults. We enter usually as a military team of 12-15 in the 25 km march. (Why not 40? Well, it is recreation you know!)

The Dutch are very hospitable and there is invariably some sort of small party in the club-house afterwards.

So far this year we have entered two marches and won the group prize in each. Both were in 'S-Hertogenbosch (try pronouncing that after an evening in the clubhouse). The food was organised by a small civilian club and we were competing against more than one hundred men from the Dutch Army.

The second was the "Heineken" March, which started and finished in the brewery yard, competition was not so stiff, and there are no prizes for guessing which was the first team back. Last year the beer afterwards was free. The team consumed such a vast quantity that we had to pay this year! Needless to say we had a good time.

The Regiment is well situated for making trips into Holland, but I am sure other Regiments could raise teams for smaller marches as well as Nijmegan, why not? We could do with some competition.

Items in a mixed bag . . .

The Regiment's two Nuffield Trust caravans are now on site in Holland and booking is going well. One is on the coast near the Hague and the other on the Zuider Zee, north of Amsterdam. They are four-berth Sprite Musketeers and they offer excellent facilities for a family holiday.

"L" Troop after being "Champion Runners-up" finally made it. They won the Regimental Inter-Troop Rugby 7-a-side competition. Well done.

The Easter Grant took a small chunk out of the month and personnel left for leave with the thought of the C.-in-C.'s parade immediately they got back. The provision of men for this parade was a constant source of anguish to the S.S.M. who never had the correct number of men from "L" Troop. When asked where 'Signalman Bloggs' or 'Signalman Smart' were the reply from "L" Troop was "we must keep the airfield working, Sir!" All turned out well, we had enough on the day.

Both T.A. and A.E.R. have been well entertained! At least it appeared so when looking into their red-specked eyes the morning after. They have also been employed around the airfield and settled down quite quickly alongside the regular soldiers.

They were to take part in the Inter-Troop Athletics but unfortunately the sports field has been under water for a day or two and the only sports available at this time are Aqua Sports!

O.C. "M" Troop, Major Tom Amott, wishes it to be known that he is now well qualified to conduct organised trips up the autobahn to Helmstedt. He regrets that at present he is not qualified to proceed beyond this point.



Sergeant Williams puts Corporal Thompson right—Lieutenant Smith looks on



LOOK AT LIFE No. 2—FAWCETT AND SON

Guard Mounting

Military scenes conjure up so much, despite their similarity, that the other day we decided to take a look at the Guard Mounting in 28th Regiment for material for our second 'Look at Life.' R.Q.M.S. Fawcett was Orderly Officer that day.

"Get your hair cut, Fawcett," he said sharply to the third soldier from the left; the one with the close crop, named Fawcett—what an odd coincidence! Then, zooming in close, there was to be seen a remarkable likeness between Fawcett and Fawcett excepting the difference in age. Back in the Orderly Room, and after a check of 'docs,' we discovered it was Fawcett and Son. Here was the story for the month.

The Orderly Officer

R.Q.M.S. Fawcett is well known in the Regiment and in the Corps. Joining the Army in 1941, he is now R.Q.M.S. in 28th Regiment wrestling with the international stores problems. Besides being a stalwart in the military field, the R.Q.M.S. is also in great demand as an artist. For the All Ranks' Dance he produced a large mural of Paris at Night—after the manner of Lautrec. The Wives' Club stalls were covered with Fawcett designed posters and behind the counter was Mrs. Fawcett.

"Giles" Fawcett

Lautrec one minute, Giles the next, the R.Q.M.S.'s artistic ability has often been in demand. In Cyprus in 1961, a young Education Officer wrote some topical articles on life in Episkopi. They were made into a book called: "Episkopi oh Episkopi."

"Giles" Fawcett was invited to illustrate the book with a series of cartoons. It was a bright venture and the cartoons were funny even if the book did not receive the international acclaim expected.

Young Fawcett

Even in the Rag and Bone business there is always a tendency for the son to follow his father's profession. Steptoe and Son springs to mind. This is also the case with Fawcett and Son. Young Fawcett has recently arrived in the Regiment from Denbury following his father's career. Perhaps one of the reasons he has settled down so quickly is the natural military confidence he has gained travelling the world with his father.



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Signalman Moat supervising gliding control

The Fawcett Ladies

It is not only the men in the Fawcett family who give service to the Army. Mrs. Fawcett, an active member of the Regimental Wives' Club, keeps both a wifely and motherly eye on the Fawcett men through her job in the camp. She is the Messing Officer's able clerical assistant, totting up the ration figures.

Seventeen-year-old Miss Fawcett does sterling work too. Where did we last meet her? Was it at the dentist or was it in the cinema? It could have been either because this charming daughter of R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Fawcett smilingly ushers you towards "the dentist's chair" by day and extracts your money for the cinema in the evening.

Mrs. Fawcett, Jnr., herself an ex-member of the W.R.A.C., also keeps the Fawcett name in the public eye. She helps out in the NAAFI Families' Shop.

In Father's Eye

Whilst following the activities of the Regiment last month, our reporter and his photographer covered the NATO Anniversary Parade at Headquarters, Northern Army Group. The Regiment were particularly honoured by being asked to provide the British Army representation in this multi national parade. "Click" went the camera, as General Sir William Stirling started to inspect the detachment from 28th Regiment. But for one proud spectator, his eye was on the smart soldier on the left of the front rank. It was another part of the "Fawcett Saga," so as the Commander-in-Chief approached, son was firmly in father's eye.

And what could be more natural when "Look at Life" looks at life with Fawcett and Son.

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

For those unenlightened in the Corps, who think of 30th Regiment as a static holding unit somewhere in the backwoods of Dorset, we have this month two more reports of our "outside" activities.

The first report comes from 640 Troop who besides sending a Battalion Detachment, under the Command of Sergeant Haydon to join the Royal Sussex in warmer climes, managed also to provide communications for the Inter-Service Gliding Championships at Bichester. The second report comes from 3 Squadron who spent most of the month preparing for and taking part in Exercise "Easter Lighting."

640 Troop get among the Gliders with some success

D.G.O.W., of 640 Troop writes.—Although half the Troop is still on detachment overseas, commitments within the U.K. are still many and varied. Our latest effort has been to provide communications for both competitors and staff at the Inter-Services Gliding Championships, held over Easter at R.A.F., Bicester. Our detachment, under Lieutenant White, arrived at Bicester and promptly began to find out "the form." Not unnaturally, this differed somewhat from what we had been led to expect.

Immediately C42/VHF Control, led by Corporal Griffiths, put up a super-elevated antenna atop the nearest hangar. This ensured excellent ground-to-air coverage; in some instances the glider A40s were worked at a range of about 70 miles. The C11 HF Net utilised a dipole at control which worked excellently on the longest leg of the championships—north to R.A.F., Swinderby, near Lincoln.

The task set each day depended on the weather, and the course, straight, triangular, or whatever, was not known until about two hours before take-off. As the control points had to be in position and set up before the arrival of the first glider, the Land Rover had to get a move on. But if you have ever tried to drive through Newbury on an Easter Sunday afternoon, you will realise how difficult this can be! Anyway, many thanks to our drivers, Sergeants Moat and Stogdale, Lance-Corporals Chamberlain and Napper, and Signalmen Gilfillan and Scullion, who managed the whole time without a scratch.

All the detachment got in plenty of gliding practice, except one chap who prefers propeller-driven craft!

Incidentally, Captain Goldney, of the Corps, secured second place in the individual championships—a wonderful effort indeed.

Exercise "Easter Lightning" was so "Enlightening"

M.C.B. of 3 Squadron writes.—The "Silly Season" is here again, and after a "Close Season," which has involved the Squadron in a series of demonstrations and Regimental activities, Exercise "Easter Lightning" provided the opportunity of enjoying "field life" again. The Squadron split into two parties, one going to a disused airfield in England and the other to a bare hillside in Ireland, with a D11 radio link providing intercommunication.

Some experiences of both parties form the bulk of this month's notes.

A Touch of 'Irish' for the Ireland Party

For once in its life, the Irish Sea was absolutely calm for the outward passage of the Ireland party, and the excellent accommodation and food on the *Ionic Ferry* was much appreciated by all ranks before facing the cold and wet conditions which greeted them on arrival at the exercise location. On setting up shop, the cook, Lance-Corporal Hartland, made a rapid appreciation of the situation, developed tonsilitis and departed to a hospital in Belfast to recover; needless to say, he rejoined the party just in time for the return trip.

The unpleasant weather ensured that there was no empty place in any of the operational vehicles which had heating installed, and the cookhouse area was popular with those temporarily off duty.

An unexpected diversion was a low level attack by R.A.F. Hunter aircraft, who took no notice of the white flags denoting our neutrality. It has been suggested that barrage balloons be tethered to aerial masts to prevent interruption in the future.

Sergeant Skimming must be congratulated on finding a hospitable Irishman who offered two television sets to enable the party to enjoy the Cup Final, and due credit must be given to the exercise staff, who ensured that the tactical phase ceased before kick-off time.

Continued on page 194

(30th Regiment continued)

The return journey across the Irish Sea was less enjoyable and Sergeant French made a hurried departure from the dining room during the evening meal when faced with a particularly succulent pork chop. His comment later was that it must have been the sausage he had eaten for breakfast whilst on dry land that was "off," but we doubt it.

The England Party do things the 'English Way!'

The party in England had slightly better weather, but it was still cold enough at night to cause icing-up of the "carbs" on some of the generators.

Sergeant Bayley's coffee swindle had accompanied him into the "field," Corporal Taylor and friends put a great deal of effort into rabbit snaring, but only one reached the cooking pot, and Corporal Collins' activities are not for publication at this stage.

The cookhouse provided some entertainment when a large fire extinguisher fell over and despatched its contents with great vigour on to the persons of Sergeant Mumby, Signalman Williams, and the cook, Lance-Corporal McAndie—luckily, the tea meal was safely stowed in the ovens, or a variation in the flavour of baked beans and apple pie might have been noticed by the rest of the party.

Attempts to create bathing facilities met with some success, but a shoehorn was required to prise the bulk of Corporal Taylor from an acquired animal trough which had a vague resemblance to a bath.

Exercise "Easter Lightning" was "enlightening" for many new faces, including the O.C., and was enjoyed by most.

We wish Corporal Senior every success in his new job in civilian life, and welcome the new arrivals, in particular Signalman Hemshall, who has seen the M.O. and Cook Sergeant to assist him in weight-shedding.

STOP PRESS: Heartiest congratulations to Corporal Pentland, currently on an upgrading course in Catterick. Corporal Pentland received the Commander-in-Chief's commendation for work in the Radfan area whilst attached to 213 Signal Squadron. Well done!

200 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 41

The number of times one hears the words: "Well, now we can get down to all the jobs that have been outstanding for so long and really get things sorted out" are too numerous to count. However, that glorious time never seems to arrive. April has been as busy as usual and the month of May promises to be even more hectic.

Welcome to this "little hive of industry"

We welcome into this little hive of industry our new R.S.M., W.O.I R. Hornby, B.E.M., and Sergeant D. T. Llewelyn. The R.S.M., who joined us during our last exercise ("April Meeting"), was thrown straight in at the deep end and has been swimming strongly ever since. He has not yet been joined by his family who are still in Bunde, but we hope to have them with us very soon. All R.S.M.s of Brigade Squadrons have an enormous job, and we are delighted to have Mr. Hornby with this Squadron.

Exercise "April Meeting" (26th-29th April) was a three-day Divisional CPX, and was basically a movement and communications exercise. We were certainly aware of the first aim, as the Brigade H.Q. moved every six hours. Due to the very heavy rains, siting of the H.Q. was more difficult than usual because vehicles were liable to bog down just pulling on to the side of the road! We all "enjoyed" more than one good soaking; as always, the rain being at its most severe when we were moving into or out of a harbour. So far, however, no cases of pnuemonia have been reported.

Cookery Competition: A Good effort by the Squadron

The day after we returned, we were honoured with a visit from G. I. H. Salmon, Esq., C.B.E., Honorary Catering Adviser to the Army, and Brigadier L. E. Hayward, Director, Army Catering Corps. The programme for the visit was arranged some months ago, but it was particularly fitting that Mr. Salmon should visit us, as the week before his visit we were runners-up in the B.A.O.R. Cookery Team Competition. This was a very fine effort by our team of Sergeant Howard, Lance-Corporal Duff and Lance-Corporal Walker, none of whom had previous competition experience. We were the only minor unit in the finals, and we managed to beat 13th Regiment into third place. The competition was won by The Royal Hampshire Regiment, who were captained by the reigning Army Individual Champion. As we go to press, we hear that this Regiment has just won the Army Championships, which makes us even more proud of our team's achievements.

We do well in the Pentathlon, and in Rugger and Hockey

On Wednesday, 5th May, the Brigade Pentathlon Championships were held, consisting of Seven-a-Side Soccer and Rugger, Six-a-Side Hockey and Basketball and Tug-of-War. These competitions were contested on a Squadron basis and we came fourth out of 26 entries. Even the weather, which varied between pouring rain and brilliant sunshine, could not prevent the spectators and competitors really enjoying themselves. Both our rugger and hockey teams reached the semi-finals, losing to the eventual winners. In the rugger, Sergeant Ling, our captain, and Signalman Peters were perhaps the stars of our hard-working side. The hockey six was made up of a combination of Squadron and Staff Officers easing their stiff joints through four hard matches, with Staff Sergeant Eldridge frequently saving the situation as our kicking back, and Craftsman Musgrove proving that he was fitter than anyone else in the side. The basketball team, playing very well, and captained by Corporal Derbyshire, so nearly reached the semi-finals, being beaten in the third round by the first basket in extra time. We missed two free-throws at the basket before our opponents scored their winning goal!

Things present and to come . . .

We have another Military Proficiency Course running at the moment, and are also furiously preparing our Saracens and organising the radio communications for H.M. The Queen's Mounted Parade on 26th May. We will include a report on this parade, which we hope will be of general interest, in our next edition of these notes.

204 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 24

It is now over a year since this Squadron made a contribution to THE WIRE, and this fact has borne so heavily on the consciences of its members that we have now resolved to keep you informed of our activities. Since you last heard from us, we have moved from the outskirts of Dusseldorf to a more rural atmosphere in Westphalia and have reorganised, as have the other Brigade Squadrons in B.A.O.R.

Major John Hart now commands the Squadron and has kept us fairly busy during the winter months on exercises in between the normal administrative round. A Brigade exercise was planned for early March, but as it snowed, the remainder seemed to cry off, leaving 204 to do battle alone. Lieutenant Rex Stephenson took out his Troop as enemy and made life fairly unpleasant for the remainder, until he was captured and dragged five miles across country to Brigade Headquarters. By this time it was too cold for the rest of the officers and they handed over their appointments to the N.C.O.s—leaving the Squadron under the able command of Sergeant Authers (Coldstream Guards).

We produced a number of patrols for a Brigade internal security exercise later in March, but our Infantry Battalion appeared rather good at their jobs and everyone ended up in the bag, except for Lance-Corporal Leighton's party. We are not too sure whether they were rather clever or just overslept in a hayloft!

Mrs. Hart has managed to get our Wives' Club running, despite a fifth column attack by SACEUR, who decided to have a "Quick Train" (deployment exercise) to coincide with the first meeting, however, the Wives' Club is now a flourishing concern.

We have a fairly full programme ahead of us, including a proposed expedition to Lapland, and we hope to keep you informed of our activities in the months ahead. *(A story of the Lapland expedition please.—Editor).*



Brigadier D. H. Davies, M.C. presents the L.S. and G.C. Medal to L/R.S.M. R. D. Allen and Staff Sergeant F. G. Gamble

205 SQUADRON, TIDWORTH

Readers will undoubtedly share the view that lack of continuity is today's greatest problem. About the only procedure we do more than once in the same month is to fall-in in three ranks. In an effort to standardise aerial erection, the O.C. had the following conversation with the Foreman of Signals.

O.C.: "I think you ought to carry a compass so that you can check the orientation of aerials."

F. of S.: "Oh, I don't need a compass, I can always tell where north is."

O.C.: "How do you do that on a cloudy night?"

F. of S.: "I go by the map in the guard room."

The Plain

A new training season was introduced in March by Exercise "Wagon Train." It was a counter insurgency setting, and Salisbury Plain was described in the opening narrative as "a barren, desolate area"—so you can see how realistic it was meant to be. However, after only two hours the illusion was shattered when the great blizzard hit the Plain and the Squadron gradually became immersed in snow-drifts. After 48 hours only skilful driving got us back to barracks without mishap.

The Communication Troops are as busy as they have ever been, and each normally has about two exercises a week. Corporal Mumford and his radio relay team reckon to know the Plain as well as anyone (except perhaps the Brigade Commander, who seems to know every inch of it!).

Sport

The Canoe Club, using our four K2s, continues to flourish and, under Corporal Tucker, it is hoped to enjoy the summer season on various local stretches of river.

The Small-Bore Club has just finished an enjoyable, though not wildly successful, season. One of the problems of "Integration" is to convince the Army Rifle Association that the multiplicity of cap badges really do belong to a Signal Squadron.

The Squadron were runners-up in the Brigade Major and Minor Units Rugby Competition. This success is due largely to the efforts of F. of S. M. D. Thornbury, who started the season with only 12 men who knew the rules!

R.Q.M.S. Simpson has relieved R.Q.M.S. Allen, who has now become our R.S.M. (local at present), who, with Staff Sergeant Gamble, received the Long Service and Good Conduct medal on our Administrative Inspection. Staff Sergeant Stephens has settled in to the task of supervising all individual training, whilst Sergeant Jones is busy taking over the General Store.



Rover group—the backbone of the squadron

207 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 30

Exercise "Avril Foile"

The exercise took place in the first week of April and was the first major scheme of the year. It was a pure communications exercise and many valuable lessons were learnt which will stand us in good stead in the coming months. A useful feature of the exercise occurred in the last two days when the senior N.C.O.s took command of the Squadron, and ran the last phase completely themselves.

Happy Easter for German Orphans



Peter Watts making friends with an orphan when a party from the Squadron presented Easter Eggs to the children

Faces at the Children's Home near Soltau brightened on the Wednesday before Easter when a party of soldiers from the Squadron arrived unexpectedly to distribute Easter eggs to the children. The orphans soon came running from all parts of the Home, and the initial surprise was soon overcame by the untying of bows and the rustle of silver paper. The scramble for eggs soon gave way to a rush to try on No. 1 Dress hats and gloves. After the children had sung some rousing songs in appreciation, the party returned to Soltau well rewarded by seeing the happiness their visit had caused.

Easter Visit to Denmark

The Squadron soccer team and twenty supporters travelled to Denmark to stay with the Jutland Dragoons, in Holstebro, over the Easter break. The friendliness of the Danish soldiers and the people of Holstebro will long be remembered. Everybody did their utmost to ensure that the visit was a success. Although Holstebro is a small town everyone soon found some way to enjoy himself. Taxi drivers took parties to nearby towns at a very nominal rate, and several members of the Squadron were invited into Danish homes. On Easter Monday the majority visit Aalborg, which is a very old Danish town on the east coast. Only too soon it was time to face the long journey back to Soltau, and thoughts then began to turn to Whitsun.

209 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 685

. . . Truly Integrated now



A cheerful recruit to the Squadron

At last news from 209 Squadron. We are now well and truly integrated. After all the normal teething troubles, the new organisation is working well and, in fact, now no one really notices the different cap badges.

After several years in Colchester, our little empire was shattered in January of this year when we received warning of an unaccompanied operational tour to the Far East.

As we had been training for five years as an air portable Brigade, it seemed only natural that all our equipment had to come out to the Far East by sea. Anyone who complains of the documentation to travel by air should see the paper required to move by sea. We needed an extra boat for all the forms. Certain members of the Squadron were heard to remark that if they ever went to heaven they would arrive there with an F.S.O. number. After the usual initial flap we then kicked our heels for three weeks awaiting our air passages to FARELF—such is life on the Strategic Reserve.

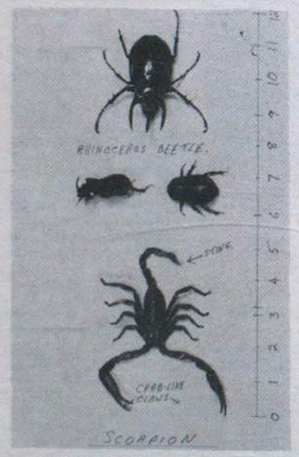
Our Introduction was Civilised

Our introduction to active service was very civilised, as we spent a fortnight in Singapore prior to coming to Borneo. We at least got acclimatised under the best possible conditions, and most people were glad to arrive in Sibu to save money!

Naturally enough, when we first arrived, life here was very hectic, as we were getting ourselves established. As things became more organised, so our day settled down to routine and now the shift-workers can boast a day off, and the day-workers usually get Saturday and Sunday afternoons free, if they are not on guard duties.

Our area of responsibilty is very large and the main methods of travel are by air and river. Our most travelled veterans are Tac H Q., and we have to listen to many combat stories from Captain Colman and Sergeant Gill! They have even been known to wear jungle boots and carry weapons.

Settling Down to Shift Work, but . . .



Some of our local companions

Here at Brigade H.Q., the Comcen Staff are well set up and really settling down to shift work. Our Yeoman of Signals, A. A. Hawkes, is going steadily more grey-haired, but always assures us everything is under control. Foreman of Signals Murray looks more like a D11 every day and seems to be on duty continually. In actual fact, the communications have settled down very well, with almost constant communications via D11 to Labuan and via C11 CW on the Brigade Command net.

In the evenings we play as much sport as possible. Sergeant Anderson, our Chief Clerk, and Sergeant Smith, R.A.O.C., lead the soccer team from strength to strength, with a great deal of help from our goalkeeper, Driver Jones, R.A.S.C. The hockey team stands well in the local league and we produce teams for basketball and volleyball.

Our two new subalterns are learning the hard way, but we feel that they are applying themselves to the hearts and minds campaign. Major Pope has been heard to mutter in his beer that there is too much heart and not enough mind.

Facilities on the camp are limited, but by courtesy of A.K.C., and Sergeant Shipp, we run film shows six nights a week and the P.R.I. seems to be getting more prosperous every day running our canteen.

Sibu itself is a small township with several quite decent shops and, according to several hardened drinkers, some very good bars—enough said!

We hope to keep you all informed in the near future and would like to assure future members of 209 Squadron that life here could be a lot worse, and if they hurry up they may even get a medal!

212 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 36

Achieving Integration can be so Traumatic . . .

Readers of "The Wire" will have noticed in the February/March issue that two Brigade Squadrons (200 and 211) came to life after a long while. We have certainly been absent for an equally long time. We venture to think that it is perhaps not coincidence that various Squadrons with numbers between 200 and 212 have been quiet for a year. We have, like our fellows Squadrons, just emerged from the process of integrating. This, like most good things, is quite splendid when you get there, but the process of achieving it is rather traumatic.

. . . But the corner is now turned

Now the corner is turned. He may not know it, but Lance-Corporal Gray, who arrived a few weeks ago, had the distinction of being the last member of Royal Signals to come to fill a specific appointment in the integrated establishment. For 1964 it was a case of business as usual, with the challenge of a posting rate that was two or three times normal. The highlight was probably our autumn exercise, Exercise "Lowland Fling," when we had the chance of fighting a German Panzer Grenadier Brigade. We know we did very well on this, even if once we could see the leading German tanks from Brigade H.Q.!

We Ski and Stick our Necks Out at Boxing

Throughout the winter, members of the Squadron have been away for a fortnight at a time to Kranzegg, in Bavaria, to be introduced to the gentle art of ski-ing, at almost no cost, except a few sprains.

After this we stuck our necks out and entered for the Divisional Boxing, which is a major units competition. We were pretty well beaten by 5 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, but our team received many congratulations and we were proud to have raised a team, which many major units had failed to do.

Now that we have settled down, a list of personalities may be of interest: Major R. G. Phippard, Commanding; Captain C. K. Powell, Second-in-Command; Captain D. C. Whitehead and Second-Lieutenant J. D. Daglish, "A" Troop; Second-Lieutenant R. M. Carr-Smith, "J" Troop. In addition, we have the invaluable services of Lieutenant H. A. J. Alexander, M.B.E., General List, as Adjutant; Lieutenant R. T. Cosgrove as M.T.O., and Captain (Q.M.) R. H. Thompson, M.B.E., D.C.M., Scouts Guards, as Quartermaster.

W.O.I C. Young is now well established as R.S.M. and W.O.II A. Grainger as R.Q.M.S.

More personalities in the next instalment.

Does your wife shoot?

We shall have a couple of vacancies in the wives third team for .22 shooting next winter. Should we say it? But in a recent inter-Troop .22 shoot, in which the wives fielded two teams, the cup for the best individual score of the evening was taken by the Adjutant's wife!

El Alamein Reunion this year will be held at the Royal Festival Hall on 22nd October. Tickets as usual from Keith Prowse, 90, New Bond Street, London, W.1.

We enter the Spring of 1965 with great hopes. Not too many postings, a lot of new vehicles, some new wireless equipment, and even the prospect of central heating in what is without doubt one of the scruffiest barracks in Germany.

Invitation

We are virtually fully established, but applications to join the best Brigade Squadron in Europe will at least be looked at! Just write to B.F.P.O. 36!

219 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 51

Departures and Welcomes

Since our last appearance in THE WIRE we have said farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) G. Lynam, on posting to 24th Regiment. Other postings out are Signalman B. Stanier to 16th Regiment and Lance-Corporal Lawrence to 503 Troop. Due to depart shortly are Corporal N. Troughton to 28th Regiment, Sergeant G. Miller to 227 Squadron, and Corporal B. Sayers, R.E.M.E., to S.E.E., Arborfield. Corporal M. Hinks and Corporal R. Treasurer have left us for "Civvy Street," and Sergeant C. Southart is due to go in June, also to civilian life. We wish all the above the best of luck.

We welcome Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. McGlynn as Administrative Officer, Lines Officer, M.T.O. and Quartermaster—which should keep him busy. Also welcomed are Signalman A. Stollery and Corporal L. Hedges.

The Rugby Festival—Old Rivals clean out the Squadron Silver!

The Officer Commanding, Major W. J. Pritchard, organised the Tripolitania Area Rugby Festival in March, which was a great success. Naturally, he was helped by almost the whole Squadron. We were pleased to see our old rivals Royal Navy, Malta, lived up to their reputation by cleaning us out of all the silver, winning the Festival Championship, as well as the 'Sevens.' They also tried to take the Squadron's 'Scrum' bar with them, but settled for decorating it instead. Corporals A. Payne, N. Troughton and J. Taylor were selected for the Tripolitania Area Team. The Squadron team has always won the Sevens Loser's Plate. In the R.A.F. Idris Rugby Festival, we were runners-up in the Loser's Plate, but did win the Loser's Plate in the British Army Children's School Rugby Festival, thus proving that we are very good losers! Special mention is due to Corporal Troughton who, though small in stature, certainly made up for this in determination and sheer good play. An obvious lover of the game who will be missed by the rugby team.

Some Highlights and Lowlights in the realm of Sport

The Squadron football team were runners-up in the Tripolitania Area League and reached the semi-final of the knockout competition.

In the Area Cross-Country, Corporal Lunn did very well to come third against some tough competition from the 1st Bn. Green Howards.

The Area Athletics meeting was held on 13th/14th April, in which the Squadron team came fifth out of seven teams; a good effort considering that we have only 60 men available. In the track events we were second in the 4 x 120 yards hurdles and the 4 x 110 yards relay. In the 4 x 880 yards relay we came third. We were last in both the mile and three miles, but in the latter, Corporal Lunn ran exceptionally well to come second. The field events gave us a first in the high jump, Corporal Sayers, R.E.M.E., and Corporal E. Gill both jumping 5ft. 1in. This was the second year running we have won the high jump. In the other field events we did very poorly, being last in all but one event. The Signals did have one other first, in the ladies' egg-and-spoon race, run over 60 yards, which was almost a Signals' walk-over, Mrs. Andrews, with egg perilously balanced, beating Mrs. Firth by a short spoon, with Mrs. Pritchard closely following. A pity we couldn't claim points for that event!

The Squadron badminton teams have had mixed successes. The mixed doubles team (Sergeant P. Neal, Corporal W. Harper, Signalman B. Barnes, Staff Sergeant D. Rattley, W.R.A.C., Lance-Corporals Lewis and Loyer, W.R.A.C.) being top of the league, with only two matches to play. The second team are third, and the first team are second from bottom!

Basketball has just started again, the Squadron team having won two and lost two matches. Sergeant A. Jamieson and Corporal B. Sayers, R.E.M.E., are in the team, although one spectator is to be forgiven for thinking they were in opposing teams.

The Squadron wives, not to be outdone by their husbands, have taken up sport, and now turn out a hockey and netball team regularly against any who are brave enough to play them. With "Killer" Jamieson in the hockey team, one cannot blame the opposition for being wary.

Signalman V. Neill, the Squadron's cartoonist, produced the cartoon as a memento of the visit of Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., on 8th April. The cartoon may not be *completely* accurate, but does prove how brave the O.C. was to stand in front of the armed Squadron.



The cartoon is drawn by Signalman V. O'Neill as a "momento" to the visit of General Whistler

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The General talks with W.O.II McIntosh, S.S.M. 235 Signal Squadron



234 Signal Squadron Cable Gang at Work

Representative Colonel Commandant in Malta and Libya

H.Q. MALTA AND LIBYA

With four independent Squadrons each, quite rightly, writing their own "Wire" notes and thereby stealing what thunder we might have, H.Q., Royal Signals, rarely have the opportunity to appear in these notes. However, the visit of our Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Whistler, gave us just that opportunity. We are delighted to record what did happen, both that which was planned and that which was not.

That which was not planned . . .

C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Clarke, who arrived in Benghazi on 5th April, a day before the arrival of the Representative Colonel Commandant, while realising that nothing which happened was unusual in Benghazi, was visibly shaken when the Representative Colonel Commandant was shown to his hotel room. He knew that there was a large hole in the hand basin in that room and that other pieces of bathroom furniture were missing essential parts. He knew this, because he had occupied that room on the previous night and had insisted upon being given another that day. He did not think that his discard would go to the Representative Colonel Commandant, but this was what happened. Perhaps the Representative Colonel Commandant did not altogether believe that C.R. Signals was blameless and that the hotel management could see nothing wrong with the arrangement. After all, in the eyes of the management, the Major-General had two hand basins to the Lieutenant-Colonel's one, so there could be no loss of face, even if one of the two did not work.

The same hotel had not yet finished with our two officers. The lift had been jammed for two days between floors 2 and 3. Returning to the hotel after a most delightful dinner party, given by Mrs. Fyfe, wife of O.C. 245 Squadron, our two officers were pleased to see that all lights on the lift indicated the "all systems go" condition. A press on the button and the lift set off, only to come once more to what now seemed to be the accepted rest condition between floors 2 and 3.

For those readers who have never found themselves stuck in a lift at 11.30 p.m. in a Benghazi hotel, I must explain that one experiences a certain degree of despair. With the hotel service at its normal level there is every chance that one will still be in the lift next morning. Luckily, the alarm button worked and a splendid chap arrived with just the right tool to undo the damage. In him we had no technician, but simply a little man who knew into which hole to put a 3ft. screwdriver to release our two officers. More clever still, he knew where to find a 3ft. screwdriver in Benghazi.

. . . and that which was planned

The visit to 245 Squadron set the standard for the visits to 219 Squadron, Tripoli, and 234 and 235 Squadrons, Malta, in each case an inspection of Troops on parade preceding a tour of the Squadron areas, where he saw men at work. The Representative Colonel Commandant appeared extremely well pleased with what he saw and remarked on the standard of turn-out, good spirit and sporting activities of the Squadrons.

Perhaps he enjoyed most the opportunities afforded to meet members of the Squadron and their wives, at coffee in the All Ranks' Club in Benghazi and in the Sergeants' Messes in Tripoli and Malta. Certainly the hockey match in Tripoli between 219 Squadron wives and a ladies' school side was the greatest possible fun, being fast, but never furious. It looked jolly dangerous to me, but then I am not a hockey player, only a weak male and one or two near misses (as opposed to misses who were near) had left me in a nervous state.

The Social Side

The social side of the visit was excellent; most enjoyable dinner parties being given at the homes of the Commander, Libya, the Area Commander, Cyrenaica, C.R. Signals, and O.C. 245 Squadron, and luncheon parties by the G.O.C., and O.C. 219 Squadron. Working luncheon parties were given in the Officers' Messes of 234 and 235 Squadrons during visits to them, and the tour arranged by O.C. 219 Squadron to the Roman ruins at Sabartha was a most welcome break from a tight schedule.

All together a most memorable occasion and one from which we hope the Representative Colonel Commandant took as much pleasure as we gained.

The Corps Picture "Through"

52nd (LOWLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.), GLASGOW

When invited to supper and to meet Franc Martin at a small party on 19th March at H.Q., 52nd Regiment, few of us realised the pleasure which lay in store for us, and there was considerable speculation as to the form of the evening.

In due course, following an introductory talk by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Johnston, Colonel Martin presented to the Regiment a signed copy of his painting "Through."

There were wide grins of appreciation all round as the veil was lifted from our eyes. Who among those present had not seen "Through," the painting which depicted the very spirit of the Corps?

Immediately, Franc Martin became "one of us." His stock was high! This was the man who, in his painting, expressed what every true signalman feels within himself, but, with usual army reticence, refuses to express in words.

It was suggested to Colonel Martin that in his presentation address, he might tell the assembled company how the idea for "Through" was born in his mind.

World War I the inspiration of the picture

Colonel Franc told how he joined R.E. Signals at Jardine Street, and of his service with a Cable Section in World War I, when line signalling was the basis of communications. He so obviously re-lived the events as he told of the heart-breaks of maintaining a line in a "no man's land" constantly battered



Left to right: Major J. E. Blair, T.D., Franc Martin, Colonel H. E. Lang, O.B.E., T.D., CSO 52 (L) Division/District

with shells. He told of the amazing devotion to duty of solitary linemen who crawled out to find the break in the line, knowing fear and loneliness, yet determined that the line should be repaired. The casualty rate among such men was high.

I am certain that all who listened to Franc Martin became aware that this man who saw this sense of responsibility in his comrades, was himself imbued with the sense of duty which he has depicted on canvas.

The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel T. M. Niven, expressed the sincere feelings of the members present when he conferred on Colonel Franc Martin, honorary membership of the Officers' Mess.

This was the climax to an unforgettable evening.

The Regiment has been involved in two important events recently and both were completed, despite the weather.

Exercise "Far North"—
The Regiment pulls it off . . .

The bigger event was Exercise "Far North," a message-passing race between a team from the Regiment, comprising Squadrons stationed in Glasgow, and 321 Squadron from Barrhead. The idea of the race was for each team to travel north of Glasgow, as far as possible, and to pass a message over each system of communication normally open to the Regiment.

A minimum distance for each system was laid down and points were awarded for total distance covered and points deducted for failure of a link or links and errors in administration. Both teams put up tremendous performances in very difficult circumstances and manged to travel as far north as Wick. After much discussion by the umpires, it was decided that the Regiment had defeated 321 Squadron.

The Wembley Hoodoo hits the Regiment at Football

Later, the Regimental football team travelled to Winston Barracks, Lanark, to play in the final of the 52nd (Lowland) Division/District Football Tournament. Our opponents were 278 Field Regiment, R.A. (T.A.). The weather conditions were appalling—very high, gusty wind, squalls of heavy rain and hail and bitterly cold. It isn't only at Wembley there is a hoodoo. Within five minutes Sergeant McLeod was injured and although he returned to the field, he was unable to do more than hobble through the game. The weather became so bad that the game was suspended for a few minutes during the second half. At full-time the score was 1—1, our goal being scored by Signalman Taggart. During extra time 278 Field Regiment scored again, and the final score was 2—1 in their favour. Our "10½" men were first class in every way, but the injury handicap was just too much. Lieutenant-Colonel Johnston and Don Revie have had the same cup final problems!

On 8th May, the Regiment moves to camp at Cultybraggan, in Perthshire. This is the first camp the Regiment has had in the Command since the T.A. reorganisation, and the training will be different from our usual form. This year we will exercise with the Division/District H.Q. staff and, all things considered, it appears that we will have an interesting camp. We will report later.



Major T. S. Wragg, M.B.E., T.D. receives a silver salver from the Honorary Colonel, Colonel G. J. Underwood, C.B.E., T.D., D.L.

46th (NORTH MIDLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.) DERBY

The Regiment Says Goodbye to Old Friends

Over the past six months, on grounds of age, we have lost several worthy members of the Regiment, many of whom had served since the re-formation of the Regiment as 21st (N.M.) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) in May, 1947.

Last October, after a total of 32 years' Territorial and War Service, and the award of the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire's Certificate, Sergeant-Major Charlesworth left us. At a dinner in Chesterfield, honoured by the attendance of the Mayor and Mayoress, 2 Squadron showed their appreciation of his sterling services.

At the end of the year we lost our well-known civilian Foreman of Signals, Mr. H. E. Jones. He, too, has a remarkable record of service with the Regiment, both as a civilian and a Warrant Officer, and holds the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire's Certificate. He has taken up an instructor's post at Catterick, and we wish him well in his new sphere.

A third holder of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate, Sergeant-Major Elshaw, finished his service with us a few weeks ago. During a short break in his Territorial service he was Signal Officer to his local Home Guard contingent. He will be much missed, and his Squadron is shortly recalling him to show their gratitude for his great services.

At a dinner held at the Peveril of the Peak Hotel, Dovedale, on 10th April, the officers of the Regiment, with their ladies, dined-out Major T. S. Wragg, M.B.E., T.D., the Second-in-Command, Major C. D. Didcott, M.B.E., O.C. 1 Squadron, and Major A. D. Stoker, T.D., our Regimental Medical Officer, who has retired with the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The Honorary Colonel, Colonel G. J. Underwood, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. Wright, T.D., and every past commanding officer since 1948, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Waldron, T.D., Colonel R. E. Pickford, T.D., D.L., Colonel J. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor, T.D., D.L., and Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Emery, E.R.D., T.D., were present.

Major Clive Didcott had served the Regiment for exactly 12 years on the day of his retirement. Lieutenant-Colonel Desmond Stoker, so well-known in Derbyshire circles, our Medical Officer since 1947, had given some 30 years' service.

Major Tom Wragg, whose place in the history of the Royal Corps of Signals is so secure, first joined the Regiment in 1939. On the re-formation of the Regiment, in 1947, he formed the Chesterfield Squadron, which he commanded until he became Second-in-Command five years ago. To Clive and Madeleine, Desmond and Marjorie, and Tom and Ida, the Regiment is most grateful for their sterling service.

Since the publication of our last WIRE notes, we welcome Capt. (Hon. Major) G. E. Atkin, who has assumed the post of Permanent Staff Officer some twelve months after retiring from the Regular Army as our Quartermaster. We welcome, too, Sergeant Sheard as Permanent Staff Instructor with the Derby Squadron.

43rd (WESSEX) REGIMENT, T.A.

The marriage of Lieutenant Geoffrey Jarman, to Lieutenant Judy Huston, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) took place on 24th April, 1965.

Mr. Jarman serves with 3 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Regiment (T.A.) at Bridgwater.

A guard of honour of officers from the 43rd (Wessex) Regiment consisted of Captain E. C. Barker, Major E. H. Robin, Major L. A. James, T.D., Second-Lieutenant P. Almond, Captain A. F. Stubbs, M.B.E., and Captain J. Simmons.

47th REGIMENT T.A.
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

First, a Salute to the Permanent Staff . . .

This month we salute the members of the Permanent Staff who toil ceaselessly in the background, ensuring that everything is ready for any occasion, whether it be an exercise or a social function. Theirs is invariably a thankless task, and we take this opportunity of paying tribute to: Major W. H. H. Parkes, Major (Q.M.) D. Legge, D.C.M., R.S.M. M. J. Giles, S.S.M. J. B. Rose, S.S.M. H. W. Leonard, Sergeant J. M. Preece, Sergeant S. K. Nunan, Corporal R. C. Grant and Lance-Corporal D. Barlow.

In compiling these notes, the difficulty is in deciding what to leave out! As usual, activity has been at its normal hectic level, with every week-end producing 'something different.'

. . . And now, the news of that 'Something Different'

During April we were the guests of 14th Regiment, of whom a large number of people gave up their week-end to ensure that we were looked after. They did an excellent job, and we are extremely grateful for the wonderful way in which we were looked after. *Thank you, 14th!*

London's Easter Parade at Battersea Park again gave the Regiment the opportunity to show its paces. "B" Squadron provided radio communications for the whole of the parade, whilst the Regimental Band took part in what is London's Easter Day, the Battersea Parade, watched by a quarter of a million people.

The London District Rifle Meeting gave our marksmen yet another chance to shine. They duly obliged by walking off with the magnificent S.M.G. Rose Bowl.

Sunday, 2nd May, Hyde Park, saw the annual Cavalry Old Comrades' Parade and Memorial Service. Being an old Cavalry Regiment this is always a 'must' for our Regiment. Not content with supplying the Regimental Band, Old Comrades and a serving detachment, we also supplied the radio communications for the organisers! Is it little wonder that we think of ourselves as London's premier Signal Regiment!

The annual Sergeants' Mess dinner and dance, held on 8th May, was a truly lavish affair. Bouquets and boxes of chocolates for the ladies, setting the pace for a splendid occasion.

Guests of honour included the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., and Mrs. Williams, the Supervising Officer, Captain F. Ruthven, T.D., and Mrs. Ruthven, Staff Sergeants Murphy and Stahl of the U.S. Signal Corps, three senior N.C.O.s of the 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment, T.A., and the senior N.C.O.s of 305 (Para.) Signal Squadron, T.A., were all welcomed enthusiastically.

The evening warmed up to the music of Sergeant Clarke and the Regimental Dance Orchestra. Tributes were made to S.S.M. John Cooper, leaving the T.A. after a number of years of loyal service, and to S.S.M. Jeff Rose, of the Permanent Staff, soon to depart for Aden.

Boxing

2nd Regiment lose narrowly in B.A.O.R. Final

On 17th February, at Osnabruck, the good wishes of the Corps were centred on 2nd Division Headquarter and Signal Regiment, when they met the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers in the B.A.O.R. Boxing Final, 1965.

The splendour of the occasion, the ballyhoo of the Irish with songs, pipers, television specially brought over from Ireland, and war cries, but matched to the full by our own fervent support was surpassed only by the excellence of the boxing.

Who would be so bold as to name the highlights in an all-star night? But one must mention Corporal McSorley, who has had nearly 200 bouts, a gallant loser to our own Signalman Keenan (who is a recent Junior Champion and this year an Army Finalist) and Corporal Hutchinson, our team captain, also a boxer of great experience who, in what was perhaps his last bout, truly fought and won "a captain's fight." Both teams fought hard and well, but we were defeated by the odd point in 33.

The Royal Irish Fusiliers went on to win the Army Championships, defeating the 1st Battalion The King's Regiment by one point. Though disappointed at having failed to attain the top honours, 2nd Division Headquarter and Signal Regiment live to fight another day and look forward with renewed determination to success next season.

The Army Individual Championships—Signalman F. Waters wins an Army Title

Six Royal Signals boxers entered this year's Army Individual Championships. Five were from 2nd Regiment and one from 8th Regiment. All acquitted themselves well and the results were extremely pleasing.

Flyweight.—Corporal R. Quirk (2nd Regt.), won his way through to the finals, but that bout ended in a K.O. defeat.

Featherweight.—Signalman F. Waters and Signalman M. Keenan (both of 2nd Regt.) were perhaps fated to meet in this year's final, where Waters proved the better man on the night. Waters later lost in the I.S.B.A. Final.

Welterweight.—Lance-Corporal Jacobs (2nd Regt.), well tipped for the welterweight title, was unfortunate in damaging his thumb after two good wins. He was unfit to box in the semi-final.

Light Middleweight.—Signalman P. Garrigan (8th Regt.) sustained a cut eye in his bout with Guardsman McNamara, Irish Guards, and was forced to retire.

Heavyweight.—The comparatively inexperienced Signalman D. Pellingrinetti (2nd Regt.) was perhaps unfortunate in meeting the eventual champion, Private B. Roberts, Royal Scots, in his first bout. Robertson did not allow him to settle down and the bout was quickly over.

Fencing at 11th Regiment

The 11th Regiment fencing season this year began when the Regiment ran the Northern Command Novices' Championships on 17th February in Baghdad Gymnasium. This turned out to be a good day for all the competitors and the prizes were presented by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E. The individual places were:

FOIL

Winner	Lieutenant I. C. Double	11th Regiment
Runner-up	Corporal W. Baker	11th Regiment

EPEE

Winner	Apprentice/Tech. J. Logan	A.A.S., Harrogate
Runner-up	Sergeant K. Sixsmith	11th Regiment

SABRE

Winner	Apprentice/Tech. J. D. Richardson	A.A.S., Harrogate
Runner-up	Corporal R. W. Boddy	11th Regiment

This proved to be a very good warm-up for the Northern Command team, and Individual Championships which were held on 10th and 11th March. Eight members of the Regiment entered for the competition. The Regiment won the team competition and Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson was runner-up in the Sabre event.

Valuable experience was gained for the Royal Tournament Phase 2 (Bronze Medal Stage) which was to be held at the Western Command School of P.T. at Oswestry.

Again the Regiment won the inter-unit team competition. The team consisted of Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson, Major Prescott, Lieutenant Double, W.O.II (C.S.M.I.) Pearce, Sergeant Sixsmith, Corporal Baker.

As well as this, most members of the team did very well by getting into the final pools of the individual competitions and Lieutenant Double succeeded in winning the Epée Competition.

The team are unfortunately losing Sergeant Sixsmith before the Army Finals, but his place will be taken by Lance-Corporal Nutbrown who is turning out to be a very able Epéeist. Lieutenant Podevin, who has just arrived, will add to the number of fencers in the Regiment.



WINNERS OF THE INTER-UNIT TEAM FENCING COMPETITION

Front row, left to right: Major L. W. Prescott, Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., Company Sergeant Major Instructor R. W. B. Pearce, Army Physical Training Corps

Standing: Lance Corporal B. S. Nutbrown, Sergeant K. Sixsmith, Corporal F. W. Baker and Lance Corporal R. W. Boddy

Royal Signals Cyprus Annual Golf Championship 1964/65

The annual meeting was held at Dhekelia on Wednesday, 21st April.

There is a dearth of low handicap players serving with the Corps in Cyprus at present. Captain R. B. Carrol, the well-known Corps and Army player serving with UNFICYP, could not attend owing to duty, and this left Lieutenant-Colonel O. J. Peck (8), Commanding 9th Regiment, the only player of note among a "collection of rabbits." Nevertheless, it was a satisfying day for those who took part. A cloudless sky and only the lightest of breezes in the afternoon gave all the "rabbits" an opportunity to break into figures which are normally only wishful thinking. It should be added that the Dhekelia course, comprising nine holes, and which was completed only late last year, is tough in itself and does not require the elements to make it difficult!

9th Regiment made a clean sweep of all events. Full results were as follows:—

Open Champion: Lieutenant-Colonel O. J. Peck.

Runner-up: Lance-Corporal Skinner.

Handicap event. Winner: Lance-Corporal Skinner; runner-up: Mr. Woods.

Unit foursomes. Winners: Lieutenant-Colonel O. J. Peck and Lance-Corporal Skinner; runners-up: Captains Gill and Vincent.

Golf

The Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society played their first match of the 1965 season against York Golf Club at Strensall on Wednesday, 28th April. The result was a win for the Corps by 3½ matches to 2½.

The Spring Meeting was held at Pannal Golf Club on the 29th and 30th April, 1965.

Some 20 players took part, and at the conclusion of two very pleasant days' golf Mrs. Piddington presented the trophies to:

Individual Challenge Cup.—Colonel D. D. Fairman, O.B.E.

Foursome Challenge Cup.—Lieutenant-Colonel K. M. Evans and Major F. Stewart.

Handicap Challenge Cup.—Major I. Gram-Hansen.

Open (Scratch) Championship Cup.—Captain T. H. Blashill.

Regular Officers' Cup.—Captain T. H. Blashill.

A pleasing feature of this meeting was the participation of other rank golfers. It is hoped more take part in future Spring Meetings.

Golf Results

Royal Signals v. York Golf Club, on 28th April, at Strensall: won by 3½ points to 2½ points.

Royal Signals v. Royal Artillery, on 6th May at Royal St. George, Sandwich, in the first round of the Ordnance Challenge Cup: lost by 6 points to nil.

Royal Signals v. Royal Military College of Science, on 16th May, at Frilford Heath: lost by 11 points to 1.

Royal Signals v. Royal Military Academy, on 19th May, at Camberley Heath: lost by 5½ points to 2½.

Shooting

All will wish to congratulate the 7th Regiment on their victory in the Unit Team Small Bore Championship—this is the fourth time in five consecutive years that the Regiment has won this Army competition.

The results of the Army Rifle Association Small-Bore Competitions, 1964/65, were as follows:

Match 76 Individual Small-Bore Championship — *Score*

7th	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh	386
8th	Captain F. J. Pavey	384
10th	Corporal J. Pilkington	383

Winner of Royal Signals Aldershot Cup: Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh.

Match 77 Individual Small-Bore Match

2nd	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh	396

Winner of Royal Signals Blandford Cup.

Match 79 Unit Team Small-Bore Championship

Winners	7th Regiment	3440
5th	22nd Regiment	3344

Winner of Royal Signals Small-Bore Trophy: 7th Regiment.

Match 80 Unit Team Small-Bore Match

Winners	School of Signals	3449

Match 82 Company Cup

3rd	H.Q. Squadron, 7th Regiment	1112

Match 87 Three Positions Match

4th	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh	289

Members of the Army Inter-Service Team: Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Major G. A. S. Exell, Major R. H. Gilbertson, Second-Lieutenant T. N. Singleton.

3 Squadron, 14th Regiment competed in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Sub-District Rifle Meeting and had the following successes:

S.L.R. Match

Winners by 63 points.

Individual Officers' Match

Winner: Major E. M. Fox

Individual Grand Aggregate

Runner-up: Corporal R. Ferrier.

S.M.G. Match

W.O.II Copestake, placed second on a count-out.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

Corps Sport Fixtures

July

CRICKET

JULY
14-15 Corps v. R.E., at Chatham.
16-17 „ v. R.A.O.C., at Blackdown.

TENNIS

5 Corps v. R.A.O.C., at Aldershot.
6 „ v. R.A.E.C., at Aldershot.
8 „ v. R.A.S.C., at Aldershot.
9 „ v. R.E.M.E., at Aldershot.

GOLF

21 Corps v. R.A.P.C., at Burhill, Walton-on-Thames.
„ v. R.A., at Sunningdale.

SAILING

8-9 Triangular Match R.A.-R.E.-R. Signals, at Seaview.
18 Corps v. R.E.M.E., at Stokes Bay.
24 Royal Signals Regatta, at Whale Island.
31-8 Aug. Cowes Week.

SHOOTING

5-8 N.R.A. S.R.(A), at Bisley.
9-17 N.R.A. S.R.(B), at Bisley.

3rd HOLDING BATTALION AND MOB. CENTRE (ROYAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB)

THE WIRE was particularly interested to hear from Mr. W. V. Scales, the Honorary Secretary of this thriving club, which is an 'affiliated' branch of the Association. Reporting on club activities, Mr. Scales writes:

This Reunion Club was formed just after the end of the war. It was the idea of the late Major E. F. Lyne, O.B.E., and Sergeant W. V. Scales. At the inaugural meeting, the chair was taken by the C.O. of the unit, Lieutenant-Colonel L. D. Goddard, A.M.I.E.E., who, I am happy to say, is still the President, and now has a farm at Wykeham, near Scarborough. The two Commanding Officers of the unit are both Vice-Presidents, namely, Colonel T. M. Niven, C.B., T.D., D.L., and Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C. Colonel Roberts is now resident in Cape Town, and makes the "pilgrimage" to England on alternate years to attend the reunion.

During the first two years of the reunion, the dinner was entirely free to all our members, and we even paid for train fares for people who had long journeys, such as Cornwall and the Hebrides. For the first seven years of the reunion the dinner was held at the Masonic Hall, Huddersfield, but since them the venue has been the Masonic Hall, Kirkburton.

We have as one of our members Terry Thomas (ex-Lance-Corporal Hoar-Stevens) who takes a keen interest, and a few years ago kindly sent one of his famous waistcoats to be raffled.

Reunions are always held during the last week-end in September each year. Members travel up north from all parts of the British Isles, and reach Kirkburton on the Friday night. An "unofficial" reunion is held in the bar of the "George Inn," Kirkburton, and mine host, Charlie Mellor, provides sandwiches, etc., free to all members. (This on the Friday night). Many of the villagers kindly accommodate members free for the week-end, and on the Sunday they go back to the villagers' homes for their midday meal; I know of one miner who regularly invites half-a-dozen members to lunch, and has been known to entertain as many as 12 of our members to lunch in his little cottage.

Reverting back to Saturday. The reception is held from 5.30 p.m. and the dinner commences at 7 p.m., which is usually over by 8.15 p.m., when we commence dancing, which terminates at midnight. From time to time we entertain the Chairman of the Urban District Council, and each year we present a Corps "Plaque" to one of the villagers for their kindness to the Club. On the Sunday morning some of the members attend early Communion at Kirkburton Parish Church (All Saints) and at 10.30 a.m. we have a service in the church. A special printed form of service is used and the church is always packed with our friends from the village. Our Corps Colours are permanently fixed to one of the main pillars of the church, and on the same pillar is a bronze plate denoting the date of the flag presentation. After the annual church service, which I must tell you, is in the capable hands of the Vicar, Rev. E. Clarke, M.A., who is our official Chaplain, we adjourn to the Church Schools, Kirkburton (always by kind permission of the Church Council) and hold our annual general meeting. This usually terminates at about 1 p.m. and members then go to their friends for lunch. Literally all of the villagers' homes are at our disposal for that week-end, and our reunion is now part of the village life. Some of the members married Kirkburton girls, and now they bring their children to the Church Service each year. At our first reunion dinner we had 144 members sitting down, the figure this year (our 20th dinner) was 80. Three times a year I send out a newsletter to all our members, and they like to hear about all their old pals. In 1966 we are to have a new flag dedicated by the Bishop of Pontefract; he has preached at our reunion services on several occasions and is a great man.

I should have mentioned earlier that one of our members resides in the Outer Hebrides, and takes four days each time to get to our reunion.

Clothing

Since the beginning of the year, gifts of clothing, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Major B. E. Sykes, Rev. W. Rowett, Colonel P. R. Hoskins, Mrs. S. Quayle, Captain (T.O.T.) J. Bayfield, Lieutenant-Colonel W. MacCulloch, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Morgan, Major F. W. Oakes, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Smith, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. H. Lawrence, Mrs. D. St.J. Hoysted, Major R. Lawrence, Colonel and Mrs. E. L. L. Vulliamy, Colonel A. F. Freeman, M.C.

13th Signal Regiment's Thrift Shop, C. R. Ward, Esq., Mrs. D. R. Yearsley, North London Branch, Royal Signals Association, Brigadier H. R. Firth, R. L. Cartwright, Esq., Captain R. E. Barber, Captain T. Hackworth, 16th Signal Regiment, Major J. H. Walmsley-Cotham, Major R. J. Savage, Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Horner, Lieutenant J. Webster, H. Thomas, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott, Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 11th Signal Regiment, 10th Signal Regiment, 261 Signal Squadron, Corporal J. Garland, Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Scott, Sergeant J. A. Scott, Major and Mrs. J. H. Roake, T. T. F. Jenkinson, Esq., A. V. Lent, Esq., H. R. Strawn, Esq., Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E. W. E. Osborne, Esq.

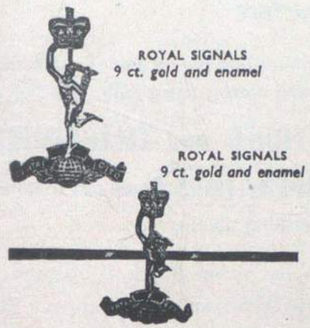
Mrs. S. A. Bygrave, Mrs. D. Field, Mrs. G. A. D. Cochrane, Major M. W. Pollard, A. Walsh, Esq., Mrs. N. Vandyck, Miss S. Vincent-Smith, Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, Colonel A. V. Brandle, M.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Nanney-Wynn, Miss J. Douglas, Mrs. F. S. Straight, H.Q. Training Brigade's Thrift Shop, Sergeant F. Hayden, Mrs. V. Fraser, B. A. Rhodes, Esq., Sergeant and Mrs. J. Goodman, A. E. Stead, Esq., R.S.M. and Mrs. D. G. Newton, Major B. C. Complin.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during August, 1965:—

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	30	0	0
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	1	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	5	5	6
H.Q. Mess Royal Signals (Grand National draw)	3	17	0
224 Squadron	39	12	0
46th (NM) Regiment T.A.	8	8	0
3rd Regiment	8	0	0
14th Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	7	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	4	2	6
30th Regiment	15	0	0
205 Squadron	6	3	0
216 Squadron	2	4	6
243 Squadron	3	4	6
607 Troop	2	14	0
638 Troop	1	8	0
Royal Signals attached 46 Squadron R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.)	2	1	0
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	13		6
Signals Wing, R.M.A. Sandhurst	1	10	0
57th Regiment T.A.	1	5	0
327 Squadron T.A.		3	0
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	2	3	6
47th Regiment T.A. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
1st Regiment	74	5	8
235 Squadron (COMCAN) (Wives' Club)	1	10	0
Bath and District Branch	5	5	0
Cheltenham Branch	40	0	0
Leeds and District Branch	12	0	0
Portsmouth Branch		5	0
Shrewsbury Branch	30	0	0
H. R. W. Marsh, Esq. } Deeds of Covenant	10	0	0
M. C. Stanley, Esq. }	6	0	0
Various individual donations	20	3	10
Receipts	£344	12	6
Expenditure during April, 1964 (Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£263	6	10

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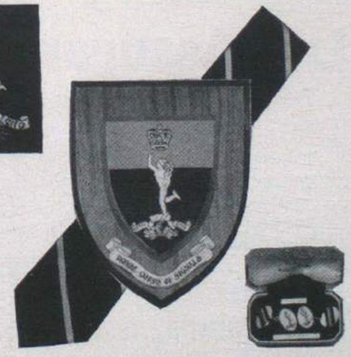
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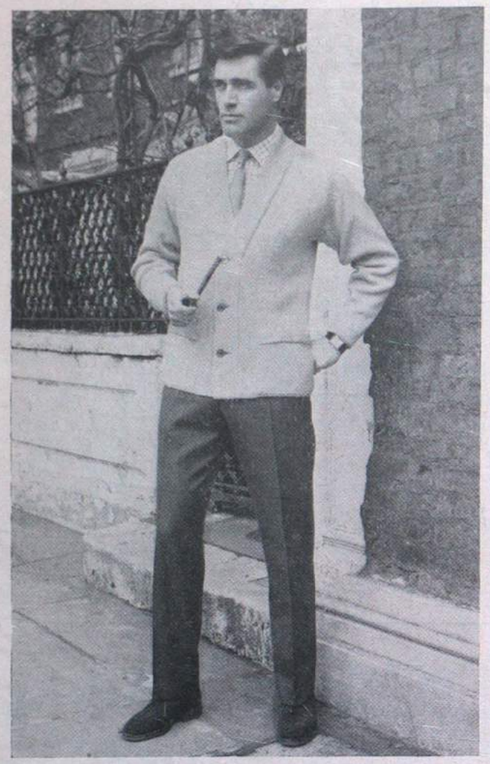
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
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Assistant Editor:
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JULY/AUGUST • 1965

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Editorial

Army Benevolence

During recent months there has been much talk about the need to increase the scale of Army Benevolence and, indeed, an appeal was launched by the Adjutant-General some time ago inviting serving officers and soldiers to set aside each year one day's basic pay of rank towards this end. This appeal is now under active consideration by the Corps, and instructions will, no doubt, shortly be issued as to how it can best be applied in our own case.

* * *

The purpose of what follows is to show why increased support for Army Benevolence is required in these days of comparative prosperity in a country where a welfare state should take care of those who are in penurious or distressed circumstances.

First let it be clear that the governing principle behind the Adjutant-General's appeal is that money derived from a particular Corps or Regiment should primarily be used for that Corps or Regiment's own benevolent and welfare purposes and only after these demands have been satisfied should any surplus be handed over to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Let us now examine Army benevolence in general terms and see how the Army Benevolent Fund fits into the general scheme of things and why more money is needed.

Whom Does Army Benevolence Help?

Army benevolence provides aid for all soldiers in need who have served or are serving in the Army, whether Regular, Territorial, Emergency Reserve or War Service, their wives, children and dependants.

There are today over a million survivors from the Army of World War I, 1914-1918. These men are now reaching old age, and at a time when the cost of living has risen considerably and the real value of their pensions has become reduced. The great majority are over 70 years old. The few survivors of the South African War at the turn of the century needing help are approaching their 90's.

The survivors of the Army of World War II, 1939-1945, today total over four million men and women. Added to these are those who served in the Army since World War II, in Palestine, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Borneo, Cyprus and the Middle East, thus giving a grand total of over five million men (and women) who have served their country in the Regiments and Corps of the British Army. **This is one-tenth of the population of the United Kingdom.**

Today there are nearly half-a-million ex-soldiers who are partially disabled through War Service, World War I accounting for over half. Of this number, some 20,000 are actually receiving a 100% disability pension.

The passage of time unfortunately does not reduce the need for aid amongst these huge numbers of ex-soldiers. As they and their dependants grow older, their need for help increases. Even by the year A.D. 2000 there will still be alive many hundreds of thousands of the four million ex-soldiers who can recall the battlefields of 1939 to 1945.

Comparison of the 'Workload' and Expenditure of the Three Services

The benevolent 'workload' of the three Services arises from the survivors who fought or who served during the last 70 years. The number of survivors today, together with the existing serving men, are approximately as follows:

Royal Navy	1½ million
Royal Air Force	1 million
Army	5 million

It might be expected, therefore, that the scale of benevolence in each Service would be proportionate to these figures. In fact it is not, and the Army comes out badly, e.g.:

Average annual expenditure on assistance 1958-1963

By Royal Navy	£335,900
By Royal Air Force	£515,600
By the Army	£400,000

The salient fact emerges, therefore, that although the Army's benevolent 'workload' is more than three times that of the Navy and five times that of the R.A.F., it is able to distribute less actually than the R.A.F. and less proportionately than the Navy.

State Welfare and Army Benevolent Work

Whilst State Welfare provides many benefits, particularly retirement benefits to the old, the sick, the maimed, it was never intended by H.M. Government that the State should supersede the work of charities. There are gaps in what is provided by the State, and Ministers recognise that these gaps can only be filled by charity.

State Welfare and Charities are interdependent and complementary, and it is quite clear that some measure of charity remains as important and as necessary as ever, possibly more than ever with the increasing number of elderly and aged, the increased cost of living and the continual drop in the purchasing power of sterling.

The ex-soldier and his dependants are in a group which requires more than either State Welfare or the normal scale of charity can provide. This is recognised in many countries, but not yet in ours.

Service in wartime leaves scars which State Welfare cannot cover. The Army is the Service which, by virtue of its vast wartime numbers really takes the knock. Apart from war, the years of "peace" also impose a burden on the soldier which is not borne by his civilian counterpart because of long periods of service abroad, frequent changes of station and often separation from his family, and hence the inablity to establish himself and his family in security. This lack of a firm base inherent in the need for a soldier's family to "follow the drum" brings its own special problem when disaster strikes an Army man. The widow and children have no home, no household effects.

Remember, too, that National Assistance only provides for basic existence. It does not cover hire purchase on furniture, fuel costs because of a severe winter, clothes for the children, rent for a decent home. The family breadwinner who loses his job through no fault of his own is suddenly confronted with a drastic and demoralising fall in the standard of his living.

How the Army Benevolent Fund Fits in

The Army Benevolent Fund is the central provider of funds to certain Corps and Regimental Associations of the Army and to those national Service charitable organisations which care for the needs of the soldier, ex-soldier and his dependants. Each year it makes block grants in accordance with the proven need for help by those to whom the money is given, and to the limit of its resources.

It does not deal with the individual cases requiring help: these are handled by the Corps and Regimental Associations and the Service Charities, usually working together in co-operation. It is these organisations in direct touch with the individual which are able to assess the merits of each and every case, co-ordinate between themselves where necessary, and provide the help required to the maximum of their individual or joint ability.

There is thereby formed a partnership, closely working together, in the wide field of Army benevolence. The Corps and Regimental Associations on the one hand perform the "case-work" and provide all they can from within their own widely varying charitable resources whilst the Army Benevolent Fund, on the other hand, provides certain Corps and Regimental Associations with a central backing in the form of bulk financial support. Since 1945 the Army Benevolent Fund has made grants to the 125 Corps and Regimental Associations in the Army amounting to nearly £2 million.

This partnership within the Army is further extended to include the National Service Charitable organisations, each one of which operates in a special field. Here the financial support of the Army Benevolent Fund has not been in keeping with that given by the other two Services. S.S.A.F.A., for instance, do considerably more for the Army than the other two Services but owing to financial stringency receive less in the way of financial support from Army sources. This is quite wrong.

Why some Corps and Regiments need special help from the Army Benevolent Fund

We in the Corps are lucky. Due to foresight and generosity over the years we can stand on our own feet to a considerable degree. Certain Corps and Regiments through no fault of their own are hard pressed. We are all in the same Army and we must help them after we have made adequate provision for our own benevolent cases. We can do this by supporting the Army Benevolent Fund which in turn stands behind the less fortunate Corps and Regiments.

The size of today's peace-time Army is minute compared with the size to which it expanded in World War I and World War II. A large number of disabled and other cases needing aid derive from the periods of hostilities when the Army was at its peak in numbers. Now in peace-time the relatively few serving are endeavouring through their contributions to their Corps or Regimental Associations and to the Army Benevolent Fund to provide support for the very many who served in war as well as in peace.

For example the Middlesex Regiment prior to 1914 consisted of four Regular and four T.A. Battalions. In World War I it expanded to no less than forty-six battalions. In the inter-war period 1918-1939 it contracted to four battalions, followed by a further large expansion in World War II. Now with the heavy residue from two World Wars of cases requiring aid the Regiment is down to one Regular and one T.A. Battalion and its Regimental Association.

Other Regiments afford even more striking examples of wartime expansion and subsequent peace-time contraction, especially those based on the densely populated areas of the U.K. Furthermore, it was the densely populated centres of the North and in Wales which became the depressed areas in between the Wars and hence the Regimental Associations of Regiments recruited from these areas had to bear an even greater burden.

Why does the Army Benevolent Fund need more money?

The Fund was set up in 1945 with a capital of some £4½ million, the bulk of which came from the accumulated rebate from Service canteens at home and overseas during the war. This capital was invested soundly and with expert advice.

The initial policy for the disbursing of this money and the income therefrom envisaged a requirement for assistance continuing until 1970. Hence capital as well as income was used in making grants.

The peak annual grant by the Army Benevolent Fund was in 1948, and totalled £427,000. From 1955 to 1958 the average amount available for grants dropped to £300,000: in 1959 it dropped further to £245,000. Even

these reduced grants entailed drawing on capital which was now rapidly diminishing, despite reinvestment in equities to the maximum extent allowed.

At the end of 1958 it became apparent that there would be a definite requirement for assistance for a much longer period than was originally envisaged and that if the Fund was to fulfil its primary function of helping those who had served in the Second World War and their dependants who were in need of assistance, it would have to continue to exist until the beginning of the next century. It was therefore decided to conserve the Fund's capital and make grants from the annual income derived from it, together with whatever additional income could be raised from other sources, instead of letting it run down by 1970 as originally planned.

This change of policy, though enabling the Fund to continue for a much longer period and be placed on a permanent footing, meant that grants had to be reduced considerably and many well-deserving Charities no longer supported or at the best inadequately supported.

Something clearly had to be done. The burden of caring for the needs of our five million ex-soldiers was too great to be borne by the small peace-time Army alone.

As a consequence an appeal has gone out to the Nation as a whole and a permanent National appeal organisation has been set up to raise funds as a regular source of income. This is going well. Nevertheless a large moral obligation lies on the Army to produce funds on a permanent basis from its own resources. Hence the Adjutant General's appeal. The additional money which it is hoped to raise will be used:

FIRST, to increase the income of Corps and Regimental Benevolent Funds so as to bring the scale of their benevolent work more in line with that of the other two Services;

SECOND, to increase the Army's scale of support to the National Charitable organisations;

THIRD, to reinforce the General Fund at the Centre for the support of needy Corps and Regiments as well as assistance to all who are concerned with cases of major rehabilitation beyond their resources.

Personal Column

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Readers will wish to join "The Wire" in congratulating the following who received awards in the recent Birthday Honours:—

C.B. — Major-General F. J. Swainson

C.B.E. — Colonel G. S. H. Dicker (T.A.)
Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson

O.B.E. — Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Bardell
Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Tonry

M.B.E. — Captain J. E. H. Arnolt (T.A.)
Major (Q.G.O.) R. Birbahadur (Gurkha Signals)
W.O.II B. C. Folkard
Major H. A. Johnstone
Major A. Kerr (now retired)
Major D. A. Phillips (A.E.R.)
W.O.II E. M. C. Stock

B.E.M. — W.O.II L. Bambahadur (Gurkha Signals)
Sergeant J. F. Francis
Sergeant C. M. Smith

OPERATIONS IN BORNEO

Also to be congratulated are the following, whose awards came through as we went to press:

M.B.E. Lieutenant (T.O.T.) V. de Witt.

Mentioned-in-Despatches:

Major A. C. Bate
W.O.I (F. of S.) G. I. D. Gubler
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. Stather
Corporal Rapbahadur Pun (Gurkha Signals)

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. P. A. Dally to be Major, 9th February.
Capt. N. C. Grayson, B.A., to be Major, 7th May.
Lieutenant C. A. Brown to be Capt., 20th May.
Lieutenant C. H. D. Cross to be Capt., 22nd May.
Major T.O.T. W. Cornish, M.B.E., retires on retired pay, 14th May.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

Major (Tfc Offr) R. Lawrence relinquishes his comm., 7th June.

LIMITED SERVICE REGULAR COMMISSION

Lieutenant J. D. Potts to be Capt., 2nd June.

Movements—Officers. July.

Lieutenant M. J. M. Alden	...	To 11th Regiment
Major J. B. Atkinson	...	,, 226 Squadron
Lieutenant A. B. Atkinson	...	,, 19th Regiment
Lieutenant C. A. Brown	...	,, J.C.U. Borneo
Major D. A. T. Butcher	...	,, 2nd Regiment
Major D. R. Beadon	...	,, School of Signals
Captain (Q.M.) S. G. Barnes	...	,, 232 Squadron (Park)
Lieutenant (Tfc) D. A. Burge	...	,, 4th Regiment
Captain M. J. L. Bygrave	...	,, 28th Regiment
Major E. J. Buirski	...	,, 241 Squadron
Lieutenant A. H. Boyle	...	,, 249 Squadron
Major (T.O.T.) N. Brewin	...	,, MOD Signals 36 (b)
Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch	...	,, H.Q. London District (C.S.O.)
Captain A. J. Cornwell	...	,, Junior Leaders' Regiment
Lieutenant M. A. Cornforth	...	,, 208 Squadron (Comwel)
Captain R. Castle-Smith	...	,, 237 Squadron
Major H. McD. Chapman	...	,, 16th Regiment
Captain R. B. Carroll	...	,, 28th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) D. J. Chetwynd	...	,, 253 Squadron
Lieutenant R. E. S. Drew	...	,, 13th Regiment
Major McDeverill	...	,, P.R. Services, B.A.O.R.
Captain (Q.M.) W. G. Finch	...	,, 19th Regiment
Major N. G. Gallyer	...	,, H.Q. L.F. Hong Kong
Captain C. H. Glydon	...	,, 14th Regiment
Captain B. O. How	...	,, 213 Squadron
Major (Q.M.) W. F. G. Hoskings, M.B.E.		,, 608 Troop
Lieutenant A. J. Hervey	...	,, 249 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. G. Hencher, M.B.E.		,, Royal Signals Records
Major J. Handy	...	,, 8th Regiment
Captain M. J. Hales	...	,, 30th Regiment
Captain A. J. Hill	...	,, 607 Troop
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. E. Jenkins	...	,, 235 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Knowles, M.B.E.		,, A.R. & L.S. Norco
Lieutenant P. D. Jones	...	,, 17th (G) Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel A. Lamb, M.B.E.		,, CAFSO, NEAF
Captain R. J. Lettin	...	,, 644 Troop
Major J. M. N. Lyons	...	,, 249 Squadron
Major D. J. McIntyre	...	,, 30th Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. H. Nixson	...	,, 17th (G) Regiment
Lieutenant W. C. Nicoll		,, H.Q. R. Signals, Singapore
Major P. H. Palmer	...	,, 28th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Pounds	...	,, R.H.Q. (Recruiting Co-ord)
Captain T. A. Panther	...	,, 15th Regiment
Lieutenant J. M. Passmore	...	,, 208 (Comwel) Squadron
Major (T.O.T.) J. T. Rogers	...	,, 641 Troop
Lieutenant T. B. Scarff	...	,, 249 Squadron
Major A. V. Swindale	...	,, 17th (G) Regiment
Captain F. A. Stork	...	,, 18th Regiment
Lieutenant J. M. Scott	...	,, 19th Regiment
Lieutenant I. D. Scott	...	,, 7th Regiment
Lieutenant A. Tregoning	...	,, 19th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) G. A. Vincent	...	,, 224 Squadron
Captain M. G. H. Wise	...	,, 246 Squadron
Captain N. A. Walter	...	,, 259 Squadron
Captain L. A. Woods	...	,, 7th Regiment

AMENDMENT

MAY, 1965, PUBLICATION

Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. D. Maunsell To CAFSO, H.Q. Far East Air Force, Royal Air Force, Changi, c/o G.P.O., Singapore.

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Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s—July, 1965.

W.O.I (F. of S.) M. R. Edge	...	To 227 Squadron
W.O.I (F. of S.) J. E. Grigsby	...	,, 30th Regiment
W.O.I (F. of S.) D. W. Capon	...	,, 4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.I (Y. of S.) W. Weir	...	,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.II A. J. Hunt	...	,, 611 Troop
W.O.II H. H. Anderson	...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II A. A. Copestake	...	,, 222 Squadron
W.O.II L. M. G. Plumbridge	...	,, 7th Regiment
A/W.O.II E. Milne	...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II D. J. Freeman	...	,, 253 Squadron
W.O.II R. J. Wombwell	...	,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.II A. J. Bailey	...	,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II A. A. Hopewell	...	,, 9th Regiment
W.O.II H. W. Cage	...	,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II D. R. Handley	...	,, 21st Regiment
W.O.II C. W. Gurden	...	,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II M. F. B. Garland	...	,, Jun. Leaders Regt., Royal Signals
W.O.II J. Drummond	...	,, 46th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II (F. of S.) M. J. Waite	...	,, 229 Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. Walker	...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant F. W. Dickinson	...	,, 263 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Montgomery	...	,, 235 Squadron
Staff Sergeant P. J. Carney	...	,, 52nd Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant P. F. Simmonds	...	,, 15th Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. Tearse	...	,, 15th Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. Speight	...	,, 259 Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. Jones	...	,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. V. Douglas	...	,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) T. G. Hill	...	,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. J. L. Harries	...	,, Q.R.I.H. Signal Troop
Sergeant B. V. Harbord	...	,, 607 Troop
A/Sergeant A. C. Robertshaw	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant C. L. Smith	...	,, 607 Troop
Sergeant T. L. Brown	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. H. Wise	...	,, Joint Communication Unit
A/Sergeant C. Campbell	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant T. E. Canale	...	,, 4th Lt. Regt., R.A., Signal Troop
Sergeant J. R. Dykes	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Birkwood	...	,, School of Signals
A/Sergeant N. H. Morris	...	,, 222 Squadron
Sergeant R. Stevenson	...	,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant R. W. H. Jamieson	...	,, Royal Signals Records
Sergeant P. R. Hardman	...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant E. Ainsworth	...	,, H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals
Sergeant J. H. Shaw	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant P. R. Sellwood	...	,, Jun. Leaders Regt., Royal Signals
A/Sergeant A. I. Knight	...	,, 24th Regiment
A/Sergeant S. Hagger	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant R. H. Charles	...	,, 12th Inf. Bde. Gp. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant M. H. White	...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Haydon	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant H. W. Calvert	...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant J. F. Winter	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant M. Stoneham	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant D. I. Nuttall	...	,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant F. E. Coles	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant F. Gilbert	...	,, 222 Squadron
Sergeant G. H. Tickner	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant E. H. Johnson	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant A. J. Porritt	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant R. V. Doyle	...	,, 610 Troop
Sergeant P. Mannion	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant F. Nicholls	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant D. F. Potter	...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant A. Sharp	...	,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant P. A. Thornber	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant R. E. Newson	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant E. H. Le Quesne	...	,, 7th Regiment

Births

BARBER.—To Captain R. E. Barber (H.Q. Radio Group) and Mrs. E. U. Barber, at R.A.F. Hospital Wegberg, on 12th June, 1965, a daughter, Caroline Alyson.

WILSON-BROWN.—To Captain M. S. Wilson-Brown, of 15th Regiment, and Mrs. Wilson-Brown, a son, Nigel Hugh, at R.A.F. Hospital, Steamer Point, Aden, on 15th May, 1965.

KIRK.—To Corporal C. S. Kirk, of 15th Regiment, and Mrs. Kirk, a son, Mark Andrew, at R.A.F. Hospital, Steamer Point, Aden, on 26th May, 1965.

MACHEATH.—To Captain R. A. Macheath, of 15th Regiment, and Mrs. Macheath, a daughter, Tracey Anne, of R.A.F. Hospital, Steamer Point, Aden, on 14th April.

Deaths

BEDIE.—Corporal David Stewart Bedie, of 3rd Regiment, on the 8th June, at Strathcathro Hospital, Brechin, Angus, as a result of a road traffic accident.

LILEY.—Elisabeth, on 6th June, 1965, following an emergency operation after an unexpectedly severe illness. Wife of former W.O.I (R.S.M.) H. Liley.

SHAW.—Ex-Driver Robert Booth Shaw (No. 2307629) at the age of 78, on 14th June at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. He served in R.E. Signals from 1914 to 1920 and in Royal Signals from 1920 to 1939. He was a Life Member of the Association.

IRVING.—Ex-Signalman W. E. Irving, early in June. He served in Royal Signals from 1941 to 1946. He had been an Annual Member of the Association since 1945. Home address: 2, Frensham Court, Phipps Bridge Estate, Mitcham, Surrey.



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EXERCISE "PALM OIL I"–
A Canoeing Odyssey

By W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. W. Palmer, 13th Regiment

IN preparation for the French Army Canoe Championships, described by Major R. P. D. F. Painter on another page, ten canoeists from the Regiment, skippered by W.O.I Palmer, set out on Exercise "Palm Oil I" —a 10-day Adventure Training Project. From this party of ten, six would be selected to represent the Regiment in the Championships. The party went by canoe from Albertville in the French Alps by way of the Rivers Isere and Rhone to the Mediterranean coast at Marseilles.

Hard training, the development of techniques and peak fitness for the test ahead was the basic purpose of this exercise but well . . . there were other things too and W.O.I Palmer lightheartedly brings out the story of this enterprising expedition.

The winter months in Birgelen are very cold and depressing, and the only answer is to get away from it all. To do this without touching one's leave entitlement, or earning a career-frustrating confidential report, requires a great deal of long-term plotting and cunning guile. The nearest sun is in the South of France—the land of bikinis and film stars. Plotting commenced, and by mid-April the R.S.M.'s daily dose of "Bon Jours," sabots and garlicky breath had sown the idea in the mind of Major R. P. D. F. Painter, our Second-in-Command. Exercise "Palm Oil I" was born!

On Saturday, 24th April, 1965, twelve soldiers and five canoes left Birgelen for Albertville in the French Alps. We were to canoe down the Rivers Isere and Rhone to Avignon, cementing Anglo-French relationships on the way.

We were a self-contained group, complete with compo and "Breezy"—a lance-corporal of cooks and a member of the old school of A.C.C. graduates. Our progress south was slowed by mechanical faults on our 3-tonner, and the first night out was spent in an American barracks near Mannheim, where we were made very welcome and were impressed by the food, gallons of fresh milk and the inevitable ice-cream. The vehicle was repaired the following day, and we moved on. Sunday evening found us erecting "bivvies" near Quincey in France. We took a quick look at the night life and were taken aback to discover that in this particular part of France the entire population was male. Optimists to the end, we were firm in our beliefs that all the "femmes" had moved south, and decided that we would have to make an early start next morning to catch up with them. Fools that we were!



The Birgelen models for the 'Tailor and Cutter' exhibit fashions from our 1965 collection

The 'femmes' had moved south

Monday, 26th April, saw our departure for Albertville in heavy rain. We entered the mountains just after lunch, and arrived at the start line at 17.00 hours. Camp was set up in sleet and rain near the river—the snowline was not far above us—and we bemoaned our fate. We had been conned, there were no bikinis in the Alps! In a disused sand pit near our camp, we discovered a shrine to thirty-four members of the French Resistance who had been shot in June, 1944. As we progressed through this part of Franch, we were to see an abundance of these small monuments, each set up in the remote place where the people commemorated had died.

Ten cursing canoeists!

Our first day's canoeing was carried out in violent thunderstorms and hail. The bridges on the river were very dangerous, and on several occasions we swept through narrow openings amid heaps of trees and driftwood. By 17.30 hours we reached the village of Villard Bonnot and once again "bivvied" in heavy rain. We had had a hungry, wet day, and Lance-Corporal Breeze will live for ever in our memories for his stirling efforts during the two minutes his burner worked before bursting into flames! Both cook and cooker had outlived their usefulness, and we started cooking by crews. The mutterings were such that "Breezy" is to be congratulated on his outstanding heroism in not making a run for it! To add to our discomfort, the tents had been packed away in the vehicle while still wet, and had ceased to be rainproof. There were no takers when a visit to the village was suggested, and ten cursing canoeists crept into damp sleeping bags thankful that France and the world only had one "Breezy."

The following morning we postponed our departure until 10.00 hours in the hope that the rain would stop. We set off in a slight shower and by 10.10 hours were soaked to the skin by a sudden downfall. We went through Grenoble at midday, and dined inside some well situated sewage pipes. These were so wholesome and dry that Staff Walton found it difficult to drag himself away—he delayed our start a little when he had to go back to fetch his trousers! By 18.00 hours we had reached St. Gervais, the rain had stopped, and we spent the evening cleaning oil off the canoes and ourselves. It rained again during the night, but with the dawn we were able to see, at long last, just what a French sun looked like!—for those who have not seen one, it is a little larger than a British one, but easily recognisable! We pressed on down the river in glorious sunshine and, after several long portages on the hydro-electricity plants, reached a dam above Romans at 17.00 hours. Here the party became so engrossed in the antics of a young



On the Rhone in "Stalwart" — Lance Corporal Webb (left) and Corporal Gatiss



R.S.M. Palmer (rear of canoe) and Corporal Carrol seen here during their journey down the Rhone

French couple in a field that Signalman Parsons walked backwards over the edge of a fifteen-foot jetty! Needless to say his insinuations that he had done this to relieve his frustrations were met with deaf ears by the remainder of the party. That night we set up our tents in what transpired to be the local "lovers lane," and the photographer of our party (who shall remain nameless) spent the evening cursing his lack of forethought in not bringing his flash light.

We make a television film

We had arranged to meet a television cameraman and reporter at 12.00 hours on Friday, 30th April, at the junction with the River Rhone. In spite of a one mile portage we were only fifteen minutes late at our rendezvous. The afternoon was spent in shooting film for B.B.C. and I.T.V. television along the river between Pont d'Isere and Charme. Interviews for BFBS were recorded that evening in a café, and the relaxed atmosphere produced some exceptional material. In particular Corporal Gatiss of 3 Squadron excelled himself—his witticisms were broadcast on the radio in Germany, and some of his remarks were such that his canoeing partner for the trip is still finding it difficult not to lash out with a few well-placed extra Orderly Corporal duties!

Along the lengths of the upper Rhone several new hydro-electricity dams have been erected and, as we wished to stay on the river, we had to undertake several long portages around these and then tow the canoes in the shallow water beyond. This caused a slowing down of our progress, and we did not reach Le Pouzins until midday on Saturday.

On arrival four members of the party visited the little village of Mirmande, and met two ladies who during the war had hidden Major Painter's aunt until such times as she could be put into the safe hands of the Resistance. The old ladies were very pleased to see us, and wrote a note to take back to the Regiment.

On our return to the river, several photographs were taken by the Press for "local boy" stories—one of these "boys" was forty-one and another thirty-five years old, but Mr. Nutt the reporter didn't seem to mind. His task was made fairly easy because the R.S.M., Corporal Carroll, and Signalman Parsons were all Plymouth men. Phillips and Hankins had been plucked off the trees in the Forest of Dean and, with the exception of Lance-Corporal Webb, the remainder came from the north. Lance-Corporal Holwell slipped in as a member of the Plymouth party because he is to be married soon to one of our local girls.

The R.S.M. did not like the look of him . . .

We set off again at 15.00 hours and planned to make some more film, but we did not see the cameraman for a further 20 hours. While moving down the river we had seen several fishermen who were catching small silver fish and throwing back large brown ones that were about two feet long—to keep these was worth a five hundred franc fine in the local courts. On rounding a sharp bend we saw a crazy looking character surrounded by large fish. The R.S.M. did not like the look of him and gave him a wide berth, but Staff Walton and Signalman Phillips did not see the danger and collected a large sack of fish each. These were showered down from the bank loose, landing in the canoe, and the water revived a lot of them. Their large teeth combined with the thought of a two thousand pound fine caused havoc for two or three minutes. We arrived at Montelimar as it was getting dark. The vehicle had not arrived, and the driver joined "Breezy" on our assassination list! Our "administrative staff" finally rolled up at 22.30 hours, chewing nougat!

Anglo-French relations are strengthened

On Sunday, 2nd May, we made an early start and met Mr. Nutt at 10.30 hours near Viviers. About three hours were spent shooting more film, and as it was a very hot day we decided to take some time off to reorganise the loading of the vehicle. During the evening we visited the village of Viviers, where very strong Anglo-French ties were made. On our return to camp almost everyone had been given a small fluffy toy by the local children, and the R.S.M. had collected the oldest and filthiest French labourer's hat imaginable—he has been wearing it ever since! The people in this village had been wonderful, and we all vowed to return there some day.

Reveille on Monday, 3rd May, was at 06.00 hours and, although it took two hours to prepare to move off, a very rapid and dangerous ninety kilometres to Avignon was covered in seven hours, the hottest part of the afternoon being spent waiting for the truck near Roquemaure. It did not arrive and at 16.00 hours we moved off for the last lap of the journey. We passed under the famous "Pont" at Avignon at 17.00 hours, beached our canoes outside the walled town, and commenced a six-hour wait for the vehicle. We were "pleased" to see them when they arrived, and took great pains in our efforts to let them know this. Their instructions had been to go to every bridge on the river (there were four on this stretch) and look for us. This they had done with great diligence, but 30 miles back the two observant gentlemen had failed to spot five canoes on an otherwise empty river. The following day the driver looked after the camp while we visited Avignon. This visit was essential because Corporal Gatiss had lost his shoes a few days previously and had been forced to wear a pair of "do it yourself" moccasins owned by Signalman Phillips. These shoes were size 10 and, as Gatiss had size five feet, their casual look clashed somewhat violently with the otherwise immaculate turnout of our Regimental Poison Dwarf!

'La topless'—a disappointment!

After a quick look around Avignon we proceeded to Marseille to see the bikinis. The sun was very hot and there were dozens about. We spent our day looking for "La Topless," but without success, and that night moved out to Cannat, where we did not bother to put up our "bivvies," but slept around the truck.

On 5th and 6th May we drove back to camp at Birgelen, arriving without incident, but well burnt by the sun and with plenty of yarns to tell.

So ended Exercise "Palm Oil I," but for some this had been merely the opening round, for six of us left during the next week to return to France for the French Army Canoe Championships 1965 at Chalons-sur-Barne. The few days in between were spent servicing the canoes and flexing the muscles for the trials ahead. But that's another story . . . . (*See page* 230).

Promotions

(April and May)

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.II	22538883	A/W.O.II	Mortell, J. P.	3160	1100	
	2549726	S Sgt.	Maskell, A. E.	3170	410	
	22953025	S Sgt.	Dickinson, F. W.	3180	1770	
To S Sgt.	22562186	Sgt.	Burnham, L.	3370	1110	(Fd)
	22537134	Sgt.	Richardson, C. H.	3410	2330	(Fd)
	22774748	Sgt.	Speight, C.	3450	10180	(Op)
	23097793	Sgt.	Todd, P. W.	3470	5990	(Op)
	22537997	Sgt.	Cooper, E.	3480	5920	(Op)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	19175119	W.O.II	West, K. J.	950	1090	
To W.O.II	2549755	S Sgt.	Gilyeat, J. M.	1330	1470	
	2549750	S Sgt.	Shakeshaft, G. E.	1700	1940	
	2549468	S Sgt.	Butler, M.	1710	2110	
	2549567	S Sgt.	Short, E. M.	1720	2200	

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To S Sgt.	22515878	Sgt.	Kelly, V. G.	1200	8790	(Op)
	22296564	Sgt.	Newell, D. A.	1210	9380	(Op)

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23578203	Cpl.	Cribben, L. P.	5008	11295
	2549568	Cpl.	Savins, J. E.	5075	860
	22731139	Cpl.	Andlaw, E. W.	5085	6400
	23703387	Cpl.	Gallagher, J. R.	5086	8859
	23473391	Cpl.	Pilkington, A. K.	5108	9250
	23491776	Cpl.	Lowe, M. J.	5110	8115
	23487261	Cpl.	Rotherham, D. G.	5130	8020
	23674943	Cpl.	Norris, A.	5050	8340
	22983281	Cpl.	Jackman, D. W.	5070	9040

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	22150264	Cpl.	Sullivan, J.	12000	3590
	23201445	Cpl.	Longmore, C. J.	12246	13700
	22265808	A/Sgt.	Watkinson, J. C.	12250	9220
	22522112	Cpl.	Richardson, K.	12260	10030
	22967527	Cpl.	Hill, W.	12270	11310
	22534368	A/Sgt.	Haston, A. M.	12280	14050
	22569039	Cpl.	James-Bailey, D. G.	12300	15660
	23491030	Cpl.	Cheyne, D. E.	12320	16440
	23392047	Cpl.	Lawless, J. R.	12330	17120
	22307754	A/Sgt.	Purnell, K. C.	12340	18130
	23590324	Cpl.	Wheeler, F. C.	12350	21670
	23545955	A/Sgt.	Daniel, P. J.	12360	22060
	23684309	A/Sgt.	Dimmock, B. D.	12370	23420
	23212617	Cpl.	Parkinson, H.	12380	23650
	23518848	Cpl.	Widdowson, G.	12390	24420
	23237937	Cpl.	Strickland, J. A.	12400	24610
	23485085	A/Sgt.	Rayner, V. W.	12410	24760
	23785370	Cpl.	Farish, P.	12420	24760

INSERTIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To S Sgt.	2548999	W.O.II	Rodriguez, R. D.	184	1180 (R.D. W.O.II)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	2549484	W.O.I	O'Toole, T. C.	166	420	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	22158977	W.O.I	Wallis, D. K.	260	460	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	22248984	W.O.I	Cooper, F.	330	470	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
To W.O.II	22314875	W.O.II	Pilkington, J. S. P.	414	990	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	2549543	W.O.II	Esson, J. A.	680	1230	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	22537166	W.O.II	Heasman, G.	810	1340	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	22959318	W.O.II	Durrant, P.	860	1380	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	22449808	W.O.II	Reid, I. A.	950	1440	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	22466247	W.O.II	Brice, S. A.	954	2840	(Regt. Duty)
	2296166	W.O.II	Palmer, K.	980	1470	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	22797672	W.O.II	Loats, R. P.	1100	1510	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
To S Sgt.	22773387	S Sgt.	Waumsley, L. T.	1190	3430	(Regt. Duty)

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	22515160		Gardiner, R.	12430

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.II	10	720	1510			
S Sgt.	1160					

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	640	650	680			

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.I	260					

TECHNICAL ROSTER

Sgt.	2822	3010	3658	3863	4032	4875

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	1100	6550	6620	7230	9740	

The Late Captain F. Enright, Royal Signals, T.A.

The following has been received from Officer Commanding 2 Squadron, Captain B. T. Grogan, T.A., 41st Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A. Centre, Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey.

"Enclosed is a cheque value £4 4s. 0d. sent as a donation to the Association's Welfare Funds from all members of this Squadron as a tribute to the memory of a late member of the Squadron, Captain F. Enright, Royal Signals T.A., who passed away after a short illness on 2nd June, 1965, at the St. George's Hospital, London.

"Prior to the 1939-45 War, Frank was a Regular member of the Corps and an efficient OWL. He will no doubt be remembered by his contemporaries. As a Corporal he once found himself C.R. Signals of a station in the West Indies almost alone and quite contented.

"In the late war he was serving with the Long Range Desert Group and had many a fiery tale to tell, not always connected with signalling. Before it was over, he spent many a weary month in the mountains of Greece during the uprisings there; but he was always reticent about details of the job in hand.

"Joining T.A. after the war, he was a founder member of the Signal Squadron which became the basis of today's 2 Squadron of this Regiment. Later he became a PSO in 61st Army Signal Regiment T.A. (Bedford); No. 1 Squadron 55 (M) Signal Regiment T.A. and No. 1 Independent UKLF Signal Squadron T.A., Hackbridge, and then went to the Middlesex Yeomanry for a spell.

"In 1962 he rejoined this Squadron as Administrative Officer and transferred to T.A.R.O. in 1964. It was largely Frank who ensured that a fairly regular cheque was sent to Association H.Q. from this Squadron in its past roles, for he rarely sat at the pay parade without the ubiquitous Collecting Box.

"We can think of no better way to pay tribute to his memory than to enclose his final contribution to the Welfare Fund of the Royal Signals Association."

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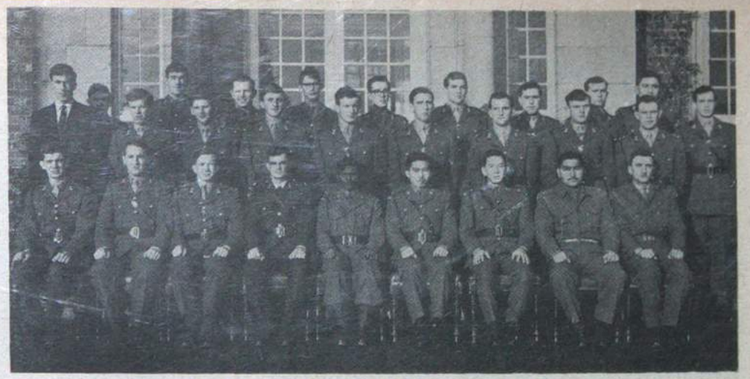
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No. 57 Officer Qualifying Course

By

2/Lieutenant H. G. S. Thomas



No. 57 ROYAL SIGNALS QUALIFYING COURSE

Back Row (Left to Right): Second Lieutenants W. I. Buxton, M. J. Cartwright, S. Cowan, P. A. Crane, M. J. C. Galloway, W. J. Hodson, Lieutenant J. A. Hood, Second Lieutenants A. J. Hutt, P. A. Lenthall, M. L. Martin.

Centre Row (Left to Right): Second Lieutenants C. D. Melhuish, T. W. Robinson, B. H. Rowe, T. N. Singleton, R. J. H. Swainson H. G. S. Thomas, L. R. J. Tilson, M. J. Vest, Lieutenant D. J. Walden.

Front Row (Left to Right): Second Lieutenants P. J. Whitehead, C. J. Witt, T. A. Woodhouse, J. Machutchin, T. Mathews, Zaki Mahmood, L. Terh, Abdul Karim Ali, Badir Mohammed Jaryan

A Very Pleasant Mess

On 23rd January, 1965, 29 young officers arrived at the School of Signals for the start of 57 Q Course. The breakdown of the course revealed ten newly-commissioned officers from the Royal Military Academy, thirteen subalterns who had varying post-Mons regimental experience, three from the Federation of Malaysia Signals, and one each from Iraq, Ghana and Southern Rhodesia.

We slowly settled down to life in the very pleasant mess. During January we had twice-weekly physical training periods on the extra mural programme, and the reason for this soon became apparent when one Saturday morning we were sent off in small groups to attempt a fell-walking feat of some seventeen miles in three and a half hours. The weather, strangely enough, was with us, and the course was completed with less physical exertion than had been anticipated, as was the assault course, kindly provided by 8th Regiment, on which we were asked to complete the morning's entertainment.

No Lack of Sport

The weather at Catterick seems to follow a snow cycle, broken by the occasional period with nothing worse than the odd shower. However, most members of the course have, at one time or another, braved the elements by playing sport on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. The rugby team, ably led by Captain Sprackling, has had Walden, Vest, Cowan and Singleton playing regularly, and Cartwright, Buxton, Thomas and Swainson on occasions. Thomas and Zaki have played regularly in the hockey "A" side, and for Catterick Services, while Martin, Woodhouse, Tilson, Hodson, Witt and Mathews have all at some time or other played for the "B" side. Cowan has also played soccer for the School. Hood and Woodhouse were given the opportunity for a "conscience-free" week-end in London when they were selected to swim for the Army at backstroke and butterfly respectively.

High in the sporting achievements of 57 Q must come Martin's very good performance in winning the School cross-country title and coming ninth in the Northern Command Cross-Country Championships. On the times when the weather did beat us, the squash courts were very popular.

Platoon Commanders on Exercises

During our stay at the School we did two exercises with 8th Regiment. The first one, "Geordie Jimmy," took the form of a civil defence tutorial, in which the soldiers were taught first aid and fire-fighting. The second exercise, "March Hare," was more ambitious. Some 200 Territorial Army Paratroopers were synthetically dropped on to Fylingdales Moor early on a Saturday morning. There had been heavy falls of snow, and their task of evading capture for some thirty hours was not an easy one. 57 Q provided the platoon commanders for 24th and 8th Regiments, which were deployed over a large area of snowy waste. Although many prisoners were taken, one of the course was overheard to say that he had caught more degrees of frost (28°) than paratroopers.

On the academic side, the secrets of radio, and later, of simple systems—I use the last phrase loosely—were unveiled to us. Unfortunately, although we all attended the same lectures, some members of the course found themselves more equal to the task of inwardly digesting the facts than others (with apologies to George Orwell).

Now we are on our way

Now, with the course behind us, we are all on our way to units to put into practice all we have been taught, which should cause a few smiles amongst the instructors. Our thanks go to our Officer Commanding, Major Polley, for keeping the course interesting by giving us the odd thing to do now and then, and to the instructors for passing on their wealth of knowledge to us.

After leaving Catterick, the Commonwealth students are returning home, whilst the British students are being posted, as follows:

U.K.—Second-Lieutenant A. J. Hutt to 3 Headquarters and Signal Regiment; Second-Lieutenant M. L. Martin to 205 Squadron; Second-Lieutenants R. J. H. Swainson and T. A. Woodhouse to 216 Squadron.

B.A.O.R.—Second-Lieutenants M. J. Vest and C. D. Melhuish to 1st Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment; Second-Lieutenant M. J. Cartwright to 2nd Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment; Second-Lieutenants W. Buxton and M. J. C. Galloway to 4th Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment; Second-Lieutenants H. G. S. Thomas, J. F. Budd and P. A. Lenthall to 7th Regiment; Second-Lieutenant T. N. Singleton to 6th Infantry Brigade Group Headquarters and Signal Squadron; Lieutenant D. J. Walden to 11th Infantry Brigade Group Headquarters and Signal Squadron; Second-Lieutenant P. J. Whitehead to 244 Squadron.

FARELF.—Second-Lieutenant S. Cowan to 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment. Short Service Officers are returning to their units.

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CALOR GAS AGENTS

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Exercise "Quicksilver XIII"

The day of the exercise dawned at last, and after weeks of increasing activity, at nine o'clock on the morning of 31st May, the Signal Officer-in-Chief launched "Quicksilver XIII" into its four-day orbit with an inspiring speech to the seventy or so Royal Signals Officers assembled in North Hall, Catterick.

Exercise "Quicksilver," as anyone who has served in the School will know, is a biennial event which usually takes the form of a study period under the personal direction of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. This year was no exception, and the aim of the exercise was to study the provision of communications for counter-insurgency and limited war operations in the mid-1970s, in the light of future trends in communication equipment developments and techniques. The setting chosen for these studies was the Far East. The exercise was attended throughout by senior signals officers, including many C.S.O.s and senior officers of the Defence Signal Staff and the Ministry of Defence.

A sense of realism maintained

Officers from the Middle East and Far East theatres were also present, and this ensured that in discussions, both in syndicate rooms and open forum, a sense of realism was maintained, and full benefit could be derived from their recent operational experiences. For the first two days of the exercise, the communication problems arising from an imaginary, but not improbable, situation in 1974 in the Far East, were considered by Royal Signals Officers and their colleagues from the Ministry of Aviation. Their conclusions were then presented, on the third day, to an audience of Senior Staff Officers from the Ministry of Defence and U.K. Commands and Establishments.

Distinguished Officers attend

On this occasion the audience included such distinguished officers as Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Musson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command; Rear-Admiral E. B. Ashmore, D.S.C., R.N., Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals); Major-General M. A. H. Butler, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Major-General F. C. Barton, C.B.E., of the Joint Warfare Staff and Joint Warfare Establishment respectively; Major-General R. M. P. Carver, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Director of Army Staff Duties; Major-General R. G. U. Fitzgeorge-Balfour, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Director of Military Operations (Army); Mr. E. C. Cornford, Chief Scientist (Army); Mr. R. J. Lees, Director, S.R.D.E.; Rear-Admiral W. J. Parker, O.B.E., D.S.C., R.N., Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Operational Requirements); Major-General W. D. M. Raeburn, D.S.O., M.B.E., Director of Combat Development (Army); Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., G.O.C., Yorkshire District, and Major-General P. G. F. Young, C.B.E., Director of Infantry.

Discussion lively, frank and extremely valuable

With such a distinguished and critical audience, discussion on the "Staff" Day was lively, frank and extremely valuable, and as the day's work came to an end, it was apparent that, as far as the Army's future communications were concerned, both staff and signals were thinking on the right lines, and were in general agreement as to the requirements.

The final day of "Quicksilver XIII" was a climax indeed, for the Deputy Secretary of State for Defence, the Right Honourable Fred Mulley, M.P., accompanied by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, Mr. G. W. Reynolds, M.P., and the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant-General Sir John Hackett, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., flew in from London on what, owing to pressure of Parliamentary business, was to be a very brief visit. However, this was a great occasion for the School, and although Mr. Mulley was not able to stay as long as we had hoped, he was shown a brief display of current equipment and a presentation of the highlights of "Quicksilver." Before he left, he had time to say a few words of thanks and encouragement to those who had survived the previous three days of concentrated study .

Automatic Data Processing Demonstrations

This account of "Quicksilver XIII" would not be complete without mention of the equipment and automatic data processing demonstrations. Both made extensive use of closed circuit television, and thus brought an air of sophistication into the study of warfare in primitive jungle countries. The trends in the development of signal equipment and communication techniques were amply demonstrated, and it was even possible to visualise an application of computers and electronic switching to the comparative simplicity of jungle operations against guerillas.

It will be interesting indeed, in ten year's time to look back on "Quicksilver XIII" and see how far our predictions have been fulfilled. If our thinking has been right and our conclusions correct, at least we will have the right equipment for the job on hand, and that is certainly something worth waiting and working for. It is to be hoped that "Quicksilver XIII" has confirmed the necessity for staff and signals to get together at regular intervals and at a sufficiently high level to discuss their future problems of command and control, and that succeeding exercises bearing this name will see more and more senior Army staff officers, together with those of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force coming to the School to participate in them.



The Deputy Chief of the General Staff with Commandant School of Signals



The Deputy Secretary-of-State for Defence, the Signal Officer in Chief and Commandant School of Signals



Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., taking the Salute at the Graduation Parade



General Rawson presents the Champion Squadron Trophy to A/T S.S.M. C. A. Arundel of Penney Squadron

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

Graduation—Spring term

HARROGATE

Spring Term was concluded on 13th April with the Graduation Parade. On this occasion the School was very fortunate in having as Reviewing Officer, a former Director of Signals, Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., whose name is proudly carried by one of our Squadrons. There were 850 apprentices on parade, of whom 62 were Graduating and have since joined their Units.

As always on these occasions the School welcomes the many visitors and families, particularly those who had travelled very long distances to see their favourite Apprentices.

Following the parade the Reviewing Officer presented the prizes and trophies of the School and addressed the assembled apprentices, parents and staff. Judging by the thunderous applause, his well chosen words were very highly appreciated. Later in the day he visited the Trade and Hobbies Exhibition, speaking to many of the apprentices and staff. The major prize winners of the Spring Term were:—

Army Commander's Prize—A/T R.S.M. J. M. Kirkman.
Commandant's Prize—A/T S.S.M. R. F. Morris.
Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award—A/T C. C. Ejiofor.
Colonel Commandant's Award—A/T R.S.M. J. M. Kirkman.

Canoeists do well!—13th Regiment take note



A/T Lance Corporal C. W. Cook and A/T S. E. Sherman

Perhaps the most active members of the School generally—certainly during the Easter recess—are the School Canoeists. Much about them has been written before and we hope will continue to be so. Seven crews were entered for the Devizes-Westminster Race held during the Easter Weekend, and although the official results have yet to be published we are able to give some account of our team's progress. Bad luck caught two of the crews early on in the race when they had to retire from injuries. A third canoe had the misfortune to be badly holed, but limped on and to the great credit of its crew finished the course. The remaining four crews were all well placed and the final result will be close. Strongest opposition came from the team of the Metropolitan Police College, Hendon, who it appears may have beaten our team for first place by only one point! It is interesting to note that their most enthusiastic supporter was their Commandant, Colonel Croft, an ex-commandant of this School!

A/T Lance-Corporal C. W. Cook and A/T S. E. Sherman put up a very good performance to win the 10,000 metres race in a match at Reading on 25th May against the other Apprentices' Schools. This event is part of the Quadrangular Games with trophies hotly contested for by each of the four schools. Other Quadrangular canoeing results were:—

3,000 metres—1st, A/T Sergeant M. J. Davis and A/T R. G. Wood.
3,000 metres (Single)—2nd, A/T Corporal P. R. Child.
Relay race—1st, A.S.S. Harrogate.
Overall results—1st, A.A.S. Harrogate; 2nd, A.A.S. Arborfield; 3rd, A.A.S. Carlisle.

In the Army Sprint and Long Distance Championships held at Pangbourne from 28th-30th May our crews again did well in the face of greatly improved opposition. We didn't sweep the board this year but the following results carry some honour.

In the Junior Section A/T Lance-Corporal C. W. Cook and A/T S. E. Sherman repeated their win in the K2 10,000 metres, and also won the 1,000 metres event. They came 2nd in the Class 7, 1,000 metres event.

In the Senior Section A/T Pawlow came 2nd in both the Class 3, 5,000 metres and 1,000 metres events.

The Club is shortly to lose Sergeant Edward "Dinger" Bell of the Corps. A member of the Permanent Staff he has always played an active part in organising and training the School teams. Sergeant Bell is a huge sixteen stones, at 6 feet 4 inches. He has his own fleet of two canoes with special Bell-sized cockpits. Having recently qualified as a British Canoe Union Instructor he will be a great loss to the School on posting to 13th Regiment (*but a gain to this keen canoeing Regiment.—Editor*).

A final note on canoeing from two ex-apprentices, Hall and Barber now serving with 2nd Regiment. We hear that they came 5th in the French Army Canoe Race held at Chalons-sur-Marne on 15th/16th May. Congratulations on some excellent canoeing.



The Canoe Team at Marlow
Competitors in the Devizes-Westminster Canoe Race

Well, after all that, no wonder we are often referred to as the Army School of Canoeing, but other sporting results will show more of our many talents.

The Small Bore team has a good season

Outdoor activities usually are far more eye-catching but a note on one of the many indoor events which has plodded quietly on all Spring. The School Small Bore Club won all its matches in the Northern Command Small Bore League and came 4th in the NSRA Regular Army Small Bore Rifle Match. A fine record. Three Apprentices, A/T Donaldson, Sherlock and Drew, were selected for the Army 40 in the Inter-Services Small Bore Match. Their aggregate score a staggering 596 out of a possible 600.

Athletics season gets off to a good start

Having lost some very good athletes since last season much time has been spent this year on some young and very promising new material. The early part of the season has been crammed full with matches designed to develop our talent, with some very encouraging results.

12th May	v.	St. John's College, York (away)—won.
15th May	v.	Roundhay Grammar School (away)—won Juniors, lost Youths.
19th May	v.	York University (home)—won.
25th May	v.	Leeds Grammar School (home)—lost Juniors, lost Youths.

Two of our most promising apprentices established some very good times during these meetings:—

A/T J. G. Turvey with a time of 2 min. 5 sec. for 880 yards.
A/T P. A. Devitt with a time of 10.3 sec. for 100 yards.

Both of these apprentices who are under seventeen years old should have a good athletics future ahead of them. It is generally difficult for the School to find such youths, as few apprentices are able to qualify under the age bar which is now under seventeen as at 1st September.

The School Bands are kept busy

Summer Term opened with the Junior Music Festival. A competition in which the bands of the Army Apprentices Schools are tested on their home grounds. The 1965 results for the School were:—

Pipe Band—1st, Army Apprentices, Harrogate.
Brass Band—1st, Army Apprentices, Harrogate.
Class I Individual Piping—1st, A/T Corporal Thomas, Army Apprentices, Harrogate.

Competitions aside, the bands ploughed in to a full programme, some engagements completed, some shortly to take place, highlights of which being:—

29th May	Yorkshire Association of Boys' Clubs Massed Bands Beat Retreat on York Racecourse.
30th May	Harrogate Civic Sunday.
12th June	Beating Retreat at Catterick.
24-27th June	Royal Signals 'At Home,' Catterick.

Cyclists too!

In a 15-mile Road Time Trial held at Rhyl on 30th May, A/T M. W. Shaw was outright winner in a field of 64. First home was A/T Lance-Corporal C. J. McNeilly who had to accept a lower place after handicaps had been considered. The School team did well being placed 2nd out of eleven teams competing. We congratulate A/T Corporal M. J. Crittenden who was selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services 50-mile race at Portsmouth.

Mountain Rescue Team gets official recognition

Our Mountain Rescue Team was started some time ago by Mr. Pat Shilton of the Civilian Staff, and has long been a going concern. It has in fact many rescues to its credit notably in the Isle of Skye. Just recently the team received official recognition from the Mountain Rescue Committee of Great Britain. Now on standby they can be called out at any time. Pat Shilton is aided in these events by Major Ken Sedgwick, R.A.E.C., who has recently assisted in the training. Always active the team spends most weekends perfecting stretcher lowering techniques somewhere on the North Yorkshire moors.

1st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 32

Farewell to Colonel and Mrs. Page



Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Page bidding members of the Sergeants' Mess farewell after dinner on May 15th, 1965

During May the Regiment said farewell to its Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Page, M.B.E., and his wife, Betty. The official farewell was spread over six days and started with a wining and dining in the Sergeants' Mess on the 15th May. This was indeed an occasion and attention to detail had been spread over the preceding weeks, with the R.S.M. (W.O.I Adams) tactfully discovering Colonel Charles saying farewell to the members of the Sergeants' Mess after dinner and all members singing "Auld Lang Syne" as the Colonel finally left the Mess.

On the 19th May Colonel Charles was "dined out" in the Officers' Mess and on this occasion the Divisional Commander, Major-General the Honourable M. F. Fitzalan Howard, C.B.E., M.C., passed some very complimentary remarks in his inimitable fashion.

. . . presentation of a 'fine silver trumpet' to the Regiment

And so to the 20th May the Colonel's last day in the Regiment. After an inspection of a Quarter Guard, commanded by Sergeant Turner, Colonel Page then presented his trophy to the winning Troop, in the Page Trophy Winter Competition. Again honours went to "A" Troop (well done!). In saying goodble to the Regiment, Colonel Page then presented the Regiment with a very fine silver trumpet; in order to make our Quarter Guards even more splendid in future. The Regiment then had a final glass of beer "on" the Colonel. At this stage Lance-Corporal Cartwright proposed a toast to the Colonel and afterwards called for three cheers. The Colonel drove from the Barracks through cheering lines of officers, N.C.O.s and soldiers. Then came the final farewell when Colonel Charles and Betty were guests of the Regimental Officers and their ladies to luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

A "simple" thank you!

May we say a simple thank you, Colonel Charles and Betty, for all your good work in the Regiment; congratulations Colonel Charles on your appointment as C.C. Royal Signals 1 (B.R.) Corps in February, 1966, and all possible good fortune to you both in the future.

Also, may we take this opportunity to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Borthwick, our new Commanding Officer, with the sincere wish that his tour with the Regiment will be a rewarding and happy one.

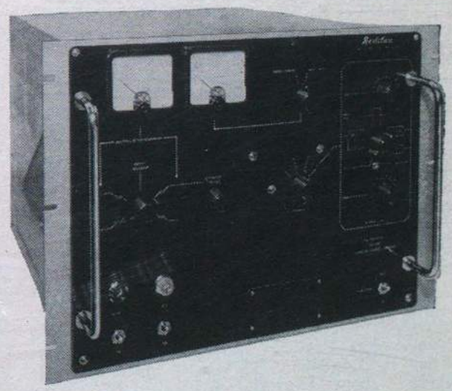


The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel C. E. Page, M.B.E., being cheered by the Regiment upon leaving Caithness Barracks, Verden on 20 May, 1965



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S.O-in-C. VISITS 3rd REGIMENT



Before inspecting the Representative Parade of 19 of our Cap Badges. Talking to W.O. II (R.Q.M.S.) G. McAuley, Gordon Highlanders



Afternoon Tea at the Wives Club—with Mrs. Baxter and Mrs. McAuley

THOSE still serving with the Regiment will recall how we considered that we had broken all records last September with the visits of one Lieutenant-General, two Major-Generals, two Brigadiers and a Bishop—all in one month.

Such a record has, however, been broken, but it is ourselves that have broken it. For during the period mid-April to mid-May, we entertained no less than seventy-five visitors, and managed to squeeze in Easter and a major Joint Force Headquarters exercise as well!

It all started on the day before Easter, when in traditional form, the Quarter Guard waited outside the Guard Room—rifles poised at the shoulder, and Signalman King struggling hard to keep the mouthpiece of his trumpet warm. At the appointed hour, but from the wrong direction, our visitor arrived, accompanied by Colonel J. W. Eagle, C.S.O. 3rd Division. With a General Salute, the Regiment officially welcomed Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., the Signal Officer-in-Chief. After coffee with the officers, the S.O.-in-C. started his tour of inspection which took him to all parts of the barracks to meet representatives from all walks of the Regiment. After a quick word with the bearers of nineteen different cap badges formed up under command of the R.Q.M.S. (Accn) W.O.II McAuley, Gordon Highlanders, the General was briefed on the "State of the Union" inside the 'Whistler Room.'



In the Sergeants' Mess

S.O.-in-C. succumbs to . . . iced lager!

Next followed an inspection of troop displays on the parade ground, and a quick look into the soldiers' dining room and kitchen. By this time the iced lager in the Sergeants' Mess had proved too big a temptation, and the S.O.-in-C. was forced to succumb with a glass in his hand. There—to meet several old acquaintances and many new.

The lager as an appetizer, was followed by luncheon with the officers of the Regiment in Beacon Mess. At 2.15 the Signal Officer-in-Chief started his afternoon's programme. This time down to the bones of the Regiment with a look at the Air Support Operations Centre in the Swainson Room, and to see Brigade Air Head Troop putting the final touches to their Air Portable packing for a journey to Northern Ireland on Easter Monday. After his inspection of the Transmitter Site and "M" Troop Workshops, the General was completely swept off his feet by the Wives' Club who entertained him to Afternoon Tea at Arras House.

Was this an act of . . . ?

And so, to return to Carter Barracks, and with ex-Royal Signals Staff Sergeant Burman now in the Army Air Corps, as his pilot, the Signal Officer-in-Chief left us for his own Easter Holiday.



In good hands—with Pilot Staff Sergeant Burman A.A.C. (ex Royal Signals)

On returning from Easter, the Regiment split to all parts of Great Britain, but the larger part to Greenham Common, near Newbury, for a Joint Force Headquarters exercise known, ironically enough as "Easter Lightning." The R.A.F. meteorological experts were all civilians, and their dress and the presence of their private cars on a military exercise were enough to make any R.S.M. turn to thunder—but was it really an act of God which caused the R.S.M.'s Hastings to be struck by lightning over the Irish Sea—or was it just the name given to the exercise? The mystery will go unsolved, but considering he was the only passenger in the Hastings, it looks pretty suspicious.

Communications on the exercise? What need be said really, when they were always "in" and there were no complaints?

But back to our visitors! Total 75, you remember, and up to now we have only mentioned one. Well, that's easily put right, because the other 74 all came on the same day, when, on 15th-16th May we entertained the members of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club to Bulford. (*See a full account on page* 246).

In all, it was a fine week-end, and we can only hope that they enjoyed being here as much as we enjoyed having them.

2 Squadron have been having a busy time of it lately. They provided the lines for the Army Horse Trials on the Army Free-Fall Championships, but these were simple, compared with the S.R D.E. Demonstration which took place at Christchurch. The J.F.H.Q. Comcen was set up, complete with radio relay circuit to Swanage. Everybody had an interesting week. Visitors were very interested and some of the questions asked were very searching.

"Ten Tors" takes place in early June and a number of 2 Squadron have been training hard.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

"H.Q." Squadron are obviously more geared up to this sort of thing so that most of the article that follows is by Signalman J. G. Brunnen, who arrived in R.H.Q. on the first of the month.

Fine views of the River Weser

The Regimental diary has continued to be full during May. The month opened with everyone in high spirits as a result of the success of its various sports teams reported in the last issue. Even the 24 hours of heavy rain that fell on the linemen of 2 Squadron at the start of Exercise "Side Drum," while the rest of the Regiment were still snug in barracks, failed to reduce morale very much. The weather for the remainder of the exercise was much better and everyone was able to enjoy a little sunshine in the attractive area known as the Weserbergland just north of Höxter. The second location of 1 Squadron was especially pleasant as it commanded fine views of the river Weser.

Over 200 took part

Straight after the exercise preparations began in earnest for the major event of the year—the one-day visit of H.M. The Queen, to her troops in B.A.O.R. during her state visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. Over 200 officers and soldiers from the Regiment took part in the vast dismounted parade in the Bad Lippspringe Sports arena. Many others, together with wives and children, were able to watch the parade and get a good view of the Queen as she reviewed the 7,000 troops drawn up on parade.

Regimental Dance

By way of relaxation after the weeks of preparation for the parade an all ranks' dance was held in the lines on 28th May. This was unanimously acclaimed a success as the accompanying photograph tends to show. Thanks are due to all who helped make it go with a swing, especially to Captain Allen who, as befits a future Staff Officer, planned the whole affair as a military operation and also to that well-known double act, Angell and Meekings, who compered the proceedings. Newly arrived Lieutenant Ronnie Sampson should also be congratulated for getting himself very nicely out of one or two embarrassing scrapes.

Sport has not been entirely forgotten in May. Corporal Black and Lance-Corporal Venus ran for B.A.O.R. in a triangular match at Verden towards the end of the month in which B.A.O.R. beat a Bunderswehr team and a civilian athletics' club from Verden. Lance-Corporal Venus did very well indeed to win the 5,000 metres by more than a lap.



A "Stag Party" at 7th Signal Regiment All Ranks Dance

From Left to Right, Rear: Lance Corporal Smith, Lance Corporal Niesh, R.S.M. Sergeant Black, Captain Giller, Signalman Hooper

Front: Signalman Trenchard, Signalman Donovan, Lance Corporal Craft, Signalman Addison, Lance Corporal Jones

We said farewell to Sgt. Houghton, leaving the Service after 22 years.

Marriages.—Congratulations to the following: Lance-Corporal O'Hare, Lance-Corporal Angus, Lance-Corporal Carle, Lance-Corporal Ellis.

Births.—A son, Andrew, to Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Elliott, on 25th April 1965; a daughter, Cherise, to Sergeant and Mrs. Saunders, on 4th May, 1965; a son, Ian, to Sergeant and Mrs. Neal, on 10th May, 1965; a daughter, Sandra, to Corporal and Mrs. Lolher, on 14th May, 1965; a son, Terence, to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Erasito, on 31st May, 1965; a daughter, Clara, to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Henderson, on 8th May, 1965; a daughter, Rhonda, to Signalman and Mrs. Fraser, on 23rd April, 1965.



Courage

is the Word for Beer

There's plenty of Action in the 9th Regiment— as these pictures show



1


2


3


4

1. Major Baker unveiling his commemorative plaque. 2. Corporal Bandey receiving his medal for the 1 mile event from Mrs. Peck. Captain Vincent assisting as Prizemaster. 3. Lance Corporal Pym jumping. W.O. II Handley as Take-Off Judge. 4. 2 Squadron Tug-of-War Team. They beat 259 Squadron in the Competition.

Ninth's sporting saga commenced in the last issue is continued

Athletics

The C.S.O.'s Inter-Squadron Championship completed another phase on Saturday, 15th May, when the Athletics Competition took place at Dhekelia. What began as a pleasant afternoon of sport was marred towards the close when a blustery wind rose, which flapped the tents about and threw sand in the spectators' eyes. The competition was won by 259 Squadron with 63 points and our own 2 and 3 Squadrons tying for second place with 61 points. In addition, 2 Squadron beat 259 Squadron in the tug-of-war competition.

Our athletes have also had some success in the Army Individual Championships in Cyprus. Corporal Bandey came first in the three miles and second in the one-mile, which was won by Lance-Corporal Skinner. Staff Sergeant Elliott was first in the triple jump and Lance-Corporal Duley second in the 440.

Departure

We have not in the past made much of arrivals and departures in these notes, but the recent departure of Major Baker and his family for U.K. was marked by a short, amusing ceremony, well worthy of note. As Second-in-Command, Major Baker had fought a continuous running battle with the local headquarters to improve accommodation in the camp, and sanitary facilities for the Officers' Mess in particular. As his last official act in the Regiment he was called upon to unveil the name plate on the building which had been the cause of some of the most bitter conflict.

Swimming

Readers may have noticed an emphasis on water sports in previous articles. With some of the finest beaches on the island only four miles away from camp and most married people living even closer to them, this is not surprising. One dividend that has accrued from this is that the Regiment has won the *All-Army Major Units Competition* for the maximum number of personnel trained in life saving. We scored 234 points, beating 1st Bn. Welsh Guards, who scored 175 points.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

10th Regiment, Hounslow


Brigadier J. W. Berridge, M.B.E., presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Staff Sergeant I. W. Davies

Congratulations

The Regiment's congratulations to Staff Sergeant I. W. Davies on being presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Sergeant W. C. Yates on his Royal Air Force Transport Command Commendation, and Mr. W. A. Goodrich, on receiving the Imperial Service Medal.

The presentations were made on the day of the Regiment's annual Administrative Inspection by the Chief of Staff, London District, Brigadier J. W. Berridge, M.B.E.

Exercise "Gilpin." A small detachment from the Regiment attended a T.A. Camp at Crowborough to assist in the instruction of potential communication centre operators. The highlight was a mid-camp exercise, during which the communication centre was set to produce and process a maximum traffic total for 24 hours. All the trainees took part and thoroughly enjoyed the practical work involved, whilst considerably improving their knowledge of traffic handling. The target set was reached, and all who took part could not only bask in the sun but also in a sense of achievement. The instructors, despite fairly long hours, enjoyed their "out of the ordinary" spell of duty, especially the first week, which coincided with a spell of really hot, sunny weather.

Cricket. The Regiment has the makings of a good team, and with the possibility of our own ground and practice nets in the near future, we should start to do a little better at fielding and catching—our main weakness. Corporal Hardman, as captain, together with Corporal Pengilly, have done a lot to get the team spirit going, and it is hoped the results will pay off in the Minor Units Cricket League this season.

Signal Troop (Works) Chatham. The admittance to the Woolwich Hospital of Major Spike Stanley, due to a heart-attack, has been a great blow to the Troop, and no doubt a shock to a number of our readers and ex-members of the Regiment. However, his recovery and progress is all very promising, and we hope to see him back with his Troop in the near future.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants at Dinner. The 28th May, 1965, saw the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment sit down to their Regimental dinner. This event took place in the Hounslow Garrison Sergeants' Mess.

The sight of nearly all members dressed in the new mess kit, sitting at a table covered with the Regimental silver was indeed impressive, and was not lost on those non-Signals members of the mess who were able to see it.

During his short speech, the R.S.M. (W.O.I A. A. J. Reed), welcomed the guests of honour, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ellis and Major (Q.M.) J. F. McQuade, and gave a review of the Regiment's achievements in the short period since its emergence from suspended animation. He also took the opportunity to bid farewell to Staff Sergeant Hill, Sergeant Hardman and Sergeant Law, on posting, and Sergeant Marchant, who was leaving us on release.

In his reply, the Commanding Officer thanked the R.S.M. for the invitation to dinner and amused the company with a couple of stories, which discretion forbids repeating here. (*Thank you.—Editor.*)


The Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., inspecting No. 4 Troop. The Brigadier had earlier in the month taken his first Pass Off Parade at the Depot

11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

To the outsider the word "Depot" gives the impression of permanence if nothing else, but this could hardly apply in the case of the Depot Squadron which has just completed two moves in eight months. We wonder if this has been bettered by H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps during the last Training Season. The move this time entailed only the short distance from Bourlon Barracks to Hooge Lines which will be its home for the next five years at least.

During the month we have said goodbye to Major W. B. Foote, who commanded No. 1 Squadron, and is now serving with the T.A. in Liverpool. A replacement of the "Mersey Sound" by the skirl of bagpipes is not, however, expected. His place has been filled by Major P. C. Tripp who comes to us from the Trucial Oman Scouts. We trust that he will have an enjoyable tour in the Regiment. Another departure was our Adjutant, Captain E. Pickup, who has gone to 9th Regiment in Cyprus. The "hot seat" is now occupied by Captain J. H. T. Nealon.

Our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., took his first Recruit Pass Off Parade earlier in the month.

Best Recruits

Pass-Off Parade, 28th May, 1965


Signalman Eaton-Evans

Signalman E. G. Eaton-Evans, Best Recruit, No. 3 Troop.

Signalman E. G. Eaton-Evans, whose home address is 'West House,' Merlins Bridge, Haverford-West, Pembroke, joined Royal Signals because he wanted to travel and to learn a trade.

He was a student in civil life and reached the rank of Sergeant in Malvern College C.C.F. He is a keen sportsman and has represented the Regiment at Rugby whilst in training.

His special interests are looking at unusual geographical features and geology. He now goes on to learn the trade of Special Operator.

Pass-Off Parade, 14th May, 1965



Signalman Bonar Law

Signalman B. Law, Best Recruit.

Signalman Bonar Law has gained the unique distinction of being the first recruit to "wipe the board." As well as being best recruit, Law was also best shot at both SLR and SMG and best recruit at P.T.

Law, who hails from Yorkshire, comes from an Army family, his father having served with our sister Corps, the Royal Engineers.

After working as a clerk in Glamorgan for two years, Law decided to join the Army in order to get a worthwhile job and to travel. He has now started his training as a technician and has his sights set on becoming a Foreman of Signals.

Fencing

11th Regiment Team Do Well

The Regimental Fencing team having won the Northern Command and the U.K. Northern Zone Competition which was Bronze Medal Stage of the Royal Tournament, thus reached the last six in the Army Unit Team Championships 1965.

The final pool took place on Wednesday, 19th May, 1965, at the A.S.P.T., Aldershot, and in coming 4th the team acquitted themselves well in a competition at a very high standard which included several current Army Fencers and one English Youth International.

The team was:—

Foil: C.S.M.I. Pearce, A.P.T.C.; Corporal Baker.

Epee: Lieutenant I. C. Double; Lance-Corporal Nutbrown.

Sabre: Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, Royal Signals; Major L. W. Prescott.

This was considered to be a satisfactory result and gives encouragement for a greater effort next year.

14th REGIMENT, GLOUCESTER

Life a Little Less Hectic

With the inauguration of TARE and the visit of the Corps Band behind us (reported in the previous issue of THE WIRE), life has returned to something like its normal pace. It is probably not appreciated that the Regiment has a high rate of visitors, and during the past month we have entertained Lieutenant-Colonel Sodhi, Indian Signal Corps, and Lieutenant D. W. Cooper, Royal Canadian Signals, both of whom came to study the installation at the Tape Relay Centre. The latter had a personal interest in the circuit to Canada, as he is serving at CARP, which is the Canadian counterpart to Boddington.

The R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron rifle team entered for the South-West United Services Small Arms Meeting (SWUSSAM) held at Plymouth on 19th-21st May. This proved to be a very useful practice for the forthcoming Royal Signals Southern Command and Corps meetings which are being held at Bulford during June. The standard of competition was extremely high, potential Bisley teams from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Infantry and R.A.F. being present. The team did not bring home any trophies, but finished well up in the score lists.

The Regimental Training School continues to be fully committed, a Comcen Operators' Basic Trade Training Course is now half way through its course, and what will be, regettably, the last W.R A.C. Comcen Operator BIII-BII has just finished with excellent results, 18 out of the 20 girls passed the TTB. A male Comcen Operator BIII-BII course for the Command assembles on 28th June.

New Activities

Our thoughts are always looking for new ventures by which members of the Regiment can take up a fresh interest. Two of the latest are the planning and construction of a model racing car track, which has just started and is scheduled to be a going concern by October. Progress will be reported later.

Sailing gets under way

2 Squadron (Droitwich) has proved that you don't have to be near a river or the sea to sail, and having a number of keen dinghy sailors on establishment, much time and energy has been devoted to the problem of getting sailing going as a Regimental Sport. The first move was to apply for a Nuffield grant in order to buy two dinghies (these are still awaited). The next move was to find somewhere to sail. Maps were studied, recces were made any many letters sent to established sailing clubs all round Droitwich begging them to take pity on the poor soldier-sailors who had nowhere to sail. The only positive reply came from Dudley Sailing Club, where Mr. R. M. Rogers, who is an ex-member of the Regiment, and is now their Sailing Secretary, very kindly offered us a haven.

A discovery that is really paying off

By this time we had discovered a disused gravel pit at Upton Warren, on the A.38, five miles north of Droitwich, discovered that it was run by the County Youth Organisation, and after some delicate negotiations were accepted as associate members on the understanding that we provide sailing instructors, assistance with maintenance, and general expert advice. Since this was so much more convenient from all points of view, we accepted with alacrity. Two boats (a firefly and a fibre glass dinghy) appeared like magic when the local Garrison Commander, Brigadier R. C. Windsor-Clive heard of our aspirations, and two more Fireflies followed via the Army Sailing Association at Western Command, who transferred them from C.A.D. Kineton. The County Youth Organisation produced four GP14s and a large fibre glass rescue launch, so we were in business. The opening event of the season was very nearly the closing event as well. For Easter, 1965, a large gatherings of about 40 youngsters from all over Worcestershire turned up at Upton Warren *pour le sailing*. The wind gusted up to 100 m.p.h., and by rights we should have said NO SAILING. Rather than disappoint the youngsters and to avoid the Army being accused of undue caution, we carried on sailing. That was a week-end to remember.

A lively time had by all

By the time we arrived, the youths, who were camping alongside the lake, had rigged all the boats, taken off, been overturned and, luckily, blown on to the lee shore, where the shallows made it difficult to sail them off. Trying to sort out who was in charge, who had any experience of sailing (to say nothing of artificial respiration) and finally deciding that *we* would run it Army fashion in the interests of safety, even if we trod inadvertently on the toes of some of the Youth Oragnisers, took most of the first day. They were delighted for us to take charge, and from then on things went as well as could be expected with half-a-dozen boatloads of kids being blown all over the place in a gale and turning over at regular intervals. We ran two rescue launches which were kept very busy indeed, and counted ourselves lucky to escape with only one broken mast and one broken boom (we are still trying to work out whose head it broke on!).

Much progress as we integrate with local youth

Since then we have progressed. Maintenace, replacement of unserviceable parts, the building of jetties, signalling yard-arms, the marking and buoying of the lake, and such like, has proceeded to the point where we are now planning a full scale Regimental regatta in July or August, by which time we will have a clubhouse with a "bridge" from which to start and finish races.

We soldiers sail happily all the week and at week-ends undertake to provide experienced helmsmen-instructors for the various Youth Clubs which use the Sailing Club in turn. One of the snags of this system is that there is no continuity for keen young sailors, but this is unavoidable.

It has been quite a revelation for most of us who spend so much of our time out of England to discover the extent and

variety of these excellent County Youth Organisations—and to realise too, that the Army, through its Army Youth Teams, plays a large, official part in assisting and fostering their activities. We are shortly going to accommodate and administer the Worcester County Youth Team, under Lieuteant R. B. Jameson, and our soldiers hope to share his week-end sailing, canoeing and mountaineering trips further afield.

Thus, in attempting to get sailing started from purely selfish motives, we find ourselves, in addition, very involved in assisting the youth of the country to sail. Let us hope that by doing so, we help a little in presenting a favourable picture of the Army and the Corps to potential recruits.

Corps Guard Dog Success

14th Regiment can claim to be the only Regiment within the Corps holding two guard dogs on establishment, and certainly the only one taking a prize at the United Kingdom Army Dog Trials, which took place at Melton Mowbray on 20th May.

It may be of interest to explain briefly the events which led to our dog, Duke, gaining a third place at these trials.

During July of last year, we regretfully reported the death of Lee, one of our two guard dogs. With the passing of this magnificent animal went the hopes of ever having another dog with the same potential for entry in the 1964 Dog Trials. Within a few days, replacement of the deceased dog was arranged by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, and Mr. A. W. Woods, Patrolman Dog-Handler, saddened by the loss of Lee, again visited the Training Depot at Melton Mowbray to take over Duke. When he returned, Mr. Woods and his son, John, both dog-handlers, presented themselves with their new charge to the Station Technical Officer. One look at dog and handlers was enough to see that here, not only had we a replacement dog, but another hope for future trials. Duke was an 84lb. two-year-old Alsation, black and light tan in colour, of good shape, obedient and of even temperament—a perfect successor to Lee.



DUKE with handler Mr. A. W. Woods

Mr. Woods and his son immediately set to work training Duke over a difficult course, constructed by themselves, almost a replica of the course to be used in the forthcoming trials. By February, only six months after the arrival of Duke, it was our opinion that he should be entered for the U.K. Dog Trials of 1965. It was realised that Duke would be competing against dogs more mature, and in some cases, dogs that had taken part, or even been placed in previous trials. However, it was considered that, should he not be placed, at least both dog and handler would have gained valuable experience in readiness for 1966.

One month before the trials were due to take place, hopes were high that Duke would put up a good performance. The enthusiasm of the handlers was infectious, so much so that our Technical Storeman, Mr. H. E. Humphrey, prevailed upon his wife to make a jacket for Duke—a masterpiece of needlework. Upon the jacket was mounted the embroidered badge of the Corps, neatly worked by Mr. Humphrey himself. The jacket was intended to be a prize for entering the trials, win or lose.

These trials usually comprise three phases:

Phase 1. Veterinary inspection of the dogs.

Phase 2. Obedience and agility tests, consisting of a series of obstacles to be overcome on the command of the handler.

Phase 3. Intruder detection and apprehension. Here the dog detects an intruder in a hedgerow by scent and or vision, and is sent in to arrest or detain the intruder. The time taken between release and apprehension earns marks, together with the action taken by the handler and dog after capture.

Prizes were presented by Brigadier A. D. Seton, Director, Army Veterinary and Remount Services, Ministry of Defence, and we are very glad to report that Duke, of the Royal Corps of Signals, was awarded a well-deserved third prize.

Mr. A. W. Woods has also earned the honour of being the leading civilian Army Dog Handler in the U.K.

15th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 69

XV

Swimming to the fore

The main event of the last month has been the Regimental Inter-Squadron Swimming Gala. After a very hard battle 2 Squadron eventually won, closely followed by 1 Squadron and "H.Q." Squadron. 3 Squadron, which is stationed in Bahrain, over a thousand miles away from the remainder of the Regiment, were unfortunately considered to be too far away to warrant sending down a team. 1 Squadron were the winners of the water polo knock-out competitions. Congratulations to Captain W. A. C. Griffiths on winning both the 33⅓m. and 100m. backstroke events, and to Corporal G. L. Cox on winning the 33⅓m. freestyle, 100m. breaststroke, as well as the diving. Corporal Cox has represented the Army at diving, so he started out as the favourite for this event.

An interesting sideline on the gala comes from O.C. 1 Squadron, Major L. P. Clayton. Preparation time for the event was short, but 1 Squadron were determined to have a full-scale practice—in other words a "dry run." How true this was. On arrival at our local military swimming pool at 07.00 hours the day before the event, the 1 Squadron gladiators found the pool to be empty. This actually resulted in one man being entered for the relay who could not swim!

Ten-pin bowling

The Regimental ten-pin bowling team, ably controlled by W.O.I (Y. of S.) P. F. Byers, continues to hit the winning form they found last season. Our congratulations to our team captain of last season, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. G. M. Buckland, on being selected League Secretary for this season. Staff Sergeant Buckland is attached to us from 30th Regiment as a member of the installation team working on the Aden military automatic telephone system. In case readers wonder how we come to be ten-pin-bowling in an outlandish spot like Aden, we should perhaps add that this is a result of a bowling alley being opened by the A.K.C. last year.

All members of the Regiment wish a speedy recovery to all those who have been medically evacuated from Aden while serving with us. In particular Signalman R. Gee, Signalman A. Richardson and Corporal J. A. G. W. Lawrence, all of whom were injured as a result of terrorist activities or accidents. Somewhat belatedly we are sure his many friends in the Corps will be shocked to hear of the death of Corporal G. Slater as a result of a terrorist bomb being thrown into one of the local bars.

Our congratulations to the Adjutant, Captain M. S. Wilson-Brown, and his wife on the birth of a son, and also Corporal and Mrs. C. S. Kirk again on the birth of a son. Our best wishes for the future to Signalman P. H. Holmes, who made one of his first leave tasks, after leaving us on posting, his marriage.

Finally, should you be getting tired of constant rain, fog and complete lack of sunshine, how about a posting to Aden. Recently the temperature here reached 106°F. in the shade!

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire?

Why not do so now?

16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

Our recent activities have been varied and numerous. We have been kept very much on our toes although the weather has tried hard to dampen everything.

Flying Visit

On 5th April we were visited by the Quartermaster-General, General Hewitson. This was very much a flying visit as he arrived on the Square by helicopter at 09.45 hours, was greeted by the C.O. and whisked off by Champ to R.H.Q. to sign the visitors' book, see the T.R.C. and then back to the square where he saw Cable Troop doing the new "Works Study Method" of pole crossings, back into his helicopter and away by 10.10 hours. The ink was scarcely dry!

Serial No. 1

NORTHAG were to hold a demonstration of the latest vehicles and equipment produced by each army at H.Q., B.A.O.R. Amongst the British vehicles was to be a Cable Plough, Medium, which had just finished trials at S.R.D.E. Who was to have it? Answer: Cable Troop, 16th Regiment. At last something new, we can throw away our picks and shovels and get mobile.

It duly arrived and was closely inspected by the Troop. It looked good and after a quick look at the handbook it was soon ploughing cable into the cricket pitch; no trouble at all. What was more impressive, it actually bore the Serial No. 1.

A very proud Corporal Walker and Signalman Semple showed it off to the Commander 1 (B.R.) Corps and senior N.A.T.O. officers, the next day. If anyone wants to see a new bit of kit which works and has a Serial No. 1 just let us know.

The Queen's Parade at Sennelager

Royal Signals Units West of the Rhine provided one guard 75-strong for this very impressive parade. We provided 20 N.C.O.s under S.S.M. Ient, who, in spite of the weather, all said they thoroughly enjoyed taking part. If you are wondering how the parade went off so smoothly ask Staff Sergeant Kerr, Corporal McLeod and the M.C.S.G. Troop at Sennelager; they were responsible for laying 3½ miles of cable and arranging between 10 and 15 circuits over and above the normal communications they provide on the ranges. A very good effort.

Sport

One of the most successful evening's entertainments has been the four-a-side football competition run by Sergeant Currums and A.S.M.I. Andrews in the gymnasium. The final between 2 Squadron Signalmen "B" team and 2 Squadron Signalmen "A" team was very close and ran into extra time before a winning goal was finally scored by Signalman Cameron for the "B" team (Signalmen J. W. Richards, I. R. K. Cameron, B. Poulter, R. Griffiths).

The Regimental athletics competition made a very good afternoon's entertainment, 1 Squadron just winning. A Regimental team was chosen and a friendly match against 40 Advanced Engineer Stores Regiment provided a win for the Regiment.

The Regimental cricket team has so far played and won seven matches, which promises very well for the future.

Arrivals and Departures

We must record some of the many arrivals and departures which have happened recently.

Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) Max Nutt and Captain (Tfc. Offr.) Ken Mogridge did a straight swap of postings, Lieutenant Nutt going to 241 Squadron and Captain Mogridge is coming to 2 Squadron.

R.Q.M.S. Bob Foster goes to 48 Regiment, T.A., on promotion to W.O.I. Congratulations and best wishes. Welcome to R.Q.M.S. Wood, Foreman Parkin, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Bob Todd and Captain (T.O.T.) Tom Robertshaw. Lieutenant (Q.M.) Johnson and Second-Lieutenant Crane have completed their courses and are now with us again.

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . to be read by the Corps



W.O.II. (Yeokel of Signals) "Agastiotis"!

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

We, who are young and thrusting, tender our respectful admiration for the courage of our elderly Sister Regiment in selecting for herself a nom de guerre so provocative and yet so full of promise.

Our latest experiment in the operation of the new radio villages was encouraging. We set ourselves the target of passing 1,000 messages through the system in two days. We cleared 998 messages. This, together with much hard work, improvisation and re-improviation by our patient and untiring L.A.D. and "M" Troop, enabled us to present the bones of our 'final solution' to the C.C. Royal Signals, his staff and friends from 7th Regiment a few days ago.

It would take too long to give you a word picture of village life, but we hope that "Jock's" illustration, here included, will provide a starting point for your imaginations.

Our Master Cook, W.O.II Graham, A.C.C., who has long been the hero of the regimental stomach, has gained two notable personal triumphs in the Table d'Honneur (Senior Section, "B" Class) by winning the 1 (BR) Corps Troops and coming second in the All Forces B.A.O.R. Final Cookery Competitions. Congratulations.

Most of our detached members from overseas have now returned. They have so boosted our imports into the Regiment that we can now boast of an adverse trades balance. Perhaps, one day, 'Estab' and F.F.C. will be synonomous terms!

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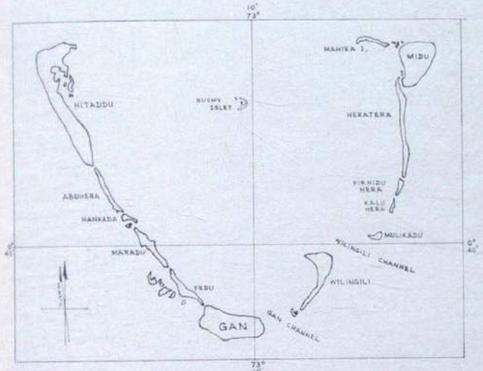
FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

They tell "The Wire" about their lives there . . .

Our Men on Gan Island

Where Gan Island is on the map



GAN ISLAND is shown on very few maps. South of India are the Maldive Islands, a chain of coral atolls, and the most southerly of these is the Addu atoll which contains the R.A.F. Airfield. Situated fifty miles south of the equator Gan Island is barely two miles wide by three-quarters of a mile from north to south. It has just sufficient room to carry an airstrip, R.A.F. living accommodation and the Gan detachment from 19th Regiment—one Staff Sergeant and eight men and B.F.P.O. 180 run by two R.E.s. The island boasts of a NAAFI shop and sterling is used throughout the island.

Plenty of activity

Air Formation Signals are committed to running a 150 line automatic exchange and the cabling to the extensions, together with many circuits for air traffic control and keying.



Staff Sergeant Bell relaxes on the jetty against a background of native dhonis which bring the islanders to work

Our man in Gan is Staff Sergeant Bell. He and his men are on a one year tour which soon passes as there are plenty of activities to participate in. As working hours are from 07.00 to 13.00, the afternoon is left free for football, tennis and sailing. With willing assistance from the R.A.F. Education Officer, those interested can be helped towards educational and trade qualifications, and City and Guilds Certificates.

Fishing off the jetty is enjoyed by many. The sub aqua club explores war-time wrecks lying on the bottom of the lagoon. A schnorkel and a pair of flippers open up a new world of coral and vividly coloured fish usually in one of the Corps colours, but a few pinks and silvers are in evidence. The fish take as much interest in the swimmer as he in them. Sometimes they show indignation if the swimmer tries to move or kick their favourite piece of coral in their domain.



(*Right*) Staff Sergeant Bell, (*Left*) Corporal Parker. The Maldive Islander works for AF Signals

Crowlike bats, lizards and giant eels

Old Gan hands take the large black crowlike bats which fly about in the dusk as a matter of course. They ignore the tree lizards, the like of which is not seen elswhere. They warn about coral rash caused through coral skin abrasions, and about being attacked by the giant Moray eel which can take a bite out of one's calf. The fish caught from the jetty that get away get larger year by year.

Civil labour lives on neighbouring islands in the atoll and commutes to work daily by wading, rowing or sailing to work. It is amusing to see islanders up to their waist in water in wet weather, holding an umbrella over their heads. We are told that some of the islanders have a four-hour row to work during adverse winds.

Work on the airfield started in about 1958 to replace the R.A.F. staging facilities in Ceylon, but Signals were in Gan during the war when Sunderland flying boats were refuelled there, and even the Queen Mary called to take on oil from a tanker anchored in the lagoon. The War Memorial outside Station H.Q. lists two members of the Indian Signal Corps who are buried on the Addu Atoll.

In spite of a year's separation from ones family, Gan has plenty to offer. Members of the detachment can indulge on the Comet to Singapore fairly easily for leave.

Our Family was 1700 Strong

By Signalman M. A. F. Dryland

FAR away places, unusual jobs—this is typical of the Corps. Here, Signalman Dryland, the sole Corps representative in the aftermath of the earthquake at El Salvador, tells of his adventures. All will note that although his set developed a transmitter fault, Signalman Dryland, armed only with the handbook, persevered on his own and finally got his important link "through."

The Earthquake and off at short notice

At 04.04 hours on Monday, 3rd May, 1965, the capital city of El Salvador, San Salvador, shook and vibrated to the worst earthquake the people had known since 1917.

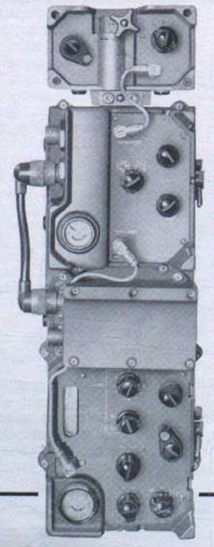
Continued on page 227



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In the twenty seconds that the tremor lasted, 98 surrounding villages were reduced to rubble, many thousands were rendered homeless and approximately 140 people were killed. Within hours of the disaster the city's hospitals were filled to capacity with the injured. An emergency committee was formed and had the job of finding accommodation for the many thousands who were now living on the streets in hastily-made cardboard lean-to's.

Aid was to come to these people, within a couple of days, from the Americans based in Panama and the British stationed in British Honduras, 290 miles north of San Salvador.

On Thursday, 6th May, at 14.00 hours, I was told to pack my case and get the faithful 119M transmitter/receiver ready by 16.00, at which time I would be catching a plane for the damaged city. Twelve men from 8 Platoon, "C" Company, 1st K.S.L.I. would be travelling down to build a camp of fifty 180-pounder tents and to supervise the use of stores in the form of 600 ten-man packs of compo, cookers and boilers.

At 16.30 hours the heavily-loaded U.S.A.F. CA130 transport took off with the thirteen of us piled on top of the tentage and cookers; one short hour later we were circling the newly-built International airfield on the outskirts of San Salvador, which had been been badly damaged and was now condemned.

Eventually I was able to key-out

We were met on landing by the British Ambassador and his staff, who welcomed us and explained some of the chaos which still reigned. I now had to find a suitable spot to erect an aerial, but the main problem turned out to be lack of electricity. I was eventually shown a room which still had power and a little outside space for an aerial. But my problems were not yet over. The set had a transmitter fault. British Honduras were, all this time, coming through "fives." However, with the help of the handbook and eight fumbling hours of trying to do something I knew nothing about, I was able to key out, and for the remaining eight days communications with my buddies of 633 Troop were good, except for two days, when they were unable to keep the schedules with me. Altogether a very busy month for the nine proud lads that make up "633."

We all awoke at 05.00 the following morning, with our little room and everything in it "doing the twist"; one of the local soldiers told us that it was only a "mild one!" I hate to think what a bad one would be like, and, although the city had many slight tremors during the time that we were there, the one which alarmed us on the morning of the 7th was the only one we experienced.

At mid-day on the 7th we moved to the Baseball Stadium and began erecting the tents. The Salvadorian Army, who were helping us, learned quickly, and by the third day had all the tents built. The evening of the 8th was our first taste of cooking in bulk. Four hundred refugees who had moved in during the afternoon passed through our open-air kitchen.

Our family builds up

On arrival, we were told that we would be looking after 500 people, but in the following three days this number was to be more than trebled, when, by the morning of the 9th, we were cooking for 1,700 refugees, a job which kept us on our feet for 20 hours a day. No sooner had we finished one meal, than we began preparing the next, besides preparing and warming milk for the babies at all times of the day or night. And so it went on from day to day, cooking, serving, then cooking again.

An interesting and amusing item came to our notice, with the coffee and tea. These people never drink tea, and so the emergency committee gave us coffee, but it only lasted a couple of days, so we decided to give them tea with their meals. After two days of serving tea we were again given coffee, and, believe it or not, the refugees asked us for more tea. The same happened when rice and beans was cooked for them, they wanted more English food. We were slowly changing the national diet.

All too soon our visit was coming to an end, but before we departed, a tour of the city was arranged for us. This had been organised for the day prior to our returning to Belize, and for that day women living on the camp would do the cooking and serving. So, on Friday, 14th, an army bus gave us a tour of some of the flattened villages, including one where the authorities were still digging in the rubble for bodies. It can only be described as "Blitz." Everywhere one looked, one saw the same scene. Some of the occupants had remained, living in ruins that had once been their homes, and endeavouring to scrape a living. We were shown five of the 98 villages that had been hit by the 'quake. It was difficult to grasp that in so short a time so much damage had been done. We were only too glad to return to our camp and family of 1,700.

A send-off that would have done the Beatles proud

Saturday, 15th, our day of departure, dawned with us beginning work at 03.00 hours. A torrential downpour had flooded the camp, the occupants had taken to the shelter of the covered-in stand, cold and very wet, so we set about brewing tea and warming milk for them. We cooked our last breakfast of sausage and beans, packed our cases and awaited the arrival of the taxis.

We had a send-off that would have done The Beatles proud. The President paid a visit to the camp and shook hands with each one of us, then the Salvadorian Army paraded before us and presented the officer-in-charge of our little band with a cane, inscribed with the work we had done and the dates of our visit. The cabs arrived and it was time to say goodbye. Women began to cry, and approximately 2,000 people surged round to shake hands and bid us farewell.

It took us 45 minutes to get into the cars and take our leave, pursued by a band of photographers—something we had by now grown used to.

We now look forward to taking leave and returning to San Salvador and seeing again many of our new friends that we made. In any case, it will be good to see our 1,700-strong family again.

☆

The Hong Kong Scene

The Festival of Tin Hau

By Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. R. Carey, 252 Squadron, B.F.P.O. 1.



The "Dragon" Festival of Tin Hau, 1965

TIN HAU, the Goddess of Heaven and Patron Saint of the fisher folk was hardly in her most propitious mood when, on her birthday (24th April, 1965), she covered Hong Kong with a blanket of fog. Nevertheless, tradition and superstition demanded that the maximum effort but put into the celebrations on the day, in order that her Majesty would be generous with her favours during the next year.

All morning, an armada of huge, colourfully-decorated junks sailed through the harbour to Josshouse Bay, some two miles outside the harbour limits. Having queued for 1½ hours

with thousands of equally determined locals, I boarded a ferry and joined the armada. At the bay we transferred to small Walla-Walla boats until they were dangerously near the waterline. A hazardous trip to the shore brought to our gaze a scene of utter confusion. 100ft. junks vied with 15ft. Walla-Walla boats for a position at a diminutive jetty, which, in turn, was crammed with people who had just disembarked, but had not yet succeeded in fighting their way off it. Adding to the confusion, as if the dense fog were not enough, a cacophony of sound and clouds of smoke poured down a hillside from a Chinese temple, which was only barely visible.

Adopting my most warlike expression, and with complete disregard for life and limb, I scrambed over several junks in the general direction of the shore and eventually gained a foothold on the beach. A further strenuous ten-minute struggle got me some way up a hillside, overlooking the festivities.

A fantastic multi-coloured dragon, about fifty yards long and supported by some thirty men, was roaring its way down the hill surrounded by crowds of gong-beating musicians. Several "Lion Dances" were in progress, each one accompanied by its own "orchestra" and vieing with its neighbours. Boxes of crackers were thrown in the air with wild abandon, covering everyone in a layer of soot and ashes. Fire gnawed its way through hundreds of tall Joss Sticks.

In the courtyard of the temple, the sacrificial fires were fed with pigs, chickens and cakes (a combination which gave off a most interesting aroma!), while in the bay itself large junks, crammed with hysterical people, added their share to the stupefying din.

It causes too much pain to recall the struggle to get back to the ferry, accompanied by hundreds of junks travelling "arm-in-arm" to prevent them from turning turtle in the melee. My Canon, myself, and 50ft. of Kodachrome II had taken a severe beating, but the experience will certainly dominate my memories of Hong Kong for many years.

A Return to the Mule

with 246 (Gurkha) Squadron

IN these days of sophisticated equipments and techniques the automatic rebroadcast station is a fairly common sight on a high feature in the exercises area. Usually the detachment has motored into its position or possibly, in keeping with times, has been positioned by helicopter. On a recent exercise in Hong Kong which took place in one of the most inaccessible areas of the New Territories, the positioning of the rebroadcast station, which was essential for the proper functioning of the VHF command net, presented somewhat more than the usual problems.

No roads and no helicopters

In the exercise area there were no roads, and helicopters were unfortunately not available. There is, however, in Hong Kong the last remaining Pack Transport Company in the British Army, and it was to the mule we turned for transport to the selected site. Modern aids were not altogether lacking and the pre-selection of the site was achieved a little more scientifically than by just sticking a pin in a suitable looking hill on the map. An air recce was made, but perhaps it should not be mentioned that when the detachment eventually arrived at the pre-selected peak it was realised that a peak some 1,000 yards to the south had in fact been recced and approved.

An interesting loading problem

The next step was a short exercise in the preparation of loading tables, a more interesting chore than it usually is because we only had 10 mules available, each able to carry 160 lbs. The detachment, which had to remain in position for 10 days, consisted of five men and the equipment considered essential to keep the station on the air for the period, was two SRC42, one SRB47 as a spare, four 12v75AH batteries, two 30 Watt charging engines, POL and associated harness and aerials. We also had to include four days rations with the lift as resupply could not be effected until late in the third day. By dispensing with the set carriers and all but the essential bits of the harness we were able to get the essentials plus a very few luxuries into the 1,600 lb. weight restriction, although the mule carrying the two 300 Watt charging engines (approx 180 lbs.) collapsed once on the way up the hill.



HOW REMOTE CAN YOU GET?

Corporal Bob Granshaw of 222 Squadron is seen working on an R.A.F. auto exchange at Misirah Island 40 miles off the coast of Muscat and Oman. The Wire has recently had stories from Signals in such remote places as San Salvador (South America), British Honduras (West Indies) Socotra (300 miles off the coast of Southern Arabia), Gan Island (South West of Ceylon). Are there any more stories from 'remote' Signalmen about whom we have not yet heard?

A combined operation

The project now developed into a truly combined operation. In order to give the mules the shortest possible walk, desirable because they were loaded to their maximum, it became obvious that it would be better to approach as close as possible to the rebro site by sea rather than go overland. Thus it was arranged and the party embarked with the mules, their loads pre-packed, on LCM 7112 at Tai Po for the 1½ hours passage to the West Arm of Long Harbour, which is on the most easterly point of the New Territories. From there the party climbed to the 1,300 ft. peak, a gradient varying from 1 in 2 to 1 in 1 without serious mishap and established themselves in what was to be a very windswept position.

Visibility less than ten feet and 80 m.p.h. gusts

The original intention had been to resupply the detachment every second day by airdrop, but very soon after the exercise started the cloud came down and the rebro detachment spent most of the ten days literally in the clouds, with visibility less than ten feet and winds gusting up to 80 m.p.h.—they allege. The wind did all but write off one tent. There were, however, three successful air drops, two into the site during short breaks in the weather and one that was eventually recovered after a long chase practically at the foot of the hill. The impending shortage of food gave the Squadron Commander an excuse to escape from Brigade H.Q., and accompanied by one rather obstinate mule loaded with two days rations and its driver he made his way through the cloud, ever upwards, in search of the detachment. After about half-an-hour casting about on the summit in very poor visibility he began to wonder if he would ever find them, when he heard the sound of a charging engine in the gloom and shortly afterwards made a successful RV.

Estimates correct

It was gratifying to find at the conclusion of the exercise that our estimates of fuel consumption and the charging capabilities of the engines had been substantially correct. About two gallons of petrol remained and the batteries were all but fully charged when the detachment returned.

Having had the effectiveness of mule transport ably demonstrated we now plan to regress further in time and use them for line laying in the more isolated parts of the New Territories. The detachment commander, however, will not be allowed to ride, encouraging the others to greater efforts with his crook stick.

"Catterick to Khormaksar"

. . . from learning about it to actually doing it . . .

By Captain J. D. Bromley, 222 Squadron

The piece of paper was handed to me one bleak morning in Catterick. "222 Signal Squadron (Air Formation), B.F.P.O. 69" it said. A quick anxious query: "Who are 222? Where is B.F.P.O. 69?"

I am sitting in a B.U.A. Britannia peering through the "porthole." Paris, Cairo and the Red Sea pass below. Aden! A bump, the engines fade, the door opens and pasty faces stare down at tanned faces staring up.

Our feet touch R.A.F. Khormaksar concrete, we are told with glee that this is the cool season. "Just wait until the hot season arrives" is a phrase we are to hear frequently.

Passenger reception ahead, two Air Formation Signals chaps standing near the door, both smiling. Nice to be met cheerfully. I learn that the chap with the biggest smile is handing his Troop over to me. Complications in the money exchange. "Two currencies here at the moment, sir." Dinars, Pounds, Fils, Shillings and Cents.

Arrive at the Mess—comfortable. Blue jobs everywhere. Odd snipits of conversation float over. Strange language, unheard-of abbreviations.

"The O.C. will see you at 09.00 hours tomorrow." Wonder what he's like? Saw his photograph in THE WIRE. Air Formation Signalling is going to be quite a change!

On the way back, thoughts of 2 Communications Course. Brown in Singapore; our man Austin in Borneo; Saville up the road at Little Aden; Fielding in Rhodesia; our Rear Party, Louden in Devon. Looks as if Records decided to spread the load of 2 Communications Course as far as possible!

A cable pit, three brown backs, three perspiring faces look up. Their first sight of the new O.C. "K"—two hairy white knees.

The days pass, new faces become familiar, names begin to stick. The passage of time is marked by the varying degrees of redness of faces and arms. The strain of the change in temperature wears off. The much-talked-about "hot season" arrives, everything becomes very sticky.



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A Win for the 13th Regiment at the French Army Canoe Championships—1965

By Major R. P. D. F. ('Paddles') Painter



The above picture gives an indication of the very hazardous and dangerous water to be negotiated, requiring the highest possible skill

Blame "The Wire"

LAST August I picked up the July 1964 copy of "The Wire" and read with admiration and interest the excellent article by Lieutenant T. H. Scarff, Royal Signals, which told the saga of his participation in the 1964 French Army Canoe Championships at Chalons-sur-Marne. I have been a keen kayakist since being introduced to the sport at the age of 13 (contrary to popular rumour, my mother was not frightened by an Eskimo!) and, as by mid-1964 we had the makings of a well-equipped and enthusiastic canoe club in 13th Regiment, I became determined that we should take part in the 1965 championships.

There and then I sat down and wrote a letter in my best French(?) to the organiser, Commandant Titon, of the Ecole d'Application de l'Artillerie at Chalons. This was followed by a lively exchange of letters, culminating in the departure of our team for Chalons in the PRI Minibus on 11th May.

Training for the event

The team was selected from ten canoeists who had just completed Exercise "Palm Oil I," a ten-day Adventure Training Project by canoe from Albertville in the French Alps, by way of the Rivers Isere and Rhone to the Mediterranean coast at Marseilles. The six men who were chosen were therefore sunburnt and hardened, and had all the right muscles in training for the arduous test before them. In addition, their technique at dealing with rapids and white water had been greatly improved by their recent experiences.



After the prize-giving—*left to right* Signalman Phillips (left background), Lance Corporal Holwell, R.S.M. Palmer, Captain Bob Kenyon surrounded by admirers

Welcome additions

At the last moment two men from 2nd Regiment joined our team. Signalmen Barber and Hall wanted to take part in the championships, and having completed the Devizes to Westminster Race two years previously, we knew that they were old hands at the game, and welcomed them the day before our team departed. They were fitted out with double kayaks and the necessary ancillary kit (like true professionals they brought their own paddles) and from then on they became part of the regimental team.

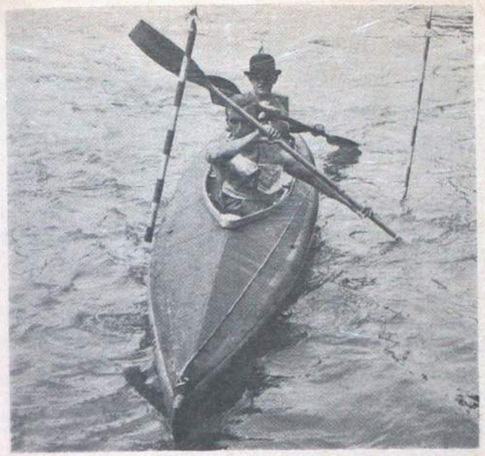
Reconnaissance



W.O.I. (R.S.M.) C. W. Palmer

The actual championships were to be held on Saturday and Sunday, 15th and 16th May, but our team captain, W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. W. Palmer, decided to spend Wednesday to Friday, 12th to 14th May, on the Marne carrying out a full reconnaissance of the course beforehand. This was a very wise decision and paid dividends. The championships are held in two phases. On the first day competitors are required to complete a journey of 100 kms down the upper reaches of the River Marne from St. Dizier to Chalons. This phase, known as "Le Raid" after the Royal Marines' "Cockleshell Heroes" operation against Bordeaux during the last war, involves 8½ to 11 hours' paddling down a river with numerous rapids and hazards of Grade II international standard. It is a rugged trial of endurance and skill, and to attempt it without reconnaissance would be to court disaster. On the second day, competitors are required to compete in a Slalom competition. The Slalom course is laid out in a Grade II rapid and consists of some 12 "gates" which have to be negotiated without capsizing, and if possible without touching them. This trial involves skill as a kayakist and a high standard of boat handling in turbulent rapids, and the uninitiated soon find themselves capsized and being carried off downstream over the rocks at an alarming speed!

R.S.M. Palmer started off his reconnaissance on Wednesday, 12th May, by taking our team over the whole length of "Le Raid" from start to finish—it is interesting to note that no other team carried out such an arduous "dress rehearsal." We smashed one kayak in a vicious rapid early in the day (a spare



Signalmen Barber (bowler hat) and Hall take "Sikh" through one of the easier "gates" of the Slalom

was obtained later), and the course was completed well after dark, much to the anxiety of our French friends, who had written the team off and were preparing for the worst. They were delighted when our surviving three kayaks shot out of the darkness one after another at the camp by the finishing point.

On the Thursday and Friday the team set about trying to master the Slalom course After a seemingly endless series of capsizes they began to get the form, and were much aided in this by the kindness of Captain Bob Kenyon of 16 Parachute Brigade, who is the reigning British Army Slalam champion and was at Chalons from U.K. to compete as an individual.

The team manager arrives

Having other things to do in the Regiment, I was not able to go down to Chalons with the team, but arrived after midnight on Friday night, 14th/15th May, and so was in time for the start. All were in fine fettle and determined to do their utmost. The rules of the championships require a minimum of three boats to make a team and we entered four double kayaks, giving us one spare boat up our sleeve in case of disaster.

The final "line-up" was as follows:—

Kayak 1:	"Stalwart"	W.O.I (R.S.M.) Palmer (cox) Lance-Corporal Holwell (crew)
Kayak 2:	"Sinister"	Signalman Phillips (cox) Signalman Hankins (crew)
Kayak 3:	"Sikh"	Signalman Barber (cox) Signalman Hall (crew)
Kayak 4:	"Shark"	Corporal Judge (cox) Corporal Carrol (crew)

All competitors left the base camp at 7 a.m. in convoy and drove to the start at St. Dizier. The first boat was due to leave at 10 a.m. and thereafter all kayaks competing would be allowed to proceed at intervals of one minute between each.

I had arranged to keep company with Commandant Pierre Titon for the first half of the day, and consequently was able to see all the worst hazards from the bank as the competitors swept by. The Commandant had deployed an immense and very efficient safety and control organisation, including helicopters, power boats and rescue staff, together with a comprehensive radio set-up connecting all vital points along the course. He was an excellent companion and the complete enthusiast—a kayakist of many years' experience and considerable skill. One could feel his disappointment at not being able to compete and organise at the same time, and I sympathised with him.

Into the chute

Precisely at 10 a.m., and in wonderful sunshine, the first kayak was away. The start was set at the beginning of an interesting and vicious rapid, and the canoes disappeared downstream very quickly. Soon our team (starting at 4th, 6th, 15th and 21st away) had rushed off through the spray on their long journey. There followed a most exhilarating day for myself and the other spectators, moving from vantage point to vantage point by car, watching the disasters that befell some crews, praying that one's own team would survive and cheering them when they did!

Highlights of the "Le Raid"

As the long day progressed, many things happened which will remain a memory for a long time. There was Signalman Barber wearing a bowler hat with tiny tricolour and Union Jack stuck in the brim, disappearing into the spray and white water of a deep rapid and emerging unscathed with Signalman Hall, his crew member, paddling furiously and singing "Bless 'em all" at the top of their voices! There was the first casualty, a single kayak crewed by a French officer which came to grief in spectacular style in an early rapid. And there was *our* casualty, Corporal Judge and Corporal Carrol, who disappeared half way down the course having been put out of the race (as we later discovered) by capsizing and being forced under a large tree which lay over the river completely blocking it. One down and three to go! But perhaps the most wonderful part of this day, for supporters of the regimental team, was the pattern which began to emerge as the long hours went by. Slowly but surely our team of three kayaks crept up the field until, during the afternoon, our hopes began to rise. Captain Bob Kenyon as an individual entry in his racing single, took the lead, and then came Signalmen Phillips and Hankins (who started at 6th position), R.S.M. Palmer and Lance-Corporal Holwell (15th at the start) and Signalmen Barber and Hall (4th at the start). After eight hours had passed, the gap in time between canoes became considerable, but our team stayed nicely together and all finished in less than nine hours, still working beautifully as a team and in 2nd, 3rd and 5th physical positions at the finish. Quite a number of other competitors had come to grief during the day, and the results depended on timing by the clock from start to finish. As a consequence the final results of "Le Raid" took some time to produce, but by breakfast time on Sunday, 16th May, we knew that R.S.M. Palmer and Lance-Corporal Holwell had come third as an individual entry, and that our three boats had won the team award for "Le Raid" by a healthy margin. We still had a long way to go, however, to win the overall Team Championships, as it was possible to drop as many as 500 points per kayak in the Slalom on Sunday, 16th May.

Sunday—Coup de Grace!

R.S.M. Palmer made no bones about the need for further practice over the Slalom course on Sunday morning, and our team responded immediately in spite of their exhaustion from the trials of "Le Raid." Each cox went round the course in a double kayak with Captain Kenyon and this last minute practice had a salutary effect. The competition started at 2 p.m., watched by an enormous crowd of spectators (3,000 was the estimate), and some very tense moments followed. Barber (still in his bowler hat!) and Hall went round the course in fine style, completing it without capsize although they touched several "gates." Phillips and Hankins followed and did as well. R.S.M. Palmer and Lance-Corporal Holwell got two-thirds of the way round and then capsized, shouting "Vive la France" above the roar of the rapid as they went over!

Certainly we lost points, but not too many, and when the final reckoning came, our team had won the overall Team Championships. The prize-giving followed in the presence of the British Military Attaché from Paris, and a flock of high potentates led by a French Army General. The R.S.M. did not seem to object when kissed on both cheecks in the traditional manner! The team received two silver cups and a case of champagne for all their efforts—needless to say, the latter went into the former and was consumed in double time.

Each team member was presented also with a certificate for completing the course, and we heard our National Anthem played many times. That evening a dinner and ball completed an exciting weekend, female partners being provided for each of the competitors. I have heard no grumbles about this part of the championships.

For the technical

We used Klepper "Aerius" folding kayaks. These are reasonably stable boats, quite fast and just useable in Slalom. Racing K2's would have given us more speed but could not have coped with the Slalom without capsizing, and would probably have come to grief on the more difficult stretches of "Le Raid." A lot of entries used Canadian canoes but although

very stable, they proved too heavy and slow—and nine hours' paddling on your knees can be very tiring! Captain Bob Kenyon, the overall indivdual winner, used a racing single (K1), but then he is so proficient that he rolls out of a capsize and gets on with it—a difficult thing to do in a double! When all is said and done the requirement, in a championship so excellently designed to cover all aspects of the sport, is best met by using a kayak which has a bit of everything, and by training, fitness, guts and the right attitude of mind on the part of the crew members.

In retrospect

I am not the emotional type, but there were times during the weekend when my pride at being associated with British soldiers was uplifted yet again. I will not forget, for example, the sight of Phillips and Hankins standing to attention up to their waists in water, at the finish of "Le Raid"—after 100 kms and nine hours of desperate hard slogging—while the band played the National Anthem. Nor will I forget the R.S.M.'s leadership and guts, so well supported by Holwell, nor Barber's bowler hat, nor Hall's "Bless 'em all." And our hosts the French were so overwhelmingly hospitable that I recommend this championship to any Unit as a guaranteed milestone of enjoyable experience. Vive l'Entente!

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

It is hard to convince outsiders that a very high proportion of this so-called static Signal Regiment is normally away on operations, exercises or trials.

Such was the case on 14th May when Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., visited the Regiment. During his visit he officially opened the assault course built by the 640 Troop rear party. From the Brigadier's expression we wondered whether he thought we expected him to be first over.

640 Troop

Poised for a rapid retreat to camp in warmer climes (Poole Sandbanks): almost the whole Troop is to provide communications for the Poole Bay Olympic Sailing Championships this month. Rear details take top priority on this arduous duty. We hope to produce some photographs for the next issue.

We say hello to W.O.I (Y. of S.) Cooper, now in charge of training, and W.O.II (S.S.M.) Stewart, who takes over as S.S.M. from N number of seniors.

Our officers have recently seen some overseas service with visits to Jersey by the O.C., Captain Hodgson, and Guernsey by the Second-in-Command, Lieutenant White. Rumour has it that the O.C. was somewhat over-worked! He returned looking a trifle "tired."



A warm welcome from 3 Squadron. Left to Right—Major Barrett, Warrant Officer Class I (Yeoman of Signals) R. Finister, Chief Signal Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Roper

Writing WIRE Notes

How the 7th Regiment tackles the Problem

(With apologies to the Editor)

THERE is clearly considerable misunderstanding in Cheltenham Terrace as to the time taken and the processes involved before a contribution for "The Wire" is submitted to the Editor for publication. D-day is the last day on which contributions should arrive on the editorial desk.

The Planning Stage. The writing of the monthly notes is considered a matter of such importance in the unit that it actually has the attention of Regimental Headquarters. An officer of that august body, normally the Adjutant (although he is currently engaged in a campaign to have the task put upon the unwilling shoulders of the newly-acquired Training Major), issues what is pompously known in certain circles as a "Policy Letter," in which the entire responsibility for producing the contributions month by month is shifted from himself to those jacks-of-all-trades, the Squadrons. In this letter the attention of Squadron Commanders is drawn to the absolute necessity of delivering to R.H.Q. by the fifth of the month a few paragraphs in immaculate prose about the exciting day-to-day events in the Regiment.

D – 6. Having thus exhorted those around him, the officer heaves a deep sigh of relief and forgets about the whole thing until approximately the sixth of the month when he is suddenly woken from his usual complacency by chancing upon an old copy of THE WIRE in a dark corner of his office. He hastily summons the Chief Clerk to find out whether it is by the 12th or the 22nd of the month that contributions must be into the Editor. No hope there for the twelfth it is. A phone call to O.C. 1 Squadron, which surprisingly finds him in, only produces the reply that it is 2 Squadron's turn this month. O.C. 2 Squadron is in conference (whatever do they find to talk about down there?). At last O.C. 4 Squadron, no doubt still feeling a twinge of conscience about the non-appearance of his last Quarterly Certificate, agrees to help out. Flushed with this success the Officer returns to his files with renewed vigour, confident that he can forget WIRE Notes, at least, for another few days.

D – 4. The few days go by and then a runner ventures out of North Camp bearing aloft the long-awaited script in the ill-disciplined hand of one of the subalterns of 4 Squadron—they *do* have two at the moment. The trusty Chief Clerk is given the notes as a priority typing task; but it's a Saturday and Mrs. Price is away—another two days lost.

D – 2. On Monday afternoon the officer really finds his form and decides that it is time the notes were approved by the C.O. Unfortunately the C.O. is on the range and won't be back till later. He eventually sees them at seven o'clock and takes an instant dislike to them, particularly to the part about the Admin. Inspection.

D – 1. The midnight oil burns again in R.H.Q., and the typewriter clatters again during the day. At last the correct number of copies are sealed up ready for dispatch with a neat covering note to round them off. They are posted before 22.00 hours—of this there is no doubt and the A.P.O. are constantly assuring us that under these conditions mail is guaranteed to be delivered in U.K. the following day.

D – Day. An air of complacency hovers around all concerned and there is universal relief that the saga is over again for another month.

About D plus 4. A letter arrives from Chelsea; who do we know in Chelsea? "Dear Sir—We are sorry to say that your contribution for this month's WIRE did not arrive before the copy date. Normally we should be pleased to include it in next month's edition but in view of its topicality we do not feel that it would, in this case, be suitable . . .

(You have brought tears to my eyes—all is understood and forgiven.—Editor.)

207 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 30



Corporal G. Mate won the discus with a throw of 124 ft. 11 ins.

During May and June the main emphasis on the sporting side is in the realm of athletics. On the 15th May we held our Squadron sports meeting in Hohne. The day was fine and a large number of wives and children attended. Sergeant Weeks and his cooks provided an excellent buffet lunch and then afternoon tea, which made the meeting all the more pleasant. There were some exciting races and field performances, and the day was eventually won by "A" Troop. Mrs. I. G. Gill, the wife of our Brigade Commander, kindly presented the prizes at the end of the meeting. Among the prizes was the Bournemouth Trophy—presented for a competition which comprised shooting, soccer and basketball. It was won by a combined team from M.T. Troop, the L.A.D. R.E.M.E. and 9 Flight A.A.C.

On the 28th May our team travelled to Berlin for a match against 229 Squadron. A very pleasant weekend was spent in Berlin, and our thanks go to 229 Squadron for looking after us so well. The match was held in the Olympic Stadium on the Sunday and we managed to win by 69 points to 43. Some of our athletes went on to travel to the B.A.O.R. Individual Championships and the 7th Armoured Brigade Championships.

At the beginning of the month our shooting team competed in the 7th Armoured Brigade Small Arms meeting. Fourth place was obtained in both the Rifle and S.M.G. events. This was a very fine performance as the team had only one day's practice before the meeting.

After Exercise "Beechers Brook" at the end of April we began a period of Squadron general training. Radio sets were laid aside and S.M.G.s picked up. Everyone enjoyed this period and a lot of infantry skills were regained.

For Whitsun a small party are going camping in Holland, and then almost immediately afterwards we set out in Exercise "Silver Spear."

FEDERAL REGULAR ARMY SIGNAL SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

"Achlan wa Sahlan" from Southern Arabia. This is a short article (*pictures are on page 234*) giving some insight into the working of the F.R.A. Signal Squadron. There are still some thirty of us members of Royal Signals serving with the F.R.A. in a mainly advisory and instructional capacity.

Commander-in-Chief's award to Corporal Jack Jenner

First of all our congratulations to Corporal Jack Jenner for being awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation for services rendered in the Radfan in 1964. During this time, Corporal Jenner was the only signals B.O.R. at F.R.A. H.Q. in the Radfan area and had to undertake duties far in excess of his rank. He had on one occasion to act as the Staff Officer on duty at H.Q. and make arrangements with the R.A.F. for all the re-supply flights for our forward battalions. All these duties Corporal Jenner carried out in a most exemplary manner.

This was the Squadon's second award for service in the Radfan. Corporal Peter West, a battalion radio technician, was last year awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct whilst under fire.

Technical Department

We feature next our radio technicians and electrician drivers who combine together to form "M" Troop under Foreman-of-Signals Frank Hampson and his assistant, Sergeant Bob Wherry. Our picture shows Corporal Dick Gillard working on a C11 in the main COMCEN at H.Q. F.R.A. Some of the technicians are permanently stationed up-country with their battalions whilst the remainder man the Teles Workshop under the direction of Sergeant George Emslie, in Aden. Our Teles Workshop has increased in size and work load recently on becoming financially independant and no longer depends on R.E.M.E. base repairs. We now do our own base repairs. Our electricians under Sergeant Tom Gannon are kept extremely busy fighting an up-hill battle against sand and corrosion. Corporal Joe Chambers, who is responsible for electrician instruction, has so far trained twelve Arab electricians and is now trying to increase his total to twenty before the summer is out. They are shaping up well under his guidance and will be fully equipped to take over from the British E.D.s when they are withdrawn in the not too distant future.

Operating Department

Turning to the operating side of the Squadron we find our Yeoman, Staff Sergeant Frank Williams, and his two assistants, Corporals Terry Sharp and "Jock" Stewart. Their main functions are to advise on procedures and assist instructors in the F.R.A. Signal School and liaison with the host of British Units with which we have daily contact in Aden and up-country. In this respect our thanks goes out to 15th Regiment whose Comcen is always willing to give us its undivided attention at all times.

Administration

Our administrative element is ably led by W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) John Raymond in the Stores and Sergeant David Jones in the Orderly Room. The British element in the Stores Department, Corporals Jack Jenner and "Maverick" Trevethick and Lance-Corporal George Cardwell, are being understudied by Arab ranks and should in the near future hand over to them. In the British Element office, Lance-Corporal John Ovenell copes well with the mountains of paperwork which seem to be showered on him. Arabwise, we have seen many changes, and more we hope will follow. Captain Ali Mohammed Aulaqi, B.E.M., has taken over command of the Squadron during the absence of Major J. S. Agar on inter-tour leave in the U.K. Captain Abdulla Haidera Aulaqi has been lured to the Operations Room and the appointment of G3 (Ops). One and two Half-Squadrons are commanded by Captain Alkhadar Saeed Hassani, B.E.M., and Captain Abdulla Mohammed Fadhli, and the Adjutant is now Lieutenant Fadhl Saleh Hassani.

Jimmy Club

No account of the Squadron would be complete without mention of our Jimmy Club, where many good get-togethers have been held. A wide variety of entertainments have been held, ranging from an illustrated lecture on Greenland by Major J. S. Agar, to roulette and darts evenings, and a memorable barbeque held last Christmas.

Arrivals and Departures

Recent arrivals include such old-timers back in the F.R.A. as Staff Sergeant "Nick" Nixon as our new F.O.S., Sergeant and Mrs. Bob McKnight and Sergeant Harry Flood. We are also glad to welcome on their first tours with us Corporal "Eddy" Edwards and Lance-Corporals "Jock" Cook and Trevor Burgess. We hope they will all have pleasant tours in the gaish.

We have said goodbye recently to Sergeant and Mrs. Ken Davis and to Lance-Corporals "Ginger" Jones, "Jock" Beedie and Fred Gillingham, to all of whom we wish all the very best for the future.

Shortly we will be saying goodbye to Captain and Mrs. Tim Cornwell, leaving us for Junior Leaders; Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Frank Hampson to civilian life, Corporal and Mrs. Terry Sharp to civilian life in Australia and Captain and Mrs. Hamish Mackinlay to 2nd Regiment.

Finally our most recent arrival: To Captain and Mrs. Tim Cornwell on the 20th April, 1965, a daughter, Nicola Clare.

F.R.A. Signal Squadron Ties. The Squadron has a few ties left for any past members of the Squadron who are interested in buying them (cost 24/-).

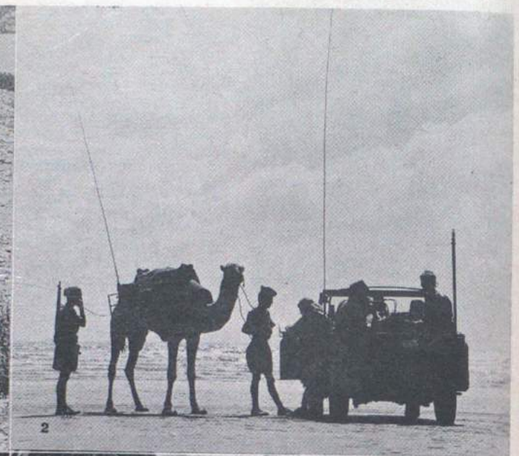
This is the Force tie with a thin blue and white stripe.

Anyone wishing to purchase one, please send a Postal Order to F.R.A. Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 69.

"Achlan Wa Sahlan" from Southern Arabia

And a page of pictures showing something of the activities of members of the Corps serving with the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron











1. An FRA patrol on operations in the A.T.A.Q. area.
2. Captain T. Cornwell, gives instruction to a FRA signalman in charge of a camelborne radio set. Captain Cornwell is shortly leaving for the Junior Leaders Regiment.
3. Corporal T. Sharpe instructing a telegraph operator class.
4. Corporal Dick Gillard working on a CII in the main Comcen at H.Q. FRA.
5. Staff Sergeant F. Williams discussing an operation with members of the FRA.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO GERMANY

A report on the British Army of the Rhine Mounted Parade held during the Visit of Her Majesty on 26th May

Submitted by 200 Squadron

A gaily coloured scene

WEDNESDAY, 26th May, dawned wet and grey. Throughout the morning it rained but the rain stopped at about 3.30 p.m. as dozens of Army coaches bringing spectators to the parade from miles around converged on Sennelager. Up to this moment the only bright picture in an otherwise grey setting was the well-known windmill (not to be confused with the other windmill on the autobahn west of Bielefeld) which was very bright in its freshly painted Royal Armoured Corps colours with white on top. But as the skies brightened hundreds of wives and children excitedly asking "Where is the Queen?" added to the colour with their gaily coloured dresses and, of course, fabulous hats, many no doubt bought for the occasion.

Spectators had to arrive early because roads into Sennelager were closed once Her Majesty was in the area. The wait had no effect on the excited and happy spectators, even though a delay of some twenty minutes was announced because, as had so frequently happened on this triumphant State Visit, the Royal car had been delayed by crowds in the villages through which the Queen was travelling.

A 600-yard frontage

When the spectators arrived the parade vehicles were already drawn up on the parade ground. Over a 600-yard frontage were two Saracens of H.Q. 20 Armoured Brigade Group, the medium guns of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, the tanks of 3rd Carabiniers (POWDG) the Royal Dragoons (1st Dragoons) and 17th/21st Lancers, the APCs of 1st Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and the Saladins and Saracens of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

Shortly before this parade started the aeroplanes and helicopters of the Army Air Corps flew overhead in perfect formation on their way to the Dismounted Parade Fly Past.

Then shortly after 5 p.m. the sound of military music was heard and the Regiments marched on Parade from right and left lead by their own Bands. The Bands were dressed in No. 1 Dress except the Drums of 1 RNF who wore scarlet. All ranks on parade wore berets, coveralls, Regimental/Squadron/Company coloured scarves, web belts and boots. Sleeves of coveralls were rolled. The Bands formed up in a central position in front of the Royal Box under the direction of Bandmaster Evans, of the Royals.

Orders by transistor

The Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. E. Ward, D.S.O., M.C., then took command of the Parade. It is of interest here that the Brigadier carried a transistorised transmitter in a special pocket inside his coveralls, and his orders were then relayed over the very sophisticated public address system hired from Phillips and set up under the direction of the 4th Regiment. Sergeant Llewelyn of 20 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron was by this time in his position at the base of the flag pole behind the Royal Box. He, as were all orderlies, was dressed in No. 1 Dress with buff belt.

Arrival of Her Majesty

Shortly after 5.25 p.m. Her Majesty the Queen with His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in Field Marshal's uniform, drove on to the parade ground from the right in a Rolls Royce escorted by Ferret Scout cars and led by a Saladin of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) flying their Regimental Standard, the first time ever that Her Majesty had had an armoured car escort outside the United Kingdom.

As Her Majesty arrived at the Royal Box the Royal Standard was broken at the mast head by Sergeant Llewelyn. The moment we had all been waiting for had arrived.

Her Majesty, with the parade at attention, then ascended the steps into the Royal Box. She was dressed in a matching coat and hat in a beautiful shade of emerald green.

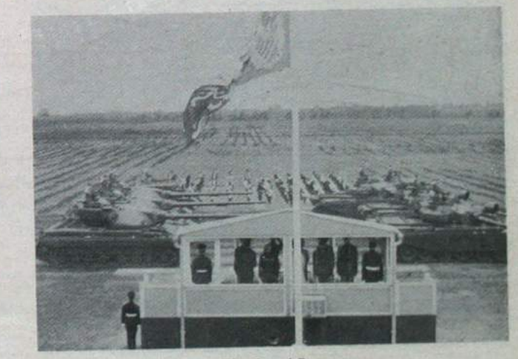
After the Royal Salute the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh inspected the Parade from a Land Rover. As always, Her Majesty did not neglect the spectators and on her way to the right of the parade and on her return from the left of the parade smiled and waved to them.

The drive past

The parade was then given the order to mount and to a very merry hunting tune the parade doubled to their vehicles and mounted. The vehicles were then started up, all started, and in very good dressing reversed 350 yards while the Bands marched and countermarched in front of the Royal Box. The parade then right formed again in perfect order, drove along the rear of the area and drove past from the right. The parade was led by the Brigadier in his Saracen crewed by Captain J. R. S. Ovenden, Royal Signals, Corporal Dobbins, Lance-Corporal Close, Signalman Saddler, Signalman Brittle and Signalman Bate, followed by the other Brigade H.Q. Saracen carrying the Brigade Major, Major G. M. Chirnside, 13/18H, and crewed by Second-Lieutenant C. G. Cruickshank, Royal Signals.



The Drive Past



The Royal Box

As the tanks drove past with crew commanders saluting the guns of the Centurions traversed to the right and dipped in salute. After the Q.R.I.H. came the three bridge layers and three armoured recovery vehicles travelling at over 20 m.p.h., all in perfect dressing.

206 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 17

After a regrettably long absence from these pages, we emerge from obscurity as a Squadron twice the size with a name rivalling Llanfair P.G. in length. We too are now integrated having survived a winter of many trials and tribulations. What has this brought us? Amongst other things, 28 different cap badges, a C.P.O., P.O. and two ratings from the Royal Navy, and four past or present R.S.M.s (with two Sassenachs and two Scots to maintain the cold war!).

Much physical activity

The majority of the Squadron took advantage of the Brigade Ski Hut at Oberjoch during the winter and much enjoyed the break despite providing some customers for B.M.H. Unfortunately a very hardy Asian 'flu bug brought our courses there to an early end. The Outward Bound Courses in Norway continue to keep the Foreman's technicians occupied. "A" Troop en masse is now spending a fortnight in Bavaria for Adventure Training. Sergeants Wise and Matthews have been organising much energetic preparation by way of P.T. and weight-training, and clearly are trying to emulate the S.A.S. selection tests. Any survivors will be prevailed upon to contribute to these columns in a future edition.

Football success

Our outstanding sporting achievement has been to win the Divisional Minor Units Football Cup. The game took place on 6th April in very greasy conditions. Our opponents, 15 Company R.A.S.C., got control of the game first after some early scrappy play, but some fine play by our goalkeeper, Lance-Corporal Radford, spurred the Squadron team to take the initiative, which they never lost thereafter, and to take the lead after 20 minutes with a well-placed goal by Signalman Travers, the captain. By half-time he had completed his hat-trick, and the final score was the Squadron 5, 15 Company 0. Congratulations to Travers and his merry men for winning the Divisional Cup for the second year running.

Cat prevents success in catering

The Squadron won the Divisional Minor Units Messing Competition for the best organised and maintained Cookhouse and Dining Hall, reflecting the great efforts made by the cooks over the last 12 months.

Our chef d' hotel, Sergeant Jakeways, won the Table 'd Honneur (meat and poultry) section of the Divisional Catering competition with his Ballantine of Turkey flanked by chicken. He would have walked away with a similar award in the B.A.O.R. Competition had not a marauding cat walked away with a fistful of turkey shortly beforehand. However, he entered the chickens as the main item and came away with second prize, planning no doubt Ballantine of Cat as next year's entry.



Some Cranwell Cadets, a D11, and Corporal Lile with some tall stories

Visitors from Cranwell

In March we welcomed 60 Officer Cadets from the R.A.F. College at Cranwell for a morning's look at Royal Signals and the Brigade Group Headquarters. It was during the month when we were vulnerable for a practice survival move and perhaps they were unlucky not to see "the most extravagantly funny show the Squadron could devise" (as the O.C. put it) had the word come through whilst they were with us. The Squadron officers explained briefly our role and composition, and the Cadets were then escorted round a display of Squadron vehicles and tactical groups. Quite the most popular stand was the one offering drives in Ferrets; the PRI dipped out by not charging per lap of the Squadron but will remember it for any similar occasion in the future. However it was very gratifying to experience such a keen interest in our functions from another Service.

We hope that we shall have many more achievements to our credit this year with more stories to tell and thus to ensure a regular despatch from a wet and bedraggled Munster.

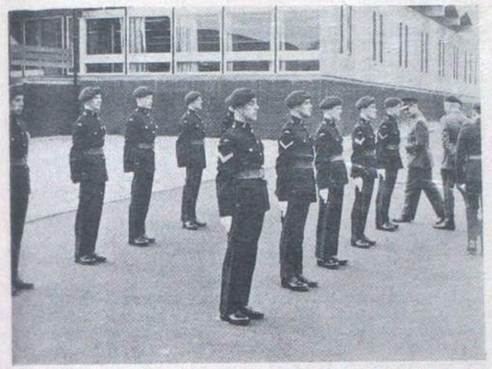
216 SQUADRON, ALDERSHOT

Some 'berets' change colour!

Midsummer is a traditional time for "end-of-term" reports, and it is perhaps appropriate that we should choose this moment to give you another summary of our activities in past months. By the time this issue appears in print, Major A. H. Dennis, who has commanded us for the last two years, will have taken his reluctant leave of the Squadron and the 'Red Beret,' and be preparing to move on to the rarified atmosphere of Shrivenham, which he is viewing with far more trepidation than any parachute descent! At the same time, we are to lose W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. J. Elliott, who has given us splendid service over the last nine years, and who also dons a 'brown hat' when he leaves for 30th Regiment on well-deserved promotion to W.O.I; we shall also miss his wife, Dawn, who has done more than her share for the wives of the Squadron. And so this must be the end of a chapter. We have no fears for the future, however, because we welcome in their place Major M. U. Ryan, who takes off a *green* beret and resumes the red one on taking over command, after an absence of six years, and S.Q.M.S. (Yeoman of Signals) V. G. Kelly, who comes back to us fresh from his Yeoman's course, after being away since March, 1963. (Don't be misled by this strong family spirit. We are by no means a "closed shop," and have vacancies at all levels for the right man. ACI 33/63 gives you the details, but don't underestimate the challenge—you need that little extra something to get through).

Squadron well represented in operational theatres

Though the Squadron as a whole is still in England, we have been well represented in operational theatres. When the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment left for FARELF in January, they took with them Lieutenant Chris Byrom, Sergeant Wells and some dozen other members of the Squadron. They have all acquitted themselves extremely well in Borneo, and Lieutenant Byrom has been acting as Battalion Signal Officer for the last few months. As we prepare to welcome them back shortly, Sergeant Bowes and Lance-Corporal Smith are packing to go out there with the Guards Parachute Company, and Corporal Pinder has already left for Aden with "F" Parachute Light Battery, R.H.A. We have, as always, a strong detachment with the Parachute Battalion Group in Bahrain. Captain Tony Willcox returned earlier this year to join the staff of H.Q., 44th Parachute Brigade (T.A.), and Lieutenant John Graham commands the present detachment.



The S.O.-in-C, inspecting the Quarter Guard during his visit to the Squadron. As an old airborne hand himself, he was quickly at home. Background to the photograph is the New Cookhouse and Dining Room

The rest of us have had to be content with glimpses of "overseas" on exercises. We were in B.A.O.R. last autumn and in Libya in December. This year, so far, we have not got further than Wales (apart from a few lucky individuals who parachuted into Jersey on one exercise), but a detachment hopes to go to Kenya with the 3rd Battalion in August, and another to Libya with 3rd Division later on. Our annual camp is planned for Northern Ireland, so we are doing our best!

Our new barracks—better than anything we have lived in for years

Of our domestic news, the most important is undoubtedly that we have at last moved to new barracks. We are still not entirely accustomed to the cubic concrete constructions we inhabit, but there is no doubt that, despite certain reservations, they are a considerable improvement on anything we have lived in for many years. The barracks were officially opened by Field Marshal Montgomery in early April, and, as the senior of the units in occupation, we took (and we believe justified) our place at the head of the parade held to mark the occasion. Shortly afterwards we were delighted to welcome the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who visited us the following week. As an old airborne-hand himself, he was very quickly at home, and found much to recognise (including, alas, many of the sets!).

Proud of our success at sport

We have had a good year in sport. Individually, Lieutenants Byrom and Crew played rugger for the Corps last season, and Sergeant Andreou played soccer. Corporal MacDonald won the Army 200 yards breaststroke, and he and Lance-Corporal Davis represented the Army in subsequent swimming and water polo meetings. They, and Lieutenant Tony Woodhouse, who has just joined us, have been asked to swim again this year. Lieutenant Alan Eastburn has played cricket for the Corps. Private Connarty, one of our cooks, won his weight in the Southern Command Boxing, disposing of Sergeant Blay, of 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment in doing so. As a unit, we won the Brigade Minor Units Soccer, and went on to win the Aldershot District Minor Units League Championship. Rather to our surprise, we also won the Brigade Minor Units Basketball, and these two victories, together with our good all round performances in other sports over the year, gave us overall victory in the Ismailia Cup Competition. This cup, which is open to competition by all minor units in the Parachute Brigade, and which is awarded annually for the best all-round performance in sport, is a much-prized trophy, and we are very proud of our success. We are now set on retaining it, and as we close our athletics, swimming and cricket teams are busily preparing for this season's matches.

222 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

Squadron H.Q. and Technical Troops—our thanks!

Our first task in these notes is to thank the detachments of 261 Squadron and 638 Troop for the hard work put in by them whilst on attachment to the unit.

Coinciding with the visit by the Colonel Commandant (reported under Mideast Notes) the Squadron was favoured by a visit from the Deputy-Director, Telecommunications (Colonel A. J. Leahy, O.B.E.).

His tour programme extended from 24th March to 11th April and covered all route stations, a round trip of some 5,000-odd miles, and was accompanied throughout by the O.C. Squadron, Major L. Beaumont.

Our man at Sharjah indeed was full of his own importance. To be visited by a General (Colonel Commandant) and by the Deputy-Director, Telecommunications on different programmes on the same day is well worthy of a note in the Squadron War Diary.

The annual Administrative Inspection of Squadron H.Q. was carried out by Group Captain N. T. Harvey, R.A.F., who took over the duties of Inspecting Officer for the Steamer Point area due to the heavy commitments of the A.O.C.

The A.O.C. selected several R.A.F. Stations for his personal inspection, and it can be assumed that everything went well on these inspections.

Farewell.—Our farewell to S.S.M. and Mrs. Taylor, who recently left us for 424 Squadron (Scoteo). They have been practising their Scottish accents, but we fear they will freeze to death with such changes of climate and temperature.

Stop Press.—Congratulations to F. of S. and Mrs. Duffey on the recent birth of their son, Sean Kevin, at Steamer Point Hospital.

"B" Airfield Troop

Featured in this entry is a short account of the Masirah detachment's most recent expedition.

Our only news from Troop H.Q. is not good, as the Troop qualified for the wooden spoon in the Station Football League. **The Troop was horrified to be congratulated by the League Secretary on the efforts of our "few airmen" in achieving this lowly place. Perhaps that's why we didn't do any better.**

Masirah Detachment—away off the beaten track

On 30th April, the Detachment joined a party of airmen from the Station to visit the south of the island, some 50 miles away. The party consisted of Corporal John Banks, Lance-Corporal J. F. L. Smart, our driver, Signalman Peter Carlton,



Colonel Leahy, DD Tels, inspects 'B' Troop, Bahrein, with O.C. Squadron and O.C. Troop in attendance



Sergeant Askham and a 'K' Troop crew sort out a bunch of Khormaksar knitting

and the O.C., Lieutenant Iain Kerr, who came along to push. The expedition, travelling in a 3-tonner and our Land Rover, was primarily a fishing trip, but several interesting features were seen.

Although often assumed to be uninhabited because of the non-existence of fresh water, there are a number of small hamlets which seem to thrive on salty, brackish water. They are mainly fishermen, who cross from the Muscat mainland to enjoy the excellent fishing. Their houses, in the main, are made from old 40-gallon oil drums, which are fashioned into most unusual dwellings.

At about the half-way house the remains of the pre-war station are to be seen. It was a seaplane base, used by both the R.A.F. and B.O.A.C., being abandoned during the Second World War. Strange to see the inscription on one building—"R.A.F. Detention Cell, 1936."

Our destination, a small cave on the southern tip, is marked by one or two recent wrecks of the island's ghosts. *The World Jury*, a troopship, came up during a monsoon gale in 1952, and stands hard on the coral rocks with seas breaking through large holes in her sides. The fishing prospects were largely unrealised owing to the powerful swell running during that time, but an enjoyable evening was spent around the camp fire, with many anglers' yarns being spun.

It is hoped for further trips around the island, when such features as the long-abandoned Portuguese fort, the alleged Phoenecian copper miner and the proverbial "Mountains of the Moon" can be visited. (*And please, a story.—Editor.*)

Footnote.—The detachment have just completed installation of the island's first auto-exchange, but S.T.D. developments are expected when the T.O.T. starts next year's projects!

"K" Airfield Troop

The main event within the Troop here is the departure of its O.C., Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Ken Duffey. We thank him for all his efforts. The farewell is not a complete one, as he remains in the Squadron in his proper capacity of Foreman of Signals.

With all the changes in communications at Khormaksar, time has passed quickly since our last report. The auto-exchange nears completion. The indoctrination of Khormaksar inhabitants into the way of auto-life has begun.

It is difficult to put on paper an interesting account of the work completed by the Troop over the past three months. It could be measured by the number of holes dug, the number of joints made or the length of cable laid; suffice it to say that the daily problems have been met—both ordinary and extraordinary.

Personalities at our outstations of Riyan and Salalah have changed. Signalman Terry Houghton returned from U.K. leave to a royal welcome at Riyan. Rarely has such a large reception party been seen on the airfield. Signalman "Paddy" Lyons has moved to Salalah with strict instructions not to date the "Goat Girl."

Finally, congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. John Chillery on their recent arrival of a son.

Tailpiece.—These WIRE notes nearly didn't get typed. The Orderly Room Staff threatened to go on strike unless they were mentioned in THE WIRE. However, the union leader relented and typed them, realising how easy it was to type this tailpiece without the author knowing anything about it. The Editor of THE WIRE has strict instructions that if he cuts anything else in these notes, he must not cut out this bit! We haven't much to say, except that we work all day like slaves, and the sweat pours off our brows into our eyes, and from our bodies to soak our shorts. We are longing for those long, cool Antarctic-type winters in Germany. Our salaams to all Orderly Room Staffs throughout the world, from Sergeant Colin Bellamy-Wood, Corporal Jeff Garland and Lance-Corporal George Hill, in the Orderly Room, Lance-Corporal Del Harrod at Khormaksar, and Lance-Corporal Paul Burdes, at Muharraq Bahrain. (*We did you proud.—Editor*).

224 SQUADRON, LOUGHBOROUGH

Annual 'At Home'

After weeks of preparation the Squadron annual 'At Home' started on Friday, 28th May, with a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess at which several local civic dignatories were present.

The Saturday morning was cloudy with a bitterly cold wind blowing. Parents of members of the Squadron started to arrive at the Guard Room soon after 9 o'clock. Sergeant McKay and his team at Reception directed the visitors to their weekend accommodation and to the Beacon Club where the adjutant, Major E. T. Bolt, welcomed them and gave them the details of their full weekend programme.

Nearly smoked out

Colonel E. McK. Erskine, the inspecting officer, arrived at 10 o'clock and was met by the Commanding Officer, Major W. J. Clapp, and a smartly turned out Quarter Guard. After coffee they began a tour of the Squadron, and were followed by visitors in an informal tour of the camp. The Squadron organised demonstrations by drill and P.T. squads. Later a very realistic battle assault course squad in action was compered by Second-Lieutenant R. Windmill— the most effective smoke screen seen for a long time in this part of the world almost obscured the battle but immediate action by the S.S.M. (W.O.II Orme) saved the situation. A recruiting and signal equipment tent, under Staff-Sergeant Ross, showed the visitors that there is a serious training side to our activities.

A hundred and three visitors enjoyed lunch in the dining hall and in the afternoon attended our sports and fête on the recreation ground. The finals of the inter-troop athletics were won again this year by "A" Troop and Mrs. Erskine kindly presented the medals and prizes, including the Victor Ludorum trophy which this year went to Lance-Corporal Kirk. The fête included many amusement stalls organised by W.O.II Purvis, and a successful wives' tent under Mrs. Orme proved the most profitable show. During the afternoon music was played by the Corps Band.

. . . So enjoyable that an extension was granted . . .

On Saturday evening the annual 'At Home' dance took place in the Dining Hall and was attended by well over 400 people which included members of the Squadron, ladies, parents and friends, and local villagers. The dance, organised by Lieutenant W. Roper with his two masters of ceremony, Sergeants Tumber and Davies, quickly got going and there were many spot prizes. The oldest and youngest married couples were each presented with a corsage and a cigar. Sergeant Cooper (A.C.C.) and his cooks laid out an excellent buffet—which was to be expected as they have only recently won the Northern Command cooking competition. The dance was so enjoyable that instead of finishing at midnight the Commanding Officer agreed to an extension. The Dance Section of the Corps band were highly applauded for the variety of dances played.

And so to church

On Sunday morning the Squadron marched to St. Paul's Parish Church in Woodhouse Eaves for a special service conducted by the Rev. R. P. Rankin. Brigadier J. J. Duvivier and Corporal M. G. Evans read the lessons and the service concluded with a fanfare. We were very pleased to be joined by a contingent of the Old Comrades from the Loughborough Branch of the Royal Signals Association, who marched with us led by the Corps band through Woodhouse Eaves where the salute was taken by Colonel E. McK. Erskine.

The weekend was rounded off by a Band Concert held in the Dining Hall after lunch when the Commanding Officer thanked the Band and said farewell to our many visitors.

Goodbyes

This month we say goodbye to the Adjutant, Major E. T. Bolt, and the Quartermaster, Major D. A. L. Murray, and welcome our new Quartermaster, Captain J. E. Douthwaite.

235 SQUADRON (COMCAN), B.F.P.O. 51

A few years ago, while serving in Singapore, all of the W.O.s and senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron were requested by the O.C. to submit to him an essay of at least 1,000 words. Eighteen months ago many similar demands were put to me whilst endeavouring to become a Yeoman. This time I received enlightenment in the form of the following message:—

FM 2IC	2 CR LF
TO W.O.I (Y. of S.) A. Stringer	2 CR LF
BT	2 CR LF
UNCLAS. You are nominated to write WIRE notes for June, '65	2 CR LF
BT	2 CR LF
	4 N's 12 LTRS

Third time unlucky, so here goes:—

The batchelors are not lonely in this Squadron

This is Malta G.C., a tight little island, only 17 miles long by nine miles wide. Rather congested perhaps but we are at Imtarfa on one of the highest points of the island well away from the maddening throng. Aren't the bachelors a little lonely then? Not on your life. By a happy coincidence Imtarfa also houses all the WRAC in Malta. So, in addition to doing a very responsible and worthwhile job, we have the company of the opposite sex, thriving Messes and Club with frequent dances, our own AKC Cinema and transport laid on the beach only 15 minutes drive away. It's not a bad old life.

It is now about six months since any notes appeared from this Squadron, and it would be impossible to record everything that has taken place since then.

Since our last notes, five members of the Squadron have been married to members of the WRAC Troop. As the Troop has an establishment of only 20 girls we sympathise with WRAC Records and hope that they will somehow manage to keep the "postings in" at least equal to the "marrieds out." (Note for bachelors under notice of posting to Malta: The latest WRAC arrivals include some *very* pretty girls).

The marriage pace continues hot. W.O.II "Jock" McIntosh leaves to be married in his native Scotland and Lance-Corporal Lynn Vernon (WRAC) is to be wed in September, to a member of 234 Squadron (Malta).

In sport—a fair measure of success

In the competitive field we have achieved a fair measure of success. R.Q.M.S. "Wally" Hammond has represented the Army (Malta) at hockey and badminton. In addition, partnered by his wife Doreen, he had a go at the Army mixed doubles. They were extremely unlucky to be beaten in the final of this event.

Sergeant Gordon Smith was a member of the Combined Services (Malta) shooting team which won the Overseas and Colonial Rifle Match. Whilst on the subject of shooting, a team from the Squadron finished as runners-up in the "Visitors' Falling Plate" competition, in a shoot organised by 1 DERR. The winning team, R.A.F. Luqa, and our own, knocked the last plate down together and the match was decided on the number of rounds not expended. The team consisted of:—W.O.II (F. of S.) Pete Hutley and Sergeants "Duke" Cairns, Gordon Smith, Gerry French and "Geordie" Brown.

A team from the Squadron entered an inter-Service six-a-side soccer competition and were extremely unfortunate to be knocked out in the semi-finals, having beaten the favourites in a previous round. Perhaps the least said about our hockey and basketball team the better!

On 1st June, Major M. W. Pollard left the island to take up a staff appointment at H.Q. COMCAN. I feel sure he will be missed by everyone in the Squadron, as much was achieved during his reign. We wish Major and Mrs. Pollard every success in their new posting. He has been succeeded as Squadron Commander by Major C. S. Galbraith, who is already firmly entrenched in the "chair," and making his presence felt.



The victorious team at the Royal Signals Hong Kong Athletic Championships 1965, showing all the medals and the cup

252 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 1

A significant change has occurred . . .

Since last appearing in print, a significant change has occurred in the title of our unit: we are now "252 Signal Squadron" (without the "Operating" in brackets). This heralds the change to our new establishment, which was implemented in March this year. It has helped to eradicate a number of anomalies which have hamstrung both ourselves and 253 Squadron for the last couple of years—not least of which is that the Island Signal Troop (Works) is now an integral part of our Squadron, instead of being merely attached to it, as previously.

Early February saw all troops in the Colony preparing for a tri-Service exercise for which the Squadron provided the communications for H.Q., Land Forces. The preparation included a CASCOMEX with H.M.S. *Victorious*, and the building of a completely new radio room in the underground headquarters. At the same time, one of the Chinese banks went out of business and we were all on stand-by for an internal security situation which never materialised!

During the same month, 535 Troop arrived from Borneo to join 1st S.W.B. and we were told numerous tales of what life was like at the "sharp end."

W.O.I (F. of S.) N. A. V. Ribchester left us for Labuan at the end of February on commissioning, and W.O.I (F. of S.) E. M. Frost, M.B.E., likewise, departed on commissioning in May, for 19th Regiment in Singapore. We welcomed back Lieutenant (T.O.T.) V. De Witt as O.C. Island Signal Troop in February, and W.O.I (F. of S.) H. Morrison has joined us from Singapore to take over command of "M" Troop.

Radio Troop has provided operators on two security patrols recently, which gave them a taste of what is to come when the Squadron Patrol takes place in June.

Athletics—the medals are being polished

Troop Commanders are breathing sighs of relief, now that Hong Kong's short, but hectic, athletic season has come to an end. All Army competitions in the Colony take place during April and May, presumably because it is considered too hot and sticky later on in the summer. The Squadron team captain, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. R. Carey has cut down to his normal 20 cigarettes a day and has stopped taking sleeping tablets! The athletes are polishing the medals, which they richly deserve.

The season began with the Royal Signals triangular match between ourselves and our neighbouring Squadrons on the mainland—253 Squadron and 246 Gurkha Squadron. Modesty forbids saying more than that out of nine events, we won eight.

Three weeks later we sallied forth against six strong teams from Hong Kong and Kowloon Garrison and gained second place, beaten only by the renowned Ordnance Depot. This effort qualified us to enter for the Land Forces finals a week later, in which we finished third. This is our best athletics performance for many a year—especially when it is realised that we were only narrowly pushed out of second place, by two points.

Among the most notable performers were Lance-Corporal Harry Norrie, who literally "leapt" to fame by gaining the Land Forces individual high jump title, and raised the dust a few minutes later by obtaining second place in the Land Forces



The one mile team winners receiving their prizes from Mrs. Winn, wife of C.R. Signals. *Left to right:* Signalman Score, Lance Corporal Marshall, Corporal Bogle, Signalman Cunningham

200 metres. Signalman Peter (Rusty) Spencer put up a splendid show in coming second in the Minor Units long jump, having jumped for the first time in his life two days before!

Island Signal Troop (Works)

This Troop is at present busy resuscitating a pre-war underground cable against which Japanese bombs appear to have taken a particular dislike! The cable had been abandoned when the extent of the damage was discovered.

The Public Works Department, however, decided recently to dig up the area for its own purposes and the cable has been exposed in several places. Line Troop's "black museum" specimens recovered from the cable are a joy to behold. If the person who jointed the cable is still around, the Troop could let him have about 3lb. of paraffin wax enclosed by a No. 16 sleeve, with a piece of 14 pr/20 poking out of each end! Although the cable is estimated to be about 36 years old, it is almost back in working order now, after weeks of hard labour by our cable jointers.

The next few weeks are going to be a very busy time for everyone with the four-day penetration patrol, pre-administrative inspections and Corps Week, not to mention the odd typhoons which are bound to occur at the most inconvenient times. So far (touch wood), there have been no typhoons, but, no doubt by the next time we write an article, there will be plenty to report!

245 SQUADRON (CYRENAICA) B.F.P.O. 55

"Jerboa" means much more now . . .

Our new year is now with us and confidently we went into our exercises and other commitments. To date we have acquitted ourselves very well, and the word "Jerboa" means much more to so many of the Squadron members than it ever did before.

One of our desert jaunts that, without a doubt, deserves a special mention was the Kuffra Expedition.

Our weather since January has been the most unstable for years—so the locals tell us. It has been difficult to decide whether to wear jersey, pullover or bikini. Our pet hate, the gibli (dust storm) comes and goes with monotonous regularity, to the despair of all concerned. It gets anywhere and everywhere.

Again we have had a fairly heavy turnover of personnel. We welcome new arrivals and wish our departed well.

Our football team, in spite of many injuries and movements on courses, etc., have had a good season. They finished third in the area league and lost a closely-contested area cup final to the Pioneers.

We are again in the throes of our annual inspections, which are going well. The Q.M. and S.S.M. are to be congratulated on a second year's 100 per cent on arms.

We regret to announce the death of our "Five Ackers" and thank them for their music, which was really in the modern idiom.

As always, life in Benghazi is far from dull, and your scribe in these notes says goodbye to Squadron members on his departure to colder climes. Your new scribe will be Lt. (Q.M.) Pat Lafferty, so over to you, Pat, wishing you well and a happy tour in North Africa.



245 Squadron—Our Football team have had a good season. They finished third in the Arab League and lost a closely contested Area Final.

Back row (Left to Right): Lance Corporal Hundle, Lance Corporal Smith, Lance Corporal Longstaff (Captain), Lance Corporal Moodie, Signalman Rodber, Signalman Merrick

Front Row (Left to Right): Lance Corporal Howell, Lance Corporal Heath, Corporal Morris, S.S.M. Thornton, Signalman Denton

262 SQUADRON (CYPRUS) B.F.P.O. 53

First at Shooting—last in Athletics

With temperatures in the 90°F. there is no argument even among the "oldies" that it is a little warm and summer has arrived. High temperatures understandably lower the tempo of activity despite the words of Kipling borrowed by Noël Coward, and truthfully we haven't done much lately.

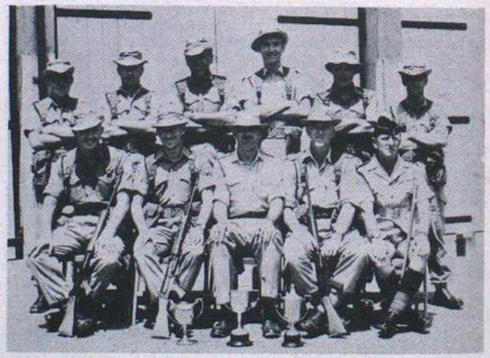
The C.S.O.'s Champion Squadron Competition has kept us active, however, in two fields, namely, shooting and athletics. Although the order of their happening is reversed this is deliberate because this is the order of our positions. First in the shooting but last in the athletics. Possibly had the same volume of sweat drenched the sports field in training for the athletics as the quantity of lead expended in practising shooting we should have done better. We could have, of course, lost a few members of the Squadron.

Four events of this 13-item competition remain to be determined and with luck we could get home third. We hope!

At the time of writing Captain Wilkie-Snow is successfully, we trust, negotiating the roads of Italy and points north on his way home overland to an eventual destination in Denbury. His successor, Captain Hamilton, is getting used to stony silence when he comments, "Warm, isn't it?"

We hope to have more news of Cyprus and the Squadron, which we reckon is worth the posting, for the next edition. Meantime the beaches and the Mediterranean call.

The Squadron Team in the C.S.O.'s Champion Squadron



Signalman Owen, Corporal Brown, Sergeant Chapman, Corporal Rutherford, Lance Corporal MacMurray-Taylor, Lance Corporal Shepheard, Staff Sergeant Jones, S.Q.M.S. Best, Major C. B. Mercer, Captain G. Wilkie-Snow, S.S.M. Hulse

263 SQUADRON, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Our architect's act again

Whilst life in a training unit should and does go on at a steady and even pace the odd little thing comes along to cause the occasional flutter, and indeed this has happened to us, with the proposal that the School should move from Calcutta Camp to Meiktila Barracks. No doubt all the ex-members of 263 will have a little chuckle and say, "They should be used to it, it comes up every year." Perhaps they are right, but nevertheless out come the tape measures, possible classrooms are measured, fresh files on the subject matter are opened and everyone does his best to look like an architect. Having gone through all the motions we sit back and wait wondering whether a few months time will see us in a new location or if our architect act will be an annual pantomime.

This Grading was really something . . .

Training in the School has progressed as per forecast and the last trade board for trainees from U.K. produced a student who obtained an "A" grading. This was really "something" and we will not be the least surprised to see the class instructor wearing a mortar board and gown in future. The student who gave such a sterling performance was Signalman A. Mason, and to mark the occasion the C.S.O. FARELF, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., presented him with a certificate and a silver tankard duly inscribed. An excellent start to a young soldier's career.

We do our part in "Concord"

The School was called upon by Singapore Area to do their share of "Concord"—a programme of assistance to the local state. The result being that we had eight students from the Singapore Polytechnic College for a period of eight weeks on vocational training. They had spent two years on the theory side of communications and showed great interest in our equipment and in using meters for the first time. Quite a lot of time was spent with the D11 station and although time was too short to go very deeply into wireless and line equipment, the School has certainly helped them to decide which branch of communications they are going to specialise in, next term.

Inter-Squadron Shoot successes

The 18th Regiment Group Inter-Squadron Shoot took place on the 27th May at Nee Soon Ranges. We had great difficulties in getting a team together to do any practice tied up as we are to classrooms, which is probably why we came second in the S.M.G. The final results for 263 Squadron were as follows:—

Team: S.M.G., second; Rifle, first.

Overall position: First.

Individuals: S.M.G., first, Sergeant Hassall; Rifle, first, Major Harwood.

This following on our success at basketball, the R.Q.M.S. is trying to get an increase in contingent to keep the trophies clean.

JOINT COMMUNICATION UNIT (BORNEO), B.F.P.O. 660

Radio Troop

As the title, Radio Troop covers a multitude of sins, in addition to the Radio element it includes Radio Relay and Line Sub Troops. Various sections of the troop have contributed to these notes, which have been edited by Y. of S. Gwynne assisted by Corporals Story and Gordon.

Previous notes have stressed that we are an integrated unit and within the troop we have a thriving R.A.F. element working under one of their own N.C.O.s, Sergeant Lennon.

Recently we have lost some stalwarts including Signalman "Baz" Gwilliam, Junior Technician Bretherton, R.A.F. (an epic farewell party), Sergeant Thomas, Junior Technician Aitken, Lance-Corporal Ledger, Signalman Hood. The troop wish them well in their new postings and welcome all the new troop members with the hope that they enjoy their tours.

Tawau

Our current representatives at Tawau (providing rear link facilities from East Brigade) are Sergeant McElvogue, Corporal Gartside, Signalmen Wisley, Hughes, Roe and Roach.



Visit by the G.O.C.

Left to Right: Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. S. Ford, Major General P. M. Hunt, Corporal Bishop, Corporal Stokes

Despite visits, cloudbursts, magnetic storms, mud, dust and Indonesians, the detachment remains in good health and spirits. They manage to keep the traffic flowing even when they had to move an ammunition dump to get a radio site.

TX site

Fairyland they call it—where all the gnomes hang out. Well, we have Penguins and Pongoes: Sergeant Lennon (R.A.F.) and Sergeant Ridley (Army) in charge, and staffed with Gremlines. It's a right 'Joint' (set up, I mean). Now the S.A.S. have joined. All are welcome! It's no good trying to get a 'panic' tan at TX. The sun is permanently blacked out by aerials. People are very active up there though—they have to be since sometimes the ground is 'live.' However, thanks to plenty of iced drink—taken at ease in the sun lounge that the chief Penguin has rigged up, the radiations continue to be emitted into the ionosphere—where doubtless they become lost for ever. Seriously—the other 'ends' can usually get us—even Singapore. I suspect that old Soekarno gets a good signal from us too. However we are glad to report that palm trees planted on the site, by Signalmen Breeze and Storrier, and the gardens by Signalman Dutch, are going well, and giving no trouble.

Systems and RX

Here the Troop continues to flourish, though the controllers get a little wilted at times. They often swear that "all the other ends are kipping and they are the only ones alive!" the unanimous opinion of Sergeants Heavey, Leake, and Corporals Taylor, Whitrick and Georgeson. Our 'receive' operators are positive that there is an invisible metal screen around the receive site, put there by Soekarno to stop all the signals getting into us. These Indonesians are devilish clever—according to authorities, Lance-Corporal Revell and Bryant. As far as communications are concerned, when "Pronto" gets his multi-coloured charts of a morning, he is certain that all operators are colour blind. We don't do so badly though.

The technicians are busy installing and wiring up a new system control for us, and they are certainly doing us proud. We have all the 'amenities,' and the controller will have nothing to do but relax in air-conditioned comfort and "push a few switches and plug a few cords." This should not only improve communications but also lower the mortality rate of "Yossies" and "Fossies" (Yeomen and Foremen.—Editor.).

R.R. and Line Sub Troop

It has been agreed that these notes should take the form of an obituary to the famous Blueberry Hill:

Five men, a radio relay station and innumerable mosquitoes, constitute the best Corporal's command in the Corps. Alas, the new 105ft. steel tower spells death to the detachment, which has now been operative for over a year, for the shoot from Labuan and Brunei can be made in one leg, obviating the need for a relay.

Many will be the tales told about this little outpost which has done valiant service.

The efforts to re-supply the detachment during the rainy season will always be remembered, and the stories of the truck drivers engaged on this task will be increased and magnified.

The success achieved by the personnel who have manned

Blueberry in the important "Hearts and Minds" campaign cannot be under-estimated. The Kampong people and fishermen tend to regard the relay site as the local clinic and advice bureau.

By the time these notes appear in THE WIRE, Blueberry Hill Radio Relay Detachment will be no more, but the efforts to dismantle the station and bring the equipment back to base should prove a good story for the next issue.

"Q" and M.T. Troop

The original notes submitted by this infamous collection of personnel were so nauseatingly self-laudatory that they have been replaced by those of a writer who is merely a customer of theirs. (He will remain anonymous).

Recently, their main efforts have been directed to setting up business in their new house, which was officially opened by Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Carnegie, M.B.E., A.A. & Q.M.G., 17th Division, on 17th April, and visited shortly afterwards by the G.O.C. 17th Division, Major-General P. M. Hunt, D.S.O., O.B.E.

In spite of this official attention, the Troop still maintain their flair for individuality and retain that independent air which it must be said (grudgingly) seems to produce the goods.

It is refreshing to note the high proportion of Troop members who represent the Squadron in the games of rugby, soccer and hockey.

Some original members of 606 Troop still remain, namely Corporal Sigrist, Lance-Corporal Borthwick, Signalmen Montgomery, Rogers, Machon and Taylor, but have been joined by some very acceptable new chaps who have settled down well.

633 TROOP (BRITISH HONDURAS)

A Hectic Start to the Year

We started off on 8th January by sending Signalman Dryland off to Grand Cayman to work a link back to us whilst a Platoon of "C" Company, 1st K.S.L.I. did an exercise on the island. The link worked well, despite the fact that the female population in Grand Cayman vastly exceeds the male.

During January, February and March, members of the Troop took leave, obviously having realised that the magical date, 1st April, was only just round the corner. And when it comes to leave, with a Troop strength of only eight all told, it requires careful planning and extra work for everyone.

Helping the local Yacht Regatta

On 9th March we decided to help out, communications-wise, in the local yacht regatta. We installed two C11/R210s on private yachts and worked to a control station in the Fort George Hotel. When the commentators wished to use the net, it was picked up on an AR88 and fed into a mixer for Radio Belize to broadcast. The system worked well and, according to the letter of thanks we received from the Harbour Regatta Committee, many people in the districts complimented Radio Belize for a fine programme. One point that came out was that Army equipment cannot be disposed of lightly; you see, a battery started to leak acid on one of the private yachts, causing certain expensive mahogany to start smoking. When told to cast the offending battery overboard, it was assumed the order had been carried out. It was later discovered, however, that Corporal McNeil had disobeyed the order because, as he put it, "I just couldn't bring myself to toss it into the sea, so I put it on some old canvas and kept on washing down the deck."

At the beginning of April, Exercise "Sugar Cane" took place, and, during the fly-in, the R.A.F. sent a Signal detachment to British Honduras as part of Exercise "Trumpet Call." We were keen to see how they were going to do their job, as the equipment they were bringing was a C11/R210 and Amplifier RF No. 9 putting out 1,000W. This, to us, who were using 17W in some cases and about 200W in others, and had to work the same distance, was luxury at its most luxurious. Needless to say, they got through to Nassau, that is until they suddenly started to get some RF feed back which put their C11 right off the air. Luckily, we had our links to Nassau working (on a mere 200W) and no traffic was delayed.

The C11 takes to the air

Exercise "Sugar Cane" brought to B.H. the remainder of the 1st Battalion K.S.L.I., and now our troubles started. Our communications during the day on the Battalion rear link net were good, but at night, every "snap, crackle and pop" of static, plus all North, Central and South American stations could be heard in the earphones. In fact the only station we couldn't hear was the Battalion rear link. We tried putting out a step-up, but our Land Rover had an argument with a concrete bridge at four in the morning, which sort of dampened that idea. The operator concerned tells us that C11s can, in fact fly, although landing is a bit tricky. This one made a good job, however, because after its trip, at an approximate altitude of 4 feet, it landed with only scratches to the paintwork. The vehicle was not so lucky and now stares at us from the O.E.O.'s scrap yard; the blue and white plate being perhaps the only thing still in one piece.

On Saturday, 10th April, we had a visit from the G.S.O.1, Southern Command, Lieutenant-Colonel Lyske. Perhaps his visit will best be remembered for the look on his face when he was shown the local telephone lines, which he insisted on photographing, because, as he said, "Unless I produce a photograph, no one will believe this back home." Perhaps Lieutenant-Colonel Lyske would supply a copy for THE WIRE.

Three men lost in the jungle

To proceed, the Battalion had increased our traffic load, but we still managed to keep our heads above water, and as April turned into May, we were expecting them to go home. This looked simple, R.A.F. Hastings coming in at the rate of six a day and in no time things would be back to normal. Then, on the last few days, a patrol of three men got lost in the jungle near the Guatemalan border. They stayed "lost" for seven days and the M.O. had given them another five days to survive. The Americans had very kindly, and quickly, answered our request for a helicopter, and the crew were just being briefed when the patrol was found. This, of course, put off the Battalion's return to the U.K. and it wasn't until 20th May that we said cheerio to the last of them.

Oh for the quietness of the hurricane season!

"Now," thought the Troop, "back to normal." But no, the Yeoman's relief is due soon and stock-taking is required. "More work," thought the Troop, "roll on the hurricane season; even hurricanes will be better than this."

One last word of thanks to 640 Troop, who kindly loaned us Lance-Corporal Board to fill a gap in postings, who was very useful during Exercise "Sugar Cane." He is now experienced in the "long-forgotten" 53 sets, upon which we rely so much.

47th REGIMENT T.A.
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

Training of an unusual nature

The emphasis during the past few weeks has been on training, but of an unusual nature. "C" Squadron decided that the usual round of events over Easter was not for them, so, packing their kit and boarding their vehicles, they took off for distant parts, namely Mount Snowdon.

Travelling all night, Snowdon was reached at 8 a.m. and, following a most welcome breakfast, rapidly prepared by the Squadron cooks, the real business of communications commenced. Aerials were set up, 1,600 feet above sea level, and communications established with a detachment at Folkestone. Despite atrocious weather, which played havoc with aerials and, in particular Sergeant Ted Gray's cookhouse, everyone enjoyed themselves, particularly the reporter from the *Weekly Post*, who had accepted an invitation to see what the T.A. gets up to! His views on shaving in a mountain stream at 5 a.m. were, to say the least, unusual.

Even more unusual was the training carried out by a detachment from "A" Squadron, who decided to combine the normal methods of radio communication with gliding, emphasis being placed on how aerials appear from the air and the value of

camouflage when flying in aircraft at low altitudes. All ranks had an opportunity to fly, and it must be recorded that Lance-Corporal Dave Regan achieved the rare feat of qualifying for his "A" and "B" licence in four days. Memories are still very clear of the look on his face, having safely touched down on completion of his solo flight!

Other aspects of Regimental life

Other aspects of Regimental life continued throughout this period, even if not quite so adventurous, with the Regimental Band giving a concert for the Star and Garter Home at Richmond, which was well received by all who were fortunate enough to be present.

Our Drum-Major, Staff Sergeant "Dusty" Miller, of Corps Display Team fame, received the Meritorious Service Certificate from Field Marshal The Earl Alexander of Tunis at a ceremony at the Duke of York's H.Q. and a well-deserved award it was.

The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., has been awarded his fifth clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Medal (this must surely take some matching?) whilst Brigadier Vincent-Smith, of our neighbours, U.K. NALLA, received his fourth clasp.

It was noted, with pride, that Lieutenant-General Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart V.C., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who died recently, originally enlisted in the Middlesex Yeomanry for service in South Africa.

All is now "Systems Go" (or nearly) for our annual camp in Paris.

51st (H) REGIMENT (T.A.), ABERDEEN

There's a moral here somewhere!

In the months which have elapsed since last these notes appeared the Regiment has not been idle. We had not quite realised how much the outside world in the Corps waits for our contributions to "The Wire" until our new Quartermaster, Captain (Q.M.) F. Pavey, arrived the other day and remarked that he had been seeking advance news of the Regiment in "The Wire" for months, but never a word about us appeared in print. Suitably chastened, our scribe set to work.

Winter sowing brings forth Spring blossoms

A winter's classroom work for trainee tradesmen and those for up-grading has now blossomed into the Spring outdoor training season. Radio, line and radio relay troops have all been on exercises during recent week-ends and Squadrons generally are well advanced in preparation for camp. The more precise results of these activities will be known soon, as Trade Boards are to be held in mid-June.

Annual Camp this year takes us back to Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, where we hope to carry out a full programme of training. The main exercise during the fortnight will bring us in contact with our divisional staff and promses to be an arduous, although we hope also rewarding, experience.

Our Autumn recruiting campaign —encouraging results

In our last notes we mentioned the success of our Autumn recruiting campaign. Since then we have had further recruits, including an encouraging first response in the Cumbernauld area where we are breaking new ground. We have also had a welcome influx of new officers, young and enthusiastic, who are rapidly taking their share in regimental activities. Both old and new officers participated in an Officers' Training Week-end in April when their prowess (or otherwise) in most fields of signals knowledge was put to the test. For weeks beforehand almost the only topic of discussion among the subalterns was as to how quickly they could achieve the required morse speed (and what would happen to them if they didn't). The week-end's activities included a cocktail party, supper and dance which enabled us to meet many of our colleagues from other local units. It did not, of course, do anything to help one's morse which the Chief Instructor had thoughtfully(?) decided to test first thing on the Sunday morning.

Achievement—

The regimental rifle team has put in much hard practice over recent months. Headquarter Squadron were the winners of the inter-Squadron competition at the Regimental Rifle Meeting at Fort George. At the Divisional Meeting we were up against twenty-four regimental teams, including eleven infantry teams. We came 5th in the LMG and 8th overall with our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Wotherspoon, winning the Senior Officers' match. For the first time we are sending a team to the Corps Meeting at Bulford in June.

Spectacle—

Our Pipes and Drums took part, along with the bands of 52nd (L) Regiment (T.A.) and 61st (City of Edinburgh) Regiment (T.A.) in the ceremony of beating Retreat on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle on 5th June. It was a colourful spectacle and a large crowd saw Colonel D. D. Fairman, O.B.E., C.S.O., Scottish Command, take the salute. This is the second year in succession that the three Scottish T.A. Signal Regiments have massed their bands for this ceremony.

And sadness . . .

The Regiment was stunned a few weeks ago by the news of the sudden death of R.Q.M.S. Kenneth Fraser. A genial companion and a conscientious soldier, he had presided over our stores with care and his own delightful brand of humour for the last five years. He was at work as usual on 10th May, and soon after midnight he was dead. We are happy in the knowledge that only the previous week-end at our rifle meeting at Fort George he had been in the company of men of his old Regiment, the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who were in camp at the Fort. A bearer party of his colleagues of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was present at the funeral, as were many members of the Regiment in Aberdeen. Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Fraser, who now finds herself alone in a strange country.

52nd (LOWLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.), GLASGOW

The unit's camp, at Cultybraggan this year, from 8th to 22nd May, was unusual in that for the first time in twelve years, it was a combined Divisional/District camp. This proved to be most interesting and afforded T.A. personnel the opportunity of seeing other units at work.

Beautifully Situated

Cultybraggan Camp is beautifully situated in a valley overlooked by hills and within travelling distance of many of Scotland's most famous beauty spots. As the distance from Glasgow is only 54 miles, and working railways stations in the vicinity are thin on the ground, personnel travelled to camp by unit transport. This presented no difficulties whatever, and everyone arrived in good order and ready to start work. The advance party and the "Q" staff had, as usual, everything in hand for the arrival of the main party, and settling-in was accomplished rapidly.

A Mission Accomplished

On the middle Saturday and Sunday our main and rear Divisional H.Q. were deployed in support of Exercise "Second Strike," and the three-day exercise, "Highland Fling" started on the second Monday of camp. The task for the Regiment was to provide communications, radio and despatch riders, and to staff to comcens during the exercise in which the Divisional staff were taking part. This mission was accomplished. All ranks set to with a will and, despite shocking weather conditions, provided the necessary communications. The weather could not have been worse during this period, heavy rain falling throughout the whole of the first day and frost and snow at night. Operations above the snowline can, however, be quite enjoyable when accompanied by the rum ration, which was duly issued.

Since the Division/District staff were in the field during the period of camp, the General had to maintain his command throughout the district, using Cultybraggan as his base. The communications for this set-up in the field were supplied and maintained entirely by personnel of 1 Squadron, who did a difficult job extremely well.

Encouraging Results Augur Well for the Future

Since February, 1965, 3 Squadron has been responsible for the military training of recruits and trade training within

the Regiment. Annual camp was, therefore, an ideal opportunity to complete training programmes and trade test trainees. The results were most encouraging and gave considerable satisfaction to the instructors, who had laboured enthusiastically since February. Apart from the 26 newly-qualified tradesmen and tradeswomen, 23 recruits passed off, and their drill and bearing earned the praise of the Commanding Officer, who deemed them to be an exceptionally good intake. The excellent results obtained from the reorganisation of the Regimental training structure auguers well for the future and would seem to confirm that we are proceeding on the right lines.

The Very Hectic Month of May

321 Squadron had a rather hectic time during the month of May. The first week-end saw them on a Brigade Signal exercise in Ayrshire. On the second week-end they travelled to annual camp at Cultybraggan in Perthshire. On the third, they again took part in a Brigade exercise, then returned to camp to rejoin the Regiment and take part in the Divisional three-day exercise. On the fourth week-end, the weary but successful warriors returned to the peace and quiet of Barrhead, to pause for breath and then plan and prepare for the next training season.

The O.C. Takes the 'Stick'

In addition to these exercises, they managed to squeeze in a Squadron exercise on the first Sunday at camp, when they practised in their Brigade role, moving from camp, practising communications and deploying in the Perth area It was no coincidence that the temporary H.Q. was the former "home" of the P.S.O.—Scone Airport. We are grateful to Airwork Services Ltd. for the use of this excellent site and to Major Pitt, R.A., and Airwork Captains Hamilton and Holmes for making everyone feel at home. Over the lunch period the Squadron appeared "airportable" as fifteen members flew in turn with Captain Holmes for a short trip in a Cessna 172. The last party to fly was Squadron H.Q., when the O.C., P.S.O., and S.S.M. got airborne together. During this trip the O.C. really led his H.Q., when Major Bill Marnoch took the controls for most of the flight. This was an experience about which S.S.M. Miskelly and the P.S.O. (ex-R.A.F. pilot Capt. Wilson), have so far been unwilling, or unable, to comment!

The Youth Team are enthusiastic . . .

Back at camp, the Squadron was happy to be able to assist No. 87 Army Youth Team and the Glasgow Youth Club, of which Corporal McGhee is an executive member, by obtaining a camping site for their week-end near Lochearnhead. No. 87 Army Youth team spent the week-end instructing the club in canoeing and sailing and invited the Squadron to join them. Unfortunately, due to pressure of exercises, only three members of the Squadron managed to meet Sergeant-Major Easton and his hard-working team, but it is hoped to combine with this enthusiastic team in some form of adventure training later in the year.

Administrative demands at camp saw Radio Operator A. Reid and Lineman U/Q G. Moran diverted to butcher duty for the duration of camp. That they were not too "cut up' about this was proved on the second week, when Moran had a "butchers" at the Lineman Trade Test and "brought home the bacon" by topping the marks table at 91 per cent.

. . . And Sports Day was a great success

The sports day, which was held on the first Wednesday of camp was an unqualified success. The Division/District personnel were invited to join in and did so with great gusto. H.Q. Squadron won the day and congratulations are due to all participants. The soccer final against Division/District was hard fought, H.Q. emerging victors by the only goal. In the hockey, success no doubt hinged on the C.O.'s ability to score the goals, but he was ably backed by the enthusiastic W.R.A.C. players who stoutedly kept play in the opponents' half of the field and subjected themselves to shinty strokes and sliding tackles from the opposition!

A Medal and a V.I.P.

The Honorary Colonel's parade was held on Thursday, 13th May, when the T.A. Efficiency Medal was presented to Staff Sergeant Hodgson of 1 Squadron.

On Wednesday, 19th May, the camp was visited by The Right Honourable Fred Mulley, M.P., Deputy Secretary of State for Defence and Minister of Defence for the Army, who met the troops in the field and lunched in camp.

Altogether an extremely successful and busy camp which was enjoyed by all.

411 SQUADRON, A.E.R. (RAILWAY COMMUNICATION)

Annual Camp 1965

In April some 29 men and seven women arrived at Blandford Camp to become the above-mentioned Squadron for the period of a fortnight. They were, in fact, attending annual camp. For this purpose we were attached to the 81st Regiment A.E.R., to whom our thanks must go for their help during this period. It is of interest to note that our W.R.A.C. detachment has increased; we have now six of, we claim, the most efficient Comcen Operators in the W.R.A.C.

During the first week normal trade training was carried out; our technicians went to Longmoor Camp to overhaul the Military Railways signalling equipment in preparation for the exercise in which we were to provide communications for the R.E.s for the period 3rd-6th May. On the 3rd May the Squadron and the 81st Regiment left Blandford to start the exercise, and we camped at Woolmer Ranges under canvas. In the afternoon the main body arrived and with them came the rain!—have you ever seen Southend when the tide has gone out—there's mud, mud, mud . . . and even though we had tents, it was soon decided that the backs of vehicles were a lot drier.

All our lines were run out for us by 81st Regiment and rumour has it that some of the linemen had grown webbed feet, the real technical boys had their 1+4s, S+DXs, AN/TRC sets, and the more elite D.11s; as one opened the door of the gin palace a lot of mumbo jumbo was heard so we could only assume that the boffins were inside. The three COMCEN centres were staffed by the male and female members of 411 Squadron on a 24-hour basis. The technicians of 411 had to maintain the R.E.s railway signal equipment and install a Selector Telephone System, this system had something to do with the "Ark" as did the block signalling equipment, it must be seen to be believed, but they did get it all working. The R.E.s had organised saboteurs to make things more realistic. Three-quarters of a mile of quad cables was missing at one time, but when the O.C. saw the Chief Saboteur, the Padre, and mentioned civilian police a quick statement was made as to where it was stored.

As the experience ended a signal was received from the R.E.s thanking the Signals for all they had done.

On our return to Blandford we handed in all our stores, and later there was the usual inquest on the exercise.

The O.C. thought he was a compere at the London Palladium by saying from the stage of the camp cinema "Can you come back next year!" which brings me to my last words —if you would like to join this highly organised, highly trained and under-strength Squadron I can assure you that all, both sexes, would be made very welcome *even if you are untrained.* For further details please write to Major Taylor, 81, Westbrook End, Newton Longville, Bletchley. Tel. Bletchley 2947, or Mr. S. Heath, 15, Ashgrove Road, Ashford, Middlesex. Ashford 55006.

CORPS CRICKET RESULTS

Royal Signals 198 for 4 (dec.) v. Welbeck College 132—9. Match drawn. Played 18th May.

Royal Signals 124 v. Catterick Services 173—8 (dec.). Corps lost by 59 runs. Played 8th June.

Royal Signals 213 and 104 for 2 v. Royal Marines 134 and 179. Corps won by 8 wickets. Played 12th/13th June.

Royal Signals 163 v. R.A.S.C. 251 for 6 (dec.) and 114 for 5. Rain stopped play. Match drawn. Played 14th/15th June.

Royal Signals 187 v. R.M.A. Sandhurst. Match abandoned. Played 16th June.

CORPS TENNIS

Royal Signals VI 3½ matches v. Welbeck College 4½ matches. Played on 16th June. This fixture produced a very pleasant afternoon's tennis and some very close and several long matches.

New Royal Signals Canoe Club Formed

It is obvious from the many articles which have appeared in THE WIRE during the past year that canoeing is rapidly growing in popularity within the Corps. But so often in the past it has been a question of the individual unit organising a canoe club alone, without any co-ordination of effort within the Corps as a whole.

Canoeing was recognised as a Corps sport on 16th February, 1965, at a meeting of the Royal Signals Games Club, held at Catterick. The following officials were appointed:

President, Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E.; Secretary, Lieutenant J. J. Cullen, Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Dundonald Camp, Troon, Ayrshire.

The aim, initially, is to:

(a) Compose a roll of experienced canoeists.

(b) To give technical guidance, co-ordinate the efforts of units and to assist in the further training of canoeists.

(c) To hold specialised equipment not normally required by Regiments for day-to-day canoeing, but essential for championship racing.

(d) To produce, as a result of the above, highly-trained and well-equipped teams to enter military and civilian championships.

The immediate task is to compose a roll of experienced canoeists and this can only be done with your help. So if you are interested in canoeing at all, give details of your experience to date to your unit canoeing officer or write directly to the Secretary. Unit canoeing officers are being asked through normal channels to write and give details of their club and canoeists.

Perhaps it will not be so very long before we see a Royal Signals crew win the Devizes race. The Army sprint, L.D. and Slalom championships might not just be a dream. Who knows?

Indian Signals Association

THE Eighteenth Reunion of the Indian Signals Association was held on Saturday, 29th May, at the Eccleston Hotel, London. The Annual General Meeting took place in the afternoon and later a reception was held.

One hundred and twenty sat down to dinner, the dining room being filled to capacity. To accommodate the ever-increasing attendance at this most popular event, another venue will have to be found, and it is hoped to hold next year's reunion at the Duke of York's Headquarters on 16th April.

Brigadier F. J. Allen presided. Twenty-four new members joined during the year bringing the active strength to over two hundred and fifty. Speakers included the Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William Scott, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General Bradley, the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Whistler, and Major-General Moberly, the new Vice-President. Many amusing reminiscences were heard and General Whistler gave an interesting account of his recent visit to the Indian Corps of Signals' reunion at Jubbulpore.

There is no doubt that more and more people are realising that this reunion is a unique opportunity of meeting and talking to old friends of times and places in those happy nostalgic days of pre-war India—from the North-West Frontier to the Deccan, from Peshawar and Pindi to Secunderabad and Bangalore. The friendly atmosphere and pleasant informality of the evening (lounge suits no medals) was unforgettable, and only possible among people with happy memories and ties of years together far from home. The excited pandemonium of members and their wives, from Generals to Signalmen, meeting again after years in the varied walks of civilian life is incredible. Wives are most welcome at the dinner.

The Assocation is open to all ranks who spent at least six months in an Indian Signals unit prior to partition in August, 1947. The Hon. Secretary is Lieutenant-Colonel "Nat" Gould, 65, Angel Hill, Sutton, Surrey, and the annual subscription for everyone is five shillings.



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* Will the HP company finance freight charges and import duty in the event of my being posted?
* Can I obtain cover against most of my liability to purchase tax and import duty in the event of premature repatriation?
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The old and bold get 'stuck-in' again under the supervision of one of the present day N.C.O's.



Some of those present at the very successful Dinner

3rd DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

The 24th Annual Reunion, held at Bulford, where the hosts were the 3rd Regiment, was a great success. Time marches on, but the spirit and traditions of the old 3rd Divisional Signals exists as strongly as ever in their present-day successors, the 3rd Regiment.

The following account highlights the main events of a most enjoyable week-end, where service to the Corps in a good Regiment united signalmen of many ages.

A Warm Welcome

Saturday, 15th May, and all roads led to Carter Barracks, Bulford, for we 75-odd members of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club were making our way there for the Club's 14th Annual Reunion. For the second time since the Club's formation, in 1948, we were to celebrate the reunion at Bulford as guests for the week-end of the present Regiment and, indeed, a wonderful week-end it turned out to be. In spite of a doubtful forecast, the weather was almost perfect, and by 13.00 hours most members attending had reported at the reception centre and received a most enthusiastic welcome from the R.S.M., W.O.I Schofield, and his reception team.

So Different from the old 'Set-up'

First, greetings, drinks, and lunch in the Wives' Club, and then, as the first item on a full afternoon's programme, to the Whistler Room, where the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Proudman, having warmly welcomed us to Carter Barracks and wished all a very happy week-end, gave a brief, but extremely interesting talk on the current role of the Regiment. How completely different it all seemed to the old "set-up" of the war years, with which most of us had been so familiar. Then, on the Regiment's new sports centre, where the Club's President, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., performed the opening ceremony and named it the Naylor Sports Centre. A tour of the barracks followed; split into small parties, each under the very able guidance of a senior N.C.O., we were able to see at first hand how a Brigade Air Head, a Radio Relay Detachment, and such like, acutally looked in the field. Finally, to see an exciting Aerial Erection Competition narrowly won by the officers' team and then back to the Wives Club for tea, very kindly served by the wives of the Regiment.

The Square, 18.00 hours, and Retreat, played by the full Corps Band. How much this was enjoyed and how impressive the setting with Beacon Hill and its familiar Kiwi, looking very lovely in the evening sunlight, as a distant background.

A Wonderful Evening

The Sergeants' Mess lounge at 19.30 hours for the Club's A.G.M. and then to the dining room, so tastefully arranged and laid out for the reunion dinner. A wonderful meal, beautifully prepared and served by W.O.I Williams, A.C.C., and his staff; the Corps Orchestra in attendance, adding just that final touch to a truly reunion atmosphere. Proposing the toast of the evening, "The Regiment, Past, Present and Future," General Naylor spoke of the great loss the Corps had sustained by the recent death of its Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess Royal, and asked the company to stand in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect to her memory. Before the final toast of "Absent Friends," Captain Arthur Hughes, on behalf of the Club, presented the Regiment with the original Signal Office copy of the Cease Fire Signal received by the Division from 2nd Canadian Corps on the eve of V-E Day, 4th May, 1945. Dinner over, the real get-together followed; social, dance, maybe it was, but by "lights out," old scenes and experiences had been relived and old stories retold, until the now far-off days of Dunkirk and Normandy seemed to be but only yesterday.

Church Parade—Junior Leaders Present

Sunday morning, 09.30 hours, and a special Remembrance Service in the Garrison Church, conducted by the Rev. M. C. Prescott, M.A., C.F., Senior Chaplain, 3rd Division—a full muster in spite of some feelings of the morning after the night before. Unfortunately, the march-past before the G.O.C., 3rd Division, Major-General C. H. Blacker, O.B.E., M.C., which was planned to follow the service, and in which representative detachments from Iron Troop of the Junior Leaders Regiment and Salisbury Branch of Royal Signals Association were to have joined, had to be cancelled at the last minute owing to rain. However, back to the Wives' Club for morning coffee and a very excellent band concert by the Corps Band; finally, lunch, and this very happy and enjoyable Reunion Week-end was over. Enjoyable indeed it was—a real highlight in the Club's history; every single member fortunate enough to be present enjoyed himself to the full and would wish his thanks and appreciation made known to all ranks of the Regiment who made us all so welcome and worked so hard to make the week-end the great success it was.

New Members turn up

It was gratifying indeed to us of the Club Committee to see so many members present, travelling as they did from all parts of the country. Each year at our reunion one or two old members, whom we have not seen for years, unexpectedly turn up, and this year we were most pleased to see C.Q.M.S. "Johnny" Jordon fit enough to join us once more after his very long illness, also Major "Clem" Wardrop, C.Q.M.S. "Badgie" Gilpin, and Corporal "Flash" Dukes, all of whom were attending for the first time, and were with the Regiment when it left Bulford with the Division to join the B.E.F. in September, 1939.

Amongst those present this year were:

Colonel A. C. Allan, Signalman J. Andrews, Signalman W. D. Antill, Signalman S. Arnold, Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Austen, Signalman D. A. R. Barker, Sergeant E. E. Bayley. Signalman H. B. Blackford, Sergeant J. H. Bramley, — S. J. Brandon, W.O.I M. C. M. Buenell, Signalman J. H. Castle, Corporal V. R. Cole, Corporal W. M. Cotterell, — L. Creswell, Signalman T. W. H. Dean, Signalman R. F. Liment, Corporal F. G. Dukes, S.Q.M.S. F. Durber, Signalman W. T. Edwards, Captain J. B. France, Second-Lieutenant J. S. Gorman.

Signalman W. Hawthorn, Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. H. Henwood, Captain E. R. Hinton, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, Signalman W. H. Holden, Signalman C. E. Hodder, — A. Hudson, Captain A. Hughes, Signalman J. Jenner, Signalman H. R. Jones, Sergeant J. J. Jordan, Major H. Kelly, Corporal V. J. Kontzle, Sergeant P. H. Legg, Signalman E. Macgregor, Signalman A. R. Mills, Signalman P. Munclin Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, Captain H. S. Nokes, Signalman S. H. G. O'Dell, Signalman H. W. Palmer, Colonel R. Pearce, Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. W. Philcox, Major P. W. Phillip.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Pownall, Major D. J. Roberts, Captain N. C. Rummey, Captain W. J. Simms, Major K. N. Smartt, Signalman R. Softly, Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. M. Solly, Signalman J. Sowerby, Signalman W. Spittal, Signalman A. W. Spratley, Major C. Stagg, Signalman H. Stickells, R.Q.M.S. J. G. Stratton, — G. E. Styrin, Lance-Corporal A. J. Tilley, Corporal H. F. Timms, Signalman D. G. Turner, Signalman A. Wade, Major C. G. Wardrop, Sergeant W. J. Webb, Major A. B. Wheeler, Captain T. E. Williams, — E. Worsfold, Capt. (Q.M.) W. Yates, Colonel J. W. Eagle.



JERSEY BRANCH

Major-General R. T. O. Cary, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Entertained

On the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 General Cary relinquished his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Training Battalion in order to take a more active part in the war. He eventually returned to Catterick as G.O.C. Catterick District, where his name is perpetuated in "The Cary Theatre." Since his retirement General Cary has returned once to Catterick on the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the Theatre.

Now enjoying his retirement in Guernsey, General Cary was pleasantly surprised to receive an invitation from the Jersey Branch of the Association to attend, as guest of honour, their annual dinner, which was held at the Hotel Savoy, St. Helier, on Tuesday, 11th May.

General Cary flew to Jersey and was met at the airport by the Branch President, Major J. T. L. Blackler. Lieutenant-Colonel R. Postill acted as host and accompanied the General to the dinner. Music during the evening and Dinner Call was played under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd, M.B.E., Mus. B., F.T.C.M., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

The dinner, which was a great success, was attended by seventeen members of the Association. The menu was ambitious even by Channel Islands standards but all those attending managed to complete the course.

General Cary in replying to his toast drew on his wide experiences and his reminiscences kept everyone enthralled. The evening was quite an occasion as in addition to being Guest of Honour it was the first opportunity that the General had had of dining with a Branch of the Association.

Absent friends were remembered and a memorable evening drew to a close barely short of the following day!

Before flying back to Guernsey on the Wednesday General Cary was conducted round the island of Jersey by his host, and had the opportunity of drawing a comparison of the widely differing charms of both islands.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during May, 1965:—

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	34	6	1
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	3	0
Army Apprentices' School	9	1	9
3rd Regiment	8	0	0
14th Regiment (1 Squadron)	10	0	0
Signal Training Wing, R.M.		10	0
43rd Regiment T.A.	1	19	0
325 Squadron T.A.		3	0
Signal Wing, School of Infantry	3	2	6
52nd Regiment T.A.		14	7
21st Regiment	11	0	0
225 Squadron		5	0
Chaplains' Branch, H.Q. B.A.O.R.	1	14	9
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	1	7	0
Royal Signals Troop, 5 Innis, Dragoon Guards		3	6
Various individual donations	6	0	6
Total Receipts	£89	10	8

Expenditure during May, 1965: £400 3 9

(Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).



Standing, Left to Right: E. Robinson, F. Bridle, P. Martin, W. Craythorne, Captain R. Shields, Captain W. Mycroft
Seated: T. Dexter, R. Wilkinson, W. Hall, H. Gillibrand.

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

On Saturday, 10th April, in an atmosphere of festivity most suitable to the occasion, the Branch celebrated its tenth anniversary with a dinner-dance at the Cambridge Hotel, Palmers Green. A hundred-and-sixty members and friends wined and dined and were later joined by a further thirty for an evening of fun and enjoyment.

In a brief speech, after reading interesting and amusing extracts from the initial correspondence concerning the formation of the Branch, Brigadier Pat Hobson, D.S.O., guest of honour, said that in ten years, from a founder membership of eleven, this had become a major branch of the Association. He also told us one or two things about ourselves of which some of us were unaware. Fortunately there was nothing to our detriment but, Branches beware, your Association Secretary obviously keeps himself well informed concerning your activities.

Referring to the fact that this is probably the only Branch to have one of its own full members as Padre, he jokingly inferred that such a service may be necessary. We wonder if he found reason to reflect on these words as, later in the evening, he watched the said Padre setting the pace in every department of the merry-making. Many readers will remember John Bryant, the miler. He is now the Vicar of St. Paul's, New Southgate.

During the dinner every lady was presented with a box of dainty lace hankies. These were donated by two members who wish to remain anonymous. Loudest applause of the evening was awarded the chef, who was called in to receive congratulations on the excellence of the food, and to take wine with the Branch Chairman, Mr. W. P. Hall. That's right, the same Bill Hall, Cherat in the 1930's.

Mr. J. T. Murphy carried out the duties of Toastmaster in his usual efficient manner, and Mr. W. Craythorne once again proved himself the liveliest M.C. in the business. We think he developed his non-stop action from being rushed into and out of the Guardroom in days gone by!

Was the evening a success? Well—we already have a demand for next year's tickets.

Meanwhile, a lot of OUR members look forward to seeing a lot of YOUR members at Catterick on 26th/27th June.

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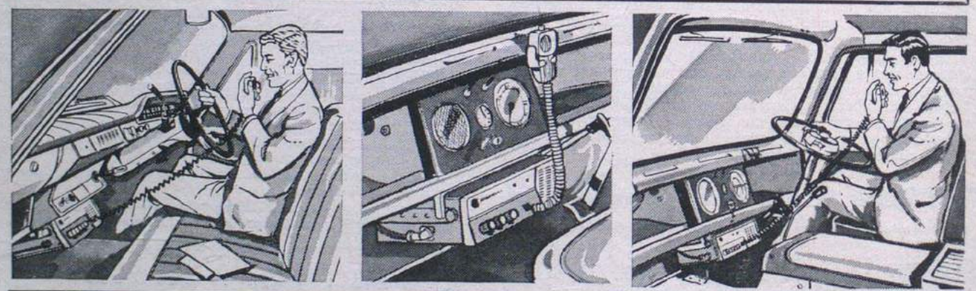
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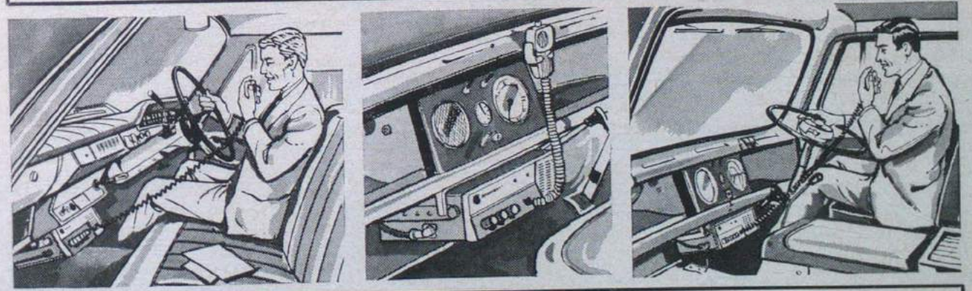
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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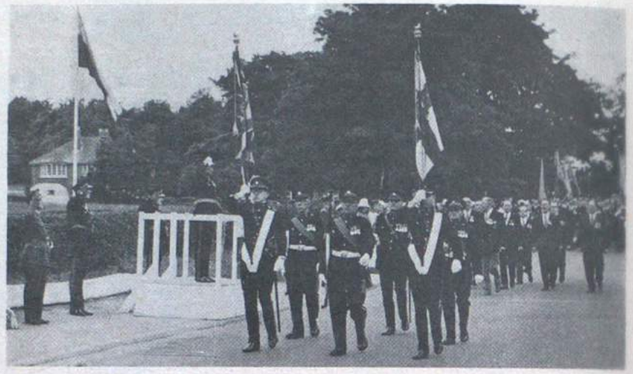
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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER • 1965

Vol. 19 *(New Series)* **No. 9**

Royal Signals 'At Home' and Reunion Weekend Catterick Camp, 1965



The Colours and Colour Party of the 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A. March Past after Church

Once again this well established gathering of the Corps has come and gone. Attendance was at a record level this year and although the weather was on the cold side and looked threatening, nevertheless the rain held off and all events took place as planned.

Present for the first time on this occasion were the Regimental Colours and a Colour Party from the 41st Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A., supported by their Commanding Officer, Adjutant and Regimental Sergeant Major as well as a contingent of Old Comrades from their own Regimental Association. Very welcome they were, and the presence of their Colours and Colour Party on Church Parade added lustre to a particularly fine parade and march past.

Also making their debut were the Pipe and Brass Bands of the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate. Their performance at Retreat, both on their own and in conjunction with the Corps Band, was of the highest order and drew well merited applause from an appreciative audience.

This ceremony, incidentally, took place for the first time on the new parade ground of the 11th Regiment in Helles Lines. This proved to be a very suitable venue, with a small hill topped with a flagstaff and Union Jack as a perfect natural backdrop—especially as the sun, at the appropriate moment, made one of its rare appearances, lighting up the whole scene in a warm and mellow light from just the right direction.

Continued on page 251



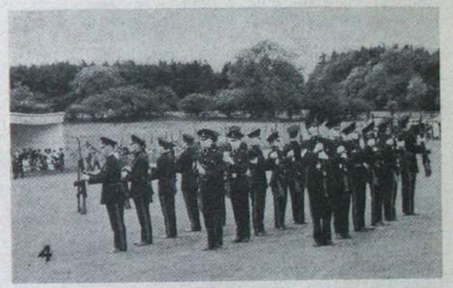
Branch Standards precede the Old Comrades Squadron on the March Past after Church. General Thuillier takes the Salute



Scenes from the Royal Signals 'At Home'









Royal Signals "At Home" and Reunion Weekend, 1965

The week-end took its usual course. Many pints were disposed of, many stories told and retold, but as usual transcending all was a quiet pride of Corps, the feeling of belonging to a large and honourable family that had come of age. A particular pleasure was to see the spirit and enthusiasm of the newest members of this family — our young regular Corps—both on parade and in the various displays on Sunday afternoon as well as going about their normal duties.

Finally, as always, the grateful thanks of all must go to the serving Corps at Catterick for the immense amount of work and preparation that had been put into make the week-end such a splendid success. It is difficult to imagine any Corps or Regiment doing more for its Old Comrades.

1. Lance-Corporal Boulby first off the Burma Bridge in the semi-final of the Assault Course Competition.

2. Lance-Corporal Scales on the Trampoline.

3. Lance-Corporal Nutbrown clearing the high box with one up—a height of 9 ft. with Lance-Corporal Moore coming up behind.

4. The I Squadron Demonstration Drill Squad.

5. Lieutenant Drew receiving the Assault Course Cup from Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E.

The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund

Rose Garden at W.R.A.C. Depot

The Council of the W.R.A.C. Association (incorporating Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades Association) is sponsoring a fund in memory of their late President, The Princess Royal, which will give each member of all three Corps the opportunity to show her personal appreciation of Her Royal Highness's service in both war and post-war years.

The money raised will be used to provide a Rose Garden at the W.R.A.C. Depot, Guildford. The balance will be invested, and administered as the "Princess Royal's Memorial Fund" by the Trustees of the A.T.S./W.R.A.C. Benevolent Funds, the income being used to help cases beyond the normal scope of these funds, such as the provision of annuities or long term maintenance grants.

Donaitons should be sent to: "The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund," Block 'E,' Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

Lance Corporal J. Fenge

Young Royal Signals N.C.O. Makes Pole Vaulting Record

THE WIRE offers congratulations to a young Royal Signals N.C.O. whose athletic prowess has made headlines and put him among the select band of national champions. He is Lance-Corporal Jerry Fenge, now with 59th Army Youth Team. Recently at the Amateur Athletic Association's national championships at the White City he cleared 14 feet in the pole vault event and became the first British junior athlete ever to attain that height.

Surprisingly a week or two previously Lance-Corporal Fenge failed three times to clear the bar at 12ft. 6in. at the Army Individual Championships at Aldershot. Of course, Lance-Corporal Fenge is not unknown to the Corps. He learned his vaulting at the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, where his potential was soon realised, and he is the Junior Army and Inter-Services title-holder. He will gain 'full' international honours against Ireland shortly.

On the Army's recent tour of West Germany, Fenge raised the Army record against the British Army of the Rhine at Gutersloh by one-and-a-half inches to 13ft. 6½in., and then against the German Armed Forces at the same venue improved on this by another inch. Thus an 18-year-old becomes the Army "first string," with two International pole vaulters, Welsh champion Sergeant-Instructor G. Morris and English "colour" Sergeant-Instructor P. Lyons, as his reserves!

Employment Vacancies

The Association Welfare Staff have full particulars of the following employment vacancies which can be obtained on application:

41 Command Workshop, R.E.M.E., York. Radio technicians required. Good prospects of permanent and pensionable employment.

Diplomatic Wireless Service, London. Cypher and Signals Branch suitable for cypher operators. Pay £700 rising to £1,038. Excellent prospects of becoming established Civil Servants.

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Radio Relay Technician	Class II to I	22nd Feb., 1966
Radio Technician (Lt.)	Class II to I	1st Feb., 1966
Cipher Operator	Class II to I	9th Feb., 1966
Lineman Technician	Class III to II	15th Feb., 1966
Radio Relay Technician	Class III to II	8th Feb., 1966

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . to be read by the Corps.

Bourton Manor, Much Wenlock, Near Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Many will be interested to hear that a well-known Corps personality, Major Pat Malins, and his wife Betty live at the above address, where they receive paying guests. Bourton Manor is a lovely old manor house situated in ideal surroundings about 900 feet up with splendid views towards the Welsh mountains. Some 15 miles from Shrewsbury, it can be a very pleasant escape for those who want a holiday "away from it all."

Betty and Pat are ideal hosts and, of course, all members of the Corps receive a particularly warm welcome as your Editor well knows.

Marriage

THOMPSON—BLAKER.—A Corps wedding that will please many took place at Singapore on 3rd July when Lieutenant Roger Thompson, of the Corps, married Aureole Blaker. Roger is, of course, the son of Major "Tommy" Thompson, of H.Q.A.E.R. Blandford, and Aureole is well known as the daughter of Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, C.S.O. FARELF. All their friends will be delighted to hear of this happy occasion, not least your Editor who forecast this event some years ago when he observed them holding hands at Camp Centre, Catterick Camp.

Deaths

FRASER.—Staff Sergeant K. Fraser, who served in the Corps from 1948 to 1961, on 11th May, 1965. He was a member of the Aberdeen Branch of the Association.

HEPBURN.—Corporal I. Hepburn, on 24th June, at 34, Newton Road, Aberdeen, age 24. Corporal Hepburn enlisted into Royal Signals as a Boy in 1956 and was still serving at the time of his death. He was at the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, and was a member of the Harrogate Branch of the Association.

IRVING.—Ex-Signalman W. E. Irving, in early June. He served in Royal Signals from 1941 to 1946 and was an Annual Member of the Association since 1945. His home address: 2, Frensham Court, Phipps Bridge Estate, Mitcham, Surrey.

NINNIM.—Corporal S. F. Ninnim, on 26th May. Corporal Ninnim served in the Corps from 1923 until 1930 and then again from 1939 until 1941. He was an Annual Member of the Association from 1926 to 1930 and rejoined in April of this year. Home address: 81, Victoria Avenue, Broadstairs, Kent.

NIGHTINGALE.—Lance-Corporal Kenneth Nightingale of 2nd Regiment, on 11th July as a result of a motor accident in B.A.O.R.

SWAN.—Ex-Signalman Joseph Henry Swan, on 6th July. He served in Royal Signals from 1937 to 1948. He was a Life Member of the Association. Home address: 58, Montgomery Crescent, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex.

Movements—Officers

(August, 1965)

T/Captain J. J. Austin	...	...	To J.C.U., Borneo
Captain P. H. Bullard	...	...	,, 229 Squadron
Captain G. Barnett	...	...	,, H.Q., FARELF
Major J. R. Clarke	...	...	,, M.O.D. (Signals 4 (A))
Lieut.-Colonel P. G. Curry, O.B.E.		...	,, H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals
Captain K. R. Canning	...	...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Captain D. L. Copeland	...	...	,, 632 Troop
Lieutenant I. C. Double	...	...	,, J.C.U., Borneo
Lieutenant (Tfc.) R. Davidge		...	,, H.Q., Middle East Command
Lieutenant (Tfc.) R. Finister	...	...	,, 18th Regiment
Captain J. G. Fleming	...	...	,, 44th (H.C.) Regiment (T.A.)
Captain I. Graham	...	...	,, 15th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) J. C. Gosling		...	,, H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals
Captain J. L. Golding	...	...	,, 639 Troop
Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. E. Howard		...	,, 13th Regiment
Captain P. J. Hartshorn	...	...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Lieutenant (Tfc.) R. D. Laing		...	,, 216 Squadron
Lieutenant (Tfc.) W. H. Lockie		...	,, 8th Regiment
Major J. C. Lucas	...	...	,, School of Signals
Captain E. G. T. Merry	...	...	,, 9th Regiment
Major W. MacDonald	...	...	,, 54th (E.A.) Regiment (T.A.)
Major N. B. Robins	...	...	,, A.F. Sig. Staff, H.Q., Mideast
Major (Q.M.) W. A. Rowbory		...	,, 46th (N.M.) Regiment (T.A.)
Captain R. O. B. Stibbon	...	...	,, Army School of Education
Lieutenant J. Crich	...	...	,, 30th Regiment
Major R. L. Murray	...	...	,, 28th Regiment
Lieutenant V. H. Stephens	...	...	,, 7th Regiment

Promotions

June

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	2549271	A/W.O.I	Evis, C. D.	670	750	
	2548203	W.O.II	Williams, K. J.	680	830	
	2548988	A/W.O.I	Walls, P. J.	690	690	
	14552543	A/W.O.I	Marriott, R.	700	850	
	14120208	A/W.O.I	Harrison, P.	710	600	
	2601553	A/W.O.I	Margerison, R. A.	720	610	
	21005033	A/W.O.I	Woodvine, J. R.	730	630	
	14921540	A/W.O.I	Adams, R.	740	870	
To W.O.II	21040550	A/W.O.II	Page, A. D.	3190	1760	
	2549014	A/W.O.II	Horton, B. D.	3200	1590	
	22265266	A/W.O.II	Morris, G. R.	3210	1540	
	21187056	S/Sgt.	Filder, E. S.	3220	1550	
	14191860	S/Sgt.	Downes, J. F.	3230	1470	
	22539675	A/W.O.II	Anderson, J. D.	3240	580	
	22242002	S/Sgt.	Warren, A.	3250	1560	
	22288102	A/W.O.II	Blacklock, J.	3260	1120	
	2549550	S/Sgt.	Stear, C. W.	3270	1520	
To S Sgt.	22524375	Sgt.	Didlick, L. G.	3490	1280	(Fd)
	22522749	A/S Sgt.	Webster, A. D.	3500	5120	(Op)
	22296475	Sgt.	Coleman, A. L. C.	3510	6030	(Op)
	22776454	Sgt.	Moody, P. O.	3520	6000	(Op)
	22569537	Sgt.	Hall, M. G. E.	3530	5930	(Op)
	22792008	Sgt.	Block, R. H.	3540	1300	(Fd)
	22842477	Sgt.	Hetherington, R. W.	3550	1520	(Ad)
	22022717	Sgt.	Shevlin, H.	3560	1830	(Tec)
	22559831	Sgt.	Farrell, P. G.	3570	1210	(Fd)
	22296843	Sgt.	Meekings, H. A. C.	3580	1390	(Fd)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22212313	W.O.II	Morrison, H.	960	1380	
	22212055	W.O.II	Taylor, A. R.	970	1100	
To W.O.II	22289325	S Sgt.	Lidstone, I. R.	1335	1480	
	22242357	S Sgt.	Gill, P.	1730	2210	
To S Sgt.	22307303	Sgt.	Cordey, J. H.	2340	443	(Tec)

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To W.O.II	22827383	S Sgt.	Downey, J. P.	860	980	
	22242569	S Sgt.	Davies, H.	870	950	
	22314652	A/W.O.II	Mawson, D. H.	880	820	
	22561602	A/W.O.II	Strutt, R. A.	890	855	
	22212242	S/Sgt.	Whitmore, L. N.	900	940	
To S Sgt.	22547161	A/S Sgt.	Griffiths, J. D.	1090	2440	(Ad)
	23340178	A/S Sgt.	Feber, H. L. H.	1100	2350	(Ad)
	22983824	Sgt.	Goodyer, D. F.	1110	2134	(Ad)

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23503334	Cpl.	Murfitt, F. C.	4970	9810	
	23546998	Cpl.	King, A.	5100	7339	
	23510236	Cpl.	Yule, G.	5115	12175	
	23472120	Cpl.	Longden, B.	5140	7850	

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	23201358	A/Sgt.	Griffin, T.	11360	13994	

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22971229	Cpl.	Kimberley, K.	4010	1460	
	23491185	A/Sgt.	Dixon, R. F.	4220	2630	
	22954959	Cpl.	Widdicombe, J. O.	4230	2650	
	2549735	Cpl.	Beare, T. R.	4240	2710	
	23462752	Cpl.	Shaw, C. R.	4250	2720	

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	23230459	A/Sgt.	McNulty, G. W.	2880	2140	
	23492974	A/Sgt.	Jukes, L. R.	2890	2770	
	23314367	Cpl.	Young, J. C. M.	2900	3750	
	23213056	A/Sgt.	Bunting, P. J.	2910	3854	
	22265624	A/Sgt.	Stevenson, R.	2920	3870	
	22539624	Cpl.	Nicol, T. L.	2930	843	
	22987235	A/Sgt.	Firth, J. B.	2940	5520	

INSERTIONS

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23467500	Sgt.	Coverley, C.	3705	

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	2549320	Sgt.	Burrows, R. D.	1154	1250	(Tec)

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22242835	Sgt.	Delpinto, F. H.	104	1100	(Op)
	22265926	Sgt.	Nicholls, B. D.	2534	8520	(Op)

DELETIONS

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	550
W.O.II	750

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

W.O.II	590	S Sgt.	90

TECHNICAL ROSTER

Sgt.	443		

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	8520		

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt.	1430	2320	2600

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

Sgt.	1770	2170	

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s—August

W.O.I (Y. of S.) D. Bees	...	...	To Army of the Federation of Malaysia.
W.O.I (F. of S.) K. J. West	...	...	,, 259 Squadron
W.O.II (Y. of S.) E. G. Longstaff	...	...	,, 7th Regiment
W.O.II C. G. Johnson	...	...	,, 3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
W.O.II G. P. Bradley	...	...	,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. D. Francis	...	...	,, 13th Regiment.
W.O.II C. D. Edgar	...	...	,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II T. J. Cushen	...	...	,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II G. J. Fisher	...	...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II J. J. Green	...	...	,, 53rd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II F. W. Dickinson	...	...	,, 263 Squadron
W.O.II F. E. Wood	...	...	,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) D. E. Rye	...	...	,, 610 Troop
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. Chidley	...	...	,, 208 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) A. H. Spurgin	...	...	,, 14th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) D. G. Spear	...	...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II J. F. P. Head	...	...	,, 30th Bn. R.A.O.C.
W.O.II J. M. M. Dunbury	...	...	,, British Army Training Team, Kenya.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) F. W. Matthews			,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) E. D. Dixon			,, 15th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. J. Tompkins	...	...	,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. J. Crosbie	...	...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. L. E. Walker	...	...	,, 227 Squadron
A/Staff Sergeant A. G. Stapleton	...	...	,, 205 Squadron
Sergeant S. H. Waudby	...	...	,, Sudanese Armed Forces
Sergeant D. M. Moynan	...	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant C. A. Williams	...	...	,, 4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Sergeant C. T. A. Rhodes	...	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Cobb	...	...	,, 641 Troop
Sergeant J. E. Francis	...	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant W. Davison	...	...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant B. Ashton	...	...	,, 34 Lt. Regt., R.A., Signal Tp.
Sergeant D. Carr	...	...	,, 259 Squadron
Sergeant J. David	...	...	,, 245 Squadron
Sergeant R. V. Doyle	...	...	,, 11 Inf. Gp. & H.Q. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant D. K. Harvey	...	...	,, 263 Squadron
Sergeant J. H. Jackson	...	...	,, 501 Troop
Sergeant J. McNaughton	...	...	,, 642 Troop
Sergeant B. A. Meachin	...	...	,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant J. A. Phillips	...	...	,, 225 Squadron
Sergeant R. L. Tricker	...	...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant M. A. Truran	...	...	,, 253 Squadron
Sergeant C. N. Lightfoot	...	...	,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant J. C. Farrelly	...	...	,, 229 Squadron
Sergeant J. Hendron	...	...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant A. G. Curtis	...	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant F. W. Kendall	...	...	,, 7th Regiment
A/Sergeant A. J. Tookey	...	...	,, Jun. Leaders Regt., R. Signals
A/Sergeant J. D. Douce	...	...	,, 1st Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Sergeant G. Fenney	...	...	,, 1st Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Sergeant V. F. Lee	...	...	,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Block	...	...	,, 638 Troop
Sergeant J. W. Payne	...	...	,, 244 Squadron
Sergeant R. W. J. Barber	...	...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant T. R. Mallabone	...	...	,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant R. G. Patient	...	...	,, 253 Squadron
Sergeant T. W. Potter	...	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant T. A. Abberley	...	...	,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant E. R. Lee	...	...	,, H.Q., R. Signals, Singapore
Sergeant J. P. Jewell	...	...	,, H.Q., Malaya Area
Sergeant G. W. McNulty	...	...	,, 4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Sergeant C. R. Bellamy-Wood	...	...	,, 2nd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Sergeant N. Adey	...	...	,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant J. Hawker	...	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant E. H. Holland	...	...	,, 2nd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.

Do Yourself a Favour!

If you are serving and have a standing order for "The Wire," please keep us informed well in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders, and your "Wire" will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

The Corps has best ever year at BISLEY



The Very Successful Corps Methuen Team

☆ **Standing: Corporal G. R. Timms (Reserve), Captain P. Carr, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) M. D. Thornbury, W.O.II H. Haw (Reserve).**
Sitting: Corporal P. J. Davies, Captain D. H. Insall, Lieutenant P. E. A. Chaddock, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh (Team Captain), Captain D. C. N. Genders, Major M. S. Jarrett, Major G. A. S. Exell.

Nine in the Army 100! Winners of the SR (b) Team Cup! Fourth overall in the Methuen Cup and comfortable winners of the Woolwich Trophy!

These are but some of the many successes gained by Corps marksmen at this year's Bisley in which the 21st Regiment played such a prominent part.

A VISIT to Bisley to support the Corps shooting enthusiasts is always well worth while. This very soldierly sport invariably brings together a happy gathering of all ranks from signalmen to senior officers who mix cheerfully and are as one in their keen desire to see the Corps do well.

This visit is always a "must" for your Editor and the enthusiasm and Corps spirit this year was very good to see.

The standard of Corps marksmanship has been steadily building up over recent years. Many have had a hand in this, but a special tribute must go to Lieutenant-Colonel "Paddy" Walsh who, as Captain of Corps Shooting, has never spared himself in his dedicated task of putting the Corps on the map in this particular sport.

This year's results must have given him great pleasure, and all will join THE WIRE in congratulating him and all our representatives at Bisley on their successes. In particular, we must salute the 21st Regiment, whose team contributed so much to these successes. While they were fortunate in having on their strength a number of good shots, this was only half the battle. A well-planned and arduous period of training over many months was the key to their consistent high scoring, and they deserve much credit for this.

Mention should also be made of the 14th Regiment, who did so well last year but were not quite up to the 21st Regiment's standard this year.

Here is the report of the Captain of Corps Shooting on the Corps and Bisley meetings:

Corps Rifle Meeting

DESPITE frightful weather, the Corps Rifle Meeting, held at Bulford on 21st to 24th June, was a resounding success.

This year, Junior Leaders from Denbury and Territorial Army Competitors from Scottish and Western Commands, attended for the first time. They enjoyed the experience and intend to return.

The standard of shooting this year was higher than ever before, particularly in the Roberts Cup, which, in the past, has kept many a good shot out of the Army Hundred.

The two outstanding teams were 14th Regiment and 21st Regiment. Both had trained hard, were extremely fit, and were well led by their respective captains. 21st Regiment were the eventual winners, but it was very close, and the result was in doubt until the last detail had fired. It is hoped that other Regiments will field teams to challenge these two at next year's meeting.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief attended the meeting on the last day. He arrived by helicopter before lunch and remained to present the prizes. In his address to the competitors, he mentioned the importance of shooting within the Corps now and in the future. The Corps Meeting provided a means of raising the standard of shooting generally, and the standard of marksmanship at this meeting was really good. He hoped that teams and individuals would maintain the same standard at Bisley and add to the reputation we had already established there. The principal prizewinners were as follows:

ROUPELL AND MARESFIELD CUP
Team — 21st Regiment
Individual — Captain D. H. Insall — Score 183

WHITEHEAD AND S.O.-IN-C.'S CUP
Team — 14th Regiment
Individual — Captain P. Carr — Score 167

ROBERTS AND COLONEL COMMANDANT'S CUP
Team — 21st Regiment
Individual — Lieutenant P. E. A. Chaddock — Score 136

BISLEY CUP
Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh — Score 137

REVOLVER CUP
Captain D. H. Insall — Score 104

METHUEN AND CHEYLESMORE, 1963
Team — 14th Regiment
Individual — Captain D. C. N. Genders — Score 174

S.M.G. AND CATTERICK CUP
Team — 3rd Regiment
Individual — Corporal P. Jukes — Score 114

BEST JUNIOR LEADER
J/Signalman P. G. Lockhart

CHAMPION SHOT
Captain D. H. Insall

CHAMPION TEAM
21st Regiment

Bisley Meeting

THE high standard of marksmanship at the Corps Meeting was maintained at Bisley, and only a few of those who shot well at Bulford were subject to Bisley "jitters."

The highlight of the meeting was undoubtedly the performance of the Corps Team in the Methuen. We plan to win this in 1967, but were within an ace of pulling it off this year, and excitement ran really high as the last two details shot.

The "English Regiments," shooting next door to us, pipped us by two points for the R.E.M.E. Trophy, which is awarded to the highest-placed Army team. The leading scores were:

R.N. (Naval Air Command)	1,298
R.A.F. (Transport Command)	1,283
English Regiments	1,281
Royal Signals	1,279

Our score was approximately 130 points above our previous best ever, and we easily retained The Woolwich Trophy. The Sappers' score was 1,147 and the Gunners' 1,015.

Of the 65 Corps competitors attending the meeting, 29 qualified to shoot in the second stage of the Army Championship, and of these, nine eventually reached the Army Hundred and were awarded Army Hundred Medals.

The nine were: Captain D. H. Insall, Major M. S. Jarrett, Lieutenant P. E. A. Chaddock, Second-Lieutenant R. C. F. Homewood, W.O.II H. Haw (14th Regiment), Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Matthews (30th Regiment), Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. D. Thornbury (205 Squadron), Corporal G. R. Timms (7th Regiment), Signalman C. G. Harris (21st Regiment).

Our previous highest number in "The Hundred" was six. Of the nine, Captain D. H. Insall, Lieutenant P. E. A. Chaddock, Second-Lieutenant R. C. F. Homewood and Signalman C. G. Harris are all members of 21st Regiment, which is undoubtedly another record with the Corps.

21st Regiment's team, in addition to their success in The Army Hundred, also had the following successes:

SR (b) Team Cup ...	Winners
Pistol Tiles	Runners-up
Britannia	5th
Revolver Team ...	6th

Captain D. H. Insall put up a magnificent shoot in The Army Hundred Cup, scoring 177, which placed him second. He came fourth in the Army Championship, missing the Bronze Jewel by only two points. He has now been chosen to shoot in the Army VIII, and will also shoot again in the Army Pistol VIII.

Our other principal successes were as follows:

ROUPELL
8th Major M. S. Jarrett
9th Captain D. H. Insall

WHITEHEAD
17th Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh.
Class B 6th, Corporal P. J. Davies.

ROBERTS
9th Second-Lieutenant R. C. F. Homewood

S.M.G. XXX MEDALS
Corporal P. Jukes
Major D. Hall

REVOLVER XXX
Captain D. H. Insall
Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh
Lieutenant D. G. D. Gray

SNIPER MATCH
Winner Corporal P. Jukes

WALKING MAN
Winner Captain D. H. Insall

METHUEN
Highest individual score, Lieutenant P. E. A. Chaddock.

Does this Picture bring back memories?

It is of the combined Signals Sergeant's Mess, Rawalpindi, and was taken in February, 1922—over 43 years ago.



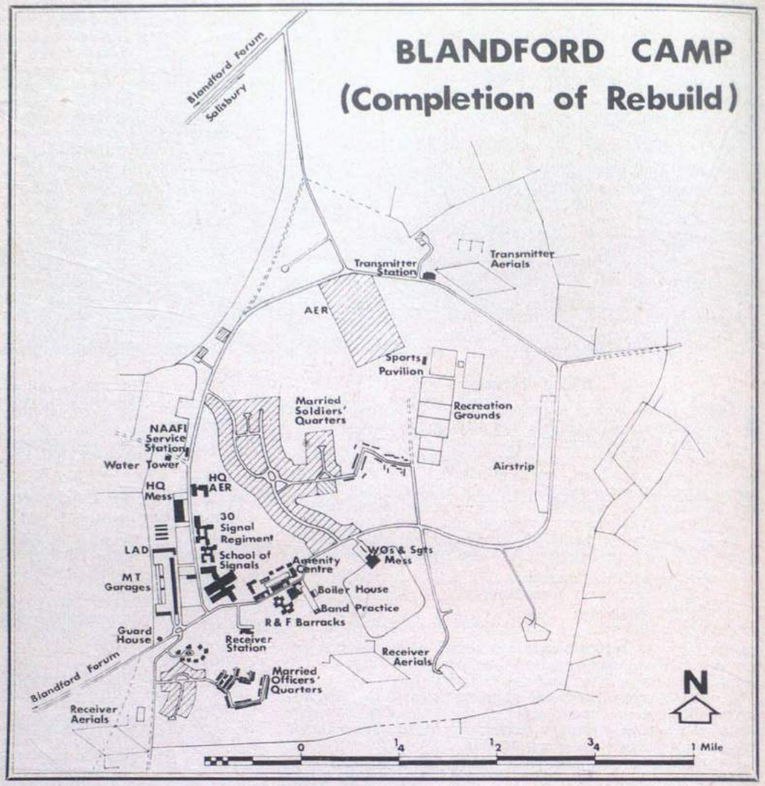
Back row: Sergeants Haigh, Molloy, L./Sergeant Harrison, Sergeants Lane, D.C.M., Warner, L./Sergeant Rogers, Sergeants Gannon, Evans, Ross, Gillen, Hadson, F./Sergeants Taylor, Prior
Second row: Sergeants Tourle, Saul, Day, S./Sergeant Moon, Sergeants Ringe, M.M., Pelham, Ward, Freeman, Priest, Wallis, Laing
Third row: L./Sergeant Chapman, Sergeant Boulter, L./Sergeant Parker, Sergeants Jacks, D.C.M., Stannard, D.C.M., M.M., Cooper, C.Q.M., Sergeant Ruddiman, Sergeant Stone, S./Sergeant Crouch, Sergeant Bell, L./Sergeant Walker, S./Sergeant Genge
Front row: F./S./Sergeant Aldridge, C.Q.M., Sergeant Sewerin, C.S.M. Dixon, D.C.M., R.S.M. Creed, Major Radley, M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel Torrie, O.B.E., D.S.O., Captain Hannah, M.Q.M.S. Earwalker, C.S.M.s Jones, Trobridge

A Bird's Eye View

The New Home of the School of Signals as it will look on completion of the Rebuild at Blandford.

☆

Although it is hoped the camp will be occupied by the School of Signals in 1967, the completion of the Rebuild will not be until some time later.



Obituaries

BRIGADIER C. D. CLAPP, C.B.E.

Many old friends will be sorry to hear of the death of Brigadier C. D. Clapp.

"C.D." was first commissioned in the Indian Army, and a great deal of his service was spent in that country. He was much liked and respected by the Indian soldier, in whom he took a great interest, and the formation of the Boys' Company at Jubbulpore was due in a large measure to his enthusiasm and constructive suggestions. During the war he was responsible for the L. of C. communications behind the 8th Army in Sicily. Later he became C.S.O., Middle East, and commanded one of the S.T.C.s in the U.K. He finished his Army career as C.A.F.S.O. Far East Air Force in 1954, when he was awarded the C.B.E.

"C.D." was a quiet, pleasant personality who achieved results by tact and consideration for others. Consequently, he was much liked by those serving under him.

His son, Major John Clapp, is now serving in the Corps, and to him and his family, we extend our deep sympathy.

* * *

El Alamein Reunion will be held at the Festival Hall this year on 22nd October. Tickets can be obtained from Keith Prowse, Bond Street, S.W.1.

MAJOR E. J. ANGELL

THE WIRE was sad to hear of the recent death of Major E. J. Angell, founder of the original Corps Display Team.

Angell was well-known to many thousands, both serving and retired, in the 1930s, as the creator and leader of the Display Team of those days. From small beginnings in the Royal Tournament of 1931, he continued until the wonderful years of 1933 and 1934, with the combined horse and motor-cycle display, which thrilled audiences all over the country, up to 1936.

C.S.M. Angell, as he was then, was seconded to the 56th (City of London) Signals to found a Territorial Army display team, and in the process incidentally increased the strength of its D.R.s from a mere handful to some 70 highly-trained men, each with his own high-performance motor-cycle. The astonishing effort in 1937, when the City of London Signals T.A. Display Team took over the performance at the Royal Tournament from the Regular Army Team is a story on its own.

Posted to India in 1939, he was quickly back to his enthusiastic hobby, and photographs in THE WIRE about the outbreak of war showed the Indian Signals Corps team in action at Jubbulpore.

Promoted T.M.O., he finished the war as Major E. J. Angell.

He started a business in Leicester on retirement and was a power in the local branch of the Association.

Ill-health moved him first to Southend and then to Newton Abbot, where he died on 8th July, after a long and painful illness.

The sympathy of very many will go to his widow, at 46, Applegarth Avenue, Newton Abbot.

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

Summer Camp

Terms 3 to 8 this term combined their outward bound activities into one camp spread over three week in June. Each term had one full week in camp. The camp was situated about eight miles from Scarborough, near Harwood Dale in an old Army camp now owned by the Scarborough and District Motor Club.

The most demanding exercise was an escape and evasion exercise. At 4 o'clock in the morning the "prisoners" were roused from their beds and, after a cup of hot soup, were taken out in a truck and scattered in groups about 30 miles from base. Meanwhile, search parties were spread out between the areas where the prisoners were released and the check points which they had to reach.

The majority of prisoners did well, evaded their captors and found their check points. Not so one particular party that set out on a bearing 60° instead of 160° . . . they had a long walk!

There was also a map-reading exercise which consisted of moving from one location to another and answering questions on each location. One party, having convinced the O.C. Camp that they had completed the course in record time, were a little startled and aggrieved when Sergeant Wheatley (Foresters) who had been sitting like an eagle on top of a hill with binoculars, said he had seen them getting a lift in a van, and described the colour and type! A case of "initiative unrecognised" or "fiddlers foiled"?

The orientation exercise was a map-reading exercise in the form of a race from point-to-point. Scott Squadron, for the second week of camp, broke both records for the fastest, in 2hrs. 22min., and the slowest, in 5 hours.

Other activities included rock climbing, swimming and bridge building. In bridge building, two teams raced to get across a stream. There were two main methods used, brain and brawn. The brains attempted to get across without getting wet; the brawns dived in to get the first man over, and if the other side were winning, attempted diversionary tactics to get the other side wet.

In all, the camp was very enjoyable, and a welcome break from classroom studies.

Gliding

Gliding, which started in the School a year ago, has now got well off the ground. The School enthusiasts are members of the Yorkshire District Club, affiliated to the R.A.F. Leeming Cleveland Gliding Club. Two apprentices, A/T Lance-Corporal Sherlock and A/T Cobb are now solo pilots. The Army has now provided the club with a winch, and are obtaining a glider, a Swallow. An expensive hobby which has been made possible by a generous grant from Nuffield Trust funds contributions from School funds, and from the individual participants.

A/T Lance-Corporal Sherlock spent a week of his Easter leave at the Services Championships at Bicester as a member of a ground crew. He had a week of hard, but exciting work, retrieving gliders from all over the countryside.

Back in the School Club, the members are building a radio-controlled glider which the future young members of the Club will use to gain knowledge on how a glider functions.

Canoeing

We commiserated with our Canoe Team on losing the Devizes to Westminster Race by one point, although their aggregate time was twelve minutes less than that of any other team. It was understood that this year the scoring would be calculated in points relating to the order of finishing—as in a cross-country race.

We are delighted to report now that our interpretation of the rules was wrong, and our hearty congratulations go to our Canoe Team which has been declared the winner *on aggregate time!*

This is the third year running that our team has won, against ever-increasing competition. Well done, the team, and congratulations also to all the non-paddling members of the Canoe Club who contributed in many ways to achieve this victory.

Quadrangular Games

The Quadrangular Games were held this year at the Army Apprentices School, Chepstow, during the last week-end of June.

Athletics. The result of the athletics meeting was: 1st, A.A.S., Chepstow, 130 points; 2nd, A.A.S., Harrogate, 109; 3rd, A.A.S., Carlisle, 101; 4th, A.A.S., Arborfield, 100.

With the change of age groupings in athletics, we were required to produce a youth team for 15 events from some 12½ per cent of our strength. The need to find four competitors in each of seven track events and two competitors in the eight field events from 111 boys who were born after the magic new date of 1st September, 1948, imposed severe strain, in turn, on the Officer-in-Charge of Athletics, the School's coaches and all Apprentice Technicians young enough to compete. Since the youth and junior halves of the competition carry equal points, we approached this year's event with hope rather than confidence. The other Apprentice Schools who enjoyed rather larger intakes in January and May felt less strongly about the matter.

As it was, Harrogate won, in the junior competition, the 4 x 220 relay, 4 x 440, shot, discuss, long jump and triple jump, and were second in 4 x 110 and 1 mile team race. The sprint relay team (A/T Cpls. Cribb, Barden and Illman and A/T Devitt), broke the meeting record in the 4 x 220 yards with a splendid 1min. 35.3sec., and although narrowly beaten in the 4 x 110, returned the same time as the winners, equally the meeting record. In such a team it is unfair to mention individuals, but the sprinting of A/T Devitt, who is not yet 17 years old, brought justifiable gasps from the crowd. A/T Cpls. Warwick and Andrews and A/T Wells in the shot, long jump and triple jump respectively, recorded individual wins in the field events.

Our youth team lacked the depth necessary for a team event, but there is abundant promise in the performances of such boys as A/Ts Coburn and Littlewood in the sprints, and Robinson, Dixon and Dillon-White in the longer distances. A/T Morton, after a fine effort in the high jump, which brought him an individual win, had the discouraging experience of learning that the team was placed last on aggregate.

Chepstow won the overall meeting for the second year in succession and to the chagrin of the Officer-in-Charge of Athletics, who will not be here next year, we were again second.

This Quadrangular is a splendid atheltics meeting, and for spirit and intensity of competition, it is hard to find one better.

Cycling

The cycling event consisted of a 25-mile road time trial over a hilly course between Chepstow and Usk.

The School team, A/T Lance-Corporal McNeilly, A/T Corporal Crittenden and A/T Walker, was placed second to Chepstow, who obviously felt at home on the hills.

Individual placings and times were: A/T Lance-Corporal McNeilly, second (1hr. 10min.); A/T Corporal Crittenden, fourth (1hr. 12min.); A/T Walker, eighth (1hr. 14min.).

Aggregate times for the four teams competing were: A.A.S., Chepstow, 3hr. 34min. 30sec.; A.A.S., Harrogate, 3hr. 38min.; A.A.S., Carlisle, 3hr. 49min. 45sec.; A.A.S., Aborfield, 4hr. 9min. 44sec.

Cricket

The School cricket results were as follows:

A.A.S., Harrogate v. A.A.S., Carlisle—A.A.S., Harrogate won.
A.A.S., Harrogate v. A.A.S, Chepstow—Drawn.
A.A.S., Harrogate v. A.A.S., Arborfield—A.A.S., Harrogate lost.

A/T Corporal Taylor scored 97 against Chepstow and A/T Lance-Corporal Dring scored 57 against Carlisle.

Postscript

Results of the Army Youth and Junior Championships have just been received, and we are delighted to report that twenty medals for events open to soldiers of units in the Army have been won by members of our athletics team. Full details will be given in next month's "Wire."

An extract from the official diary of 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment :

5-7 June. Radio Relay Troop provided communications for part of the Ten Tors Competition sponsored by the Junior Leaders Regiment on Dartmoor. Communications were good and the weather was perfect and it made a pleasant Whitsuntide break. It is even rumoured that Signalman Sturges has taken a First Aid Course judging by the way he bandaged the ankle of a girl competitor. The Regiment also entered two teams to take part in the competition but they must have been issued with maps that were out of date or something because they didn't manage to find the finishing post. We did, however, manage to get them back to Bulford.

9 June. Regimental Athletics held at the Oval, Tidworth. The athletics were won by 2 Squadron and some notable performances were to be found: Captain Davies—100 yards in 10.9 sec.; S.I. Bradley, A.P.T.C.—3 miles in 17 min. 48 sec.; Private Bell, R.A.S.C.—880 yards in 2 min. 24 sec.; Signalman Bassey—1 mile in 5 min. 13 sec.; Lance-Corporal Harrison—120 yards hurdles in 5 min. 13 sec. The meeting was a great event in the sporting calendar of the Regiment and much praise is due to 2 Squadron, who went to such lengths to ensure the meeting ran so smoothly. The old soldiers' race was a bit of a fiddle as always and there was the usual claims to goodness knows how many years service for handicapping. Corporal Springer '2 Squadron's Pentathlete' has done well again, this time in the Southern Command Pentathlon in which he finished sixth.

10 June. The visit to the 3rd Division of the Chief of Staff of the Italian Army. The Chief of Staff visited the Regiment where he was briefed on the current role of the Division and later saw a demonstration of equipment in which we were pleased to take part.

15-17 June. This year the Regiment were hosts to the Royal Signals Southern Command Shoot which took place as always on the ranges at Bulford. All work stopped to enable the Regiment to completely staff the ranges and the Messes set up to make the shoot worthwhile. Alas the weather was poor and rain was our constant enemy. S.S.M. Clark, however, upheld the good name of the unit in winning a spoon for us.

16 June. One week after the Regimental meeting came the Divisional Athletics again at Tidworth. Our standards in Divisional Rugby, Basketball, Hockey and Boxing were maintained when this time again we became runners-up. The weather was poor again and all the athletes came home rather wet.

21-24 June. Royal Signals Corps Shoot for which again the Regiment were the hosts. The barracks were filled with chaps walking about with rifles, special boxes for ammunition, etc., and the whole place took on a rather Western atmosphere. It is nice to record that the Regiment won The Catterick Cup and the Adjutant, Captain Carr, was second in the Individual Championships. The Regimental Team was Major Adams, Captain Carr, S.S.M. Clark, S.Q.M.S. Hammond-Haley, Sergeants Kirkwood, Dodman and Blake and Corporal Quinn, and they all did well in their respective matches.

22 June. In the middle of the Corps Rifle Meeting, the Wives' Club held their annual summer outing. This year some thirty-nine ladies left Bulford at 6 p.m. and after a pleasant journey to Bournemouth enjoyed a nice supper in the Winter Gardens Restaurant, later to see Russ Conway and Kathy Kirby in 'The Happy Holiday Show,' a show enjoyed by all.

28 June. To the surprise of S.S.M. Overton having only been in the Regiment for five days, he found himself starting a Military Proficiency Course for all classes. But ably assisted by Sergeant Watkinson, Corporals Baird, Duffus and MacEnroe, the course continued with great success.

30 June. The Sergeants' Mess Annual Summer Ball was held in the Garrison Gymnasium. After five days and nights of jolly hard labour and having cleared many young plantations with the assistance of the WD Land Agent, the gymnasium was transformed from the usual horrors that one usually associates with such places into a magnificent ballroom, and the Sergeants were ready to entertain their Officers and their Ladies to this annual formal event. The Ball was a huge success and has been the topic of conversation for several days since. The hardest part of the supper was in deciding what to have, and mention must be made of W.O.I Williams and Staff Sergeant Byrne who did so much to make such a beautiful table. To all other aspects of the Ball it would be unfair to exclude mention of the PMC, WO.II Glendinning, S.S.M. Peat, S.Q.M.S. Wood and the caterer, Sergeant Roy, who did so much to make the evening such a success.



"LAW AND ORDER" DEPARTMENT, REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, 3rd REGIMENT

Corporal Quinn, B.W., The Adjutant, Sergeant Kirkwood, B.W., Lance-Corporal McIntyre, R.H.F., Lance-Corporal McEown, G.H., The Commanding Officer, Corporal Baird, B.W. and the R.S.M.

2 July. Two days later the Officers held their annual Cocktail Party in the Officers' Mess of H.Q. 3rd Division and Salisbury Plain. This was also a huge success if the expressions on some of their faces the following morning were anything to go by.

3 July. Because this day was the day of the Regimental Motor Rally in which so many of the Officers were taking part. Some sixteen crews, having passed all the necessary tests in the Barracks, set out on a pleasant rally over about 150 miles. Some lost their way, some were seen heading off in wrong directions, some were just seen sitting on the roadside with their head in their hands pondering over maps—but somehow they all managed to get back to the last hazard and finally into camp where Mrs. Proudman presented the winning prizes to Lieutenant Waugh and Corporal Conway, second prizes to Second-Lieutenant Mackareth and Sergeant Gaddas, and third to Corporal Rogers and his driver from 19 Flight. Needless to say with first and second prizes going to who they did, 2 Squadron were undoubtedly the winners of the Motor Rally Cup.

6-8 July. Once a year the C.O. manages to get all his officers thinking, and this year he included all his Warrant Officers also in his annual Study Period. Crystal balls came out and we considered problems well into the future and can only hope that he obtained some useful thoughts from the results.

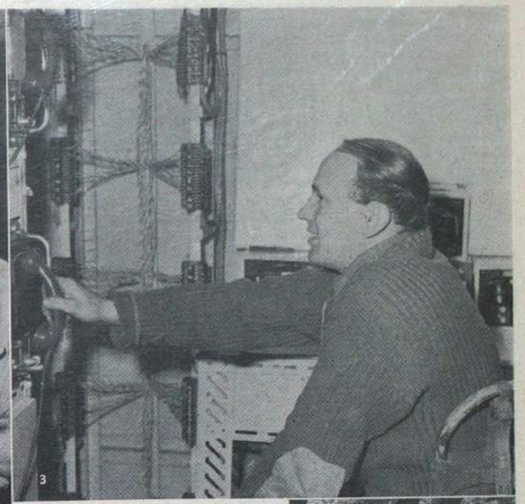
11 July. And so in going to press, the Regiment finds itself going off to Summer Camp at Chickerell near Weymouth. We use this period of time as a means of relaxation for the men near the seaside, but to make it somewhat official we spend most of our time doing 10-mile marches in set periods of time and finish up carrying each other in that most uncomfortable position known as the Fireman's Lift. Plus of course the usual sport on the Ranges. But we will all come back if only sore in the feet; we shall be able to offer our usual contribution to next month's issue of THE WIRE.

The New Look!

Royal Signals won the tournament,
or so we understand,
although the photo caption
reveals a motley band
of grenadier and fusilier
of gunner, trooper, handyman,
of brigadier and bombardier
and not a single signalman.

Pictures from Exercise Silver Spear II and the Berlin Motor Cycle Trial





Down 7th Regiment's Way







EXERCISE SILVER SPEAR: 1. Staff Sergeant Knight, the S.Q.M.S. of 2 Squadron, barters for eggs on Exercise Silver Spear. 2. Lance-Corporal Morris of 3 Squadron wonders who is at the other end! 3. Corporal Lawson of U Troop engineering a tricky circuit
BERLIN MOTOR CYCLE TRIAL: 4. Taking this one standing up: Signalman Haygarth of 'B' Team. 5. Staff Sergeant Knight again. This time taking the easy way out!

(Article continues on page 260)

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

An Exercise Not Without Incident

The main event in the month of June was Exercise "Silver Spear II." The exercise was not without incident! The Radio Relay Squadron borrowed a Wessex helicopter from the R.A.F. for the exercise, but unfortunately the unseasonable weather prevented its use except on a few days. On these occasions it was monopolised by Lieutenant Lenthall and Staff Sergeant Flake, the Squadron M.T. N.C.O. It is recorded that due to navigational errors 400 gallons of aviation fuel were used in delivering 180 litres of petrol to a remote relay site. One Squadron also relate the story of the Corporal who, fifteen minutes after a mock attack, telephoned Control and reported himself dead!

During the exercise the Regiment was visited by the S.O.-in-C., Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, who was accompanied by the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., Brigadier J. E. Anderson. Unfortunately their tour of the Regimental area followed closely upon a torrential German downpour.

Pictures of some of the soldiers who took part in the exercise are included with these notes.

Berlin Motor Cycle Trial

The Regiment entered two teams in the visitors' section of the Berlin Motor Cycle Trial. The "A" team, consisting of Staff Sergeants Slaughter and Sankey, Sergeant Rhind and W.O.II Holness, came third overall. The "B" team was composed of Lieutenant Hunt, Staff Sergeant Knight and Signalman Haygarth. Staff Sergeant Slaughter gave his usual polished performance to come second, and Lieutenant Hunt, relieved of the burden of his appointment of assistant adjutant for a few days, rode very well to come second in the novice section. The pictures show some of the riders in action. This trial was the first in which the new Triumph machines were used.

Personal Column

Lieutenant Gray and Corporal Timms took part in the Corps Rifle Meeting at Bulford and later in the Army meeting at Bisley. Corporal Timms got into the Army Hundred and finished 33rd. Lieutenant Gray came 27th in the revolver 30.

Tennis is becoming increasingly popular with all ranks, particularly with the officers' mess batmen who live near to the courts. Corporal Beach, of the pay team, is a well-known exponent of the game and appears to be setting himself up as an instructor.

Major Finch, R.A.P.C., has now left the Regiment and we wish him well in his new appointment at Chester; the arrival of his successor, Captain Coldeck, has been especially welcomed by the hockey officer who has his sights set on the forthcoming season.

Other departures have been Lieutenant Gravestock and Staff Sergeants McAlpine and Simmonds.

Births: Corporal Collier, daughter, on 14th May; Corporal Kelly, daughter, on 23rd May; Corporal Holt, daughter, on 18th March; Lance-Corporal Erisito, son, on 31st May; Lance-Corporal Bryson, son, on 3rd June.

Marriages: Lance-Corporal O'Hare, 20th April; Lance-Corporal Angus, 17th May; Signalman Fogg, 3rd April; Signalman McLean, 11th June; Signalman Murray, 5th June.

Regimental Cummerbunds

In terylene 35/- each. Royal Signals, R.A.F., R.A.O.C., R.A.S.C., R.E., R.E.M.E. and R.N. ex-stock. Ideal for dinner jacket wear. Satisfaction guaranteed. Special discount terms for Club Secretaries. Send cash with order to Dept. W.

CLUB CUMMERBUNDS, LTD.,
Beck Mills, Clayton,
Bradford, Yorkshire.



Sergeant Ken Rainey of 9th Regiment Stores throws Staff Sergeant (F of S) Everett with a leg throw (Taiotoshi?) during the Judo Club demonstration at the Fete. Socks were worn as a protection against the heat of the mat

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

Regimental Festive Week

The early part of June was occupied with preparation for our Regimental Festive Week. This began on the Queen's Birthday, 12th June, with a regatta. The object of the exercise was to produce, at a particular portion of the beach (near the "Julia" block of flats, for those of you who know Famagusta) all the water sports which one can take part in if you belong to 9th Regiment. Fireflies and Albacores gave a demonstration of formation sailing, finishing with a deliberate formation capsize of four of the craft. This was a safety demonstration really, since the boats were righted and sailing away again before any unsuspecting onlooker could suspect that it was not an accident. A proportion of the boats were then available, with skilled helmsmen, to take any newcomers to the game on their first trip.

The water skiers gave demonstrations, including one trip in which seven daughters of members of the Ski Club were towed behind one speedboat—waving flags! Here, too, many beginners took their first trip (or dip!).

The Sub-Aqua Club moored their diving boat over the submerged reef and interested spectators could watch the divers at work, and practicing safety drills, through ingenious "sea-windows" designed by Officer-in-Charge Sub-Aqua Club and the T.O.T. (patent pending).

The 50 square metre *Goldammer* (see article, page 278), made several trips to introduce the idea of off-shore cruising to those interested.

A "bus-boat" toured the various activities, carrying parties of spectators and "first-tryers," and a straight-forward pleasure boat was loaded to the gunwales on every one of its trips round the bay—mostly with the children of the Regiment.

Closer inshore there were swimming races and water polo matches. Against a beach background of Regimental flags, bunting, sunshades and deckchairs, the whole scene was attractively colourful, making an enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

All the Fun of the Fair

The week continued with sports matches and dances, ending on Saturday, 19th, with a Regimental holiday and garden fete (see photographs). All the usual events and stalls were seen, plus some ingenious and amusing additions. Chief of these was "Robby the Robot," which beat nearly all the competitors at noughts and crosses. With flashing oscilloscope eyes and a computer that muttered away furiously as "Robby" thought out his countermoves, it was a spectacular exhibit and it *was* fully automatic!

The Donkey Derby gave the Technical Adjutant a chance to show the C.O. he could ride "one of those four-legged things," but he came nowhere in the race—one of those rare events in turf history when the jockey must have outweighed his mount.

One Squadron's splashing stall attracted a lot of custom, especially when the R.P.s took a turn under the buckets. It must have been about here that the mechanism was gimmicked so that even an inaccurate shot caused a cascade. One R.P. finally turned up in complete schnorkel diving kit, including flippers. He felt it was more suitable—**but he still wore his armband.**

The week ended with a dance in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and everyone agreed that it had been a great success. Enthusiasm was such that various memoranda have already been written to make next year's effort even better.



Starters in the Donkey Derby. In the foreground Sergeant Cane of 3 Squadron and Staff Sergeant Ryall of Tech Stores

10th Regiment, Hounslow

H.Q. In April C.S.O. Eastern Command asked the Regiment to run a two weeks Military Proficiency Course in June. In addition to our normal bids from SHAPE, ALFCE and AFNORTH we were asked to include bids from Southern Command. To our horror we found a sum total of ninety-three applications—well beyond the capabilities of the Regiment—and still belated applications were coming in. It was quickly decided to run a double course limited to forty-eight students, and to run a further course in September for the balance.

The course was hard and time available did not allow much rest for those participating. The 06 00 hours reveille did produce an air of bewilderment initially but it was soon appreciated that an early start in the morning does get rid of the cobwebs.

At the final pass-off parade the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ellis inspected the two squads and their demonstration on the square, confirmed with good results from other subjects, reflected very well on all who had a hand in guiding them through the two weeks course and also on the enthusiasm and effort of those attending.

A competition on turnout and drill was narrowly won by "A" Squad, but as the Commanding Officer commented on the Pass-Off Parade, he would have been placed in a difficult position had he to choose between the two.

1 Squadron. The Regiment welcomes Major "Mike" Simms-Reeve, as O.C. 1 Squadron, recently arrived from Aden.

Signal Centre Supervisors Meeting. The Supervisors of seventeen of the Regiment's larger exchanges (we have thirty in all) assembled on Thursday, 24th June, for their second Supervisors' Conference to be held at Hounslow.

The Conference was opened by the Commanding Officer and then dealt with such problems as the Civil and Military Chain of Command and Control and the problems arising from changing over from manual exchanges to automatic with associated manual positions.

The meat of the business was saved until the afternoon when eighteen points raised by the Supervisors themselves were dealt with. Most of these points were concerned with their terms of service and were very adroitly handled by Mr. Dillon, the Civilian Administrative Officer.

The only thing we would wished to have changed was the weather. We had hoped that only two days after mid-summer day we might have been lucky but nothing of the sort, the wind was cold and near gale force and the comments of our lady supervisors standing behind the Commanding Officer had to be heard to be believed!



SUPERVISORS' CONFERENCE—10th REGIMENT

Back row: Mr. Richardson (Guildford), Mr. Bloomfield (Shoeburyness), Mr. Roper (Shorncliffe), Mr. Walker (West Tofts), Mr. Underhill (Brighton), Mr. Osborne (Dover Castle), Mr. Mansley (Canterbury)

Centre row: Mr. Thompson (Chatham), Mr. Hallam (Ashford), Mrs. Nicholson (London District), Mrs. Alexander (Eastern Command), Mrs. Dunlop (Chelsea), Mrs. Turner (Woolwich), Mr. Fenton (Kings Buildings), Mr. Clarke (Bury)

Front row: Sergeant Green (London District), Captain Farmery (2 i/c 2 Squadron), Mr. Egan (Supervisor 'A' 44 Div/Dist), Major Neilson (OC 2 Squadron), Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ellis (Commanding Officer), Mr. Dillon (C.A.O.), Mrs. Bailey (Pirbright), Major Sawyer (C.D.S.O.), Mr. Coghlan (Supervisor 'B' Eastern Command)

Regimental Social. We held our second regimental social and dance on Thursday, 24th June, and the Beavers Lane NAAFI was transformed into a gay and elegant ballroom; not an easy task but achieved with considerable success by a willing number of enthusiasts led by Sergeant Tanner. Music was provided by Ray Deville and his band, who played everything from Old Time Waltzes to modern pop. When the cabaret was presented we were fortunate enough to have the charming actress called Simba, who has appeared in the famous TV show "Stars and Garters." She performed an excellent fire eating act, cooled down with a pint of beer and then sang a song about a roaming sailor—singing a song might not sound much, but when you do it with a 13 ft. python wrapped around you it calls for a certain amount of concentration and courage. We were further entertained by four South Sea island girls dressed for the part but looking suspiciously like Corporal Cheetham, Lance-Corporal Patterson, Signalman Moran and Signalman Nelson. These four worthy "ladies" rendered a hilarious version of a song from South Pacific mimed to a record and set the seal on what had been an excellent evening's entertainment.

11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Busy as ever

The Regiment has moved quietly along during the month of June; events appear, to the outsider, to be happening without too much effort. However, a considerable amount of work has been done behind the scenes.

The first events to take place were the Regimental and Brigade Athletics Meetings. Although the Regiment did not have much success in the Brigade meeting, the spirit of competition was always present, and the tug-of-war team showed the way.

The period between the athletics meeting and the Royal Signals "At Home" Week-end, two weeks later, were spent in hectic preparations. A drill squad (consisting of 18 N.C.O. drill instructors of 1 Squadron) under the eagle eye of W.O.II Gill, were practising the drill display of 186 movements without any words of command. The P.T. Staff assisted by the instructors of 8th and 24th Regiments, preparing for their unique display on the trampolines, trampetts and boxes.

The most difficult task of all was probably that of the gardeners. They were fighting what appeared to be a losing battle against the weeds and grass, but by 25th June, only one year after occupation, they had produced a display which would be difficult to beat.

(*Continued on page 262*)

Our assault course team, under the guidance of Lieutenant Drew, and consisting mainly of recruits, won the Inter-Unit Assault Course Competition for the fourth year in succession.

Congratulations must also go to our Padre, Captain "Jeff" Holman, for producing—with help—the right weather at the right time.

Holding Troop

Although the famous Holding Troop of 3 Squadron disappeared in April, the holdees still linger in the shape of 3 Troop, 2 Squadron.

As the recruit 'bulge' is certainly over and this troop is slowly folding up, a few notes about its history and function are called for.

The troop was first formed in April of last year to act as a holding unit, basically for recruits who had finished their basic military training but who could not be immediately absorbed into trade training. It expanded into No. 3 Squadron and throughout the year the troop(s) strength has ranged from 30 to 300 (hectic days!). Three types of fortnightly courses have been run:—MPC III, Military Continuation Training, and General Military Training, the latter being mainly a physical course, involving camping at Warcop WTA and Settle.

The photograph shows a recent camping party at Settle, bathing in the river by the camping site at 7 a.m. on a freezing cold morning (note the expressions of pleasure!). The oldest hand, still with us, is Corporal 'Uncle Tom' Parsonage, who would probably run the troop standing on his head now.

No doubt old 'holdees' will grin ruefully when reading about our imminent demise. Nevertheless, the "troop" can boast of having despatched over a thousand recruits for trade training to Aden, Singapore, Cyprus, B.A.O.R. and U.K.



Signalman K. J. Purcell

Best Recruit

24038569 Signalman K. J. Purcell, aged 18 years—whose home address is 23, Wrose Road, Bradford 2—was the best recruit to "pass off" at Helles Barracks on 18th June, 1965. He was a student prior to enlistment, and has four years' experience with his local Cadet Force. He has 6 GCE subjects at 'O' level to his credit. Driving and judo are his main leisure pursuits. He leaves to become a Signals Technician, and his ultimate service aim is to become an officer.

Corporals' Club

The Corporals' Club has now settled down in its new Mess and everything and everyone is back to normal routine. Our Social Evenings are meeting with considerable success and the Club has become a popular meeting place. The Club Dance in February was a great occasion and it was worth while attending to see our president, the R.S.M., letting his hair down to join in the festivities.

We wish congratulations to our 'new' fathers, Corporal O'Halloran and Lance-Corporal Tate. It will be cigars all round when the occasion arrives for Corporal Kenning and wife, Corporal Kemp and his wife, who have joined the ranks of 'fathers to be.' We wish Corporal Harris and his bride to be, every happiness in their forthcoming marriage.

We tried unsuccessfully to beat the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in a recent games night but the extra stripes took their toll. We still think that there was a bit of fiddling somewhere. We are looking forward to meeting them again, but this time on better terms.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess—June

June has been a fairly quiet month—up to 'Old Comrades' 25th/27th June. There was an informal dance on the 12th June—which was well supported and was a great success. The weekly Tuesday evening 'Whist Drives' continue.

We welcome Nos. 9 and 10 Sergeants' Courses to the Mess and trust their stay will be a happy if busy one. The Old Comrades' annual reunion tok place in pleasant weather, Chelsea Pensioners Sergeant Victor Cole and Private George Pledger were our guests and were in fine form and once again proved an inspiration to us all.



Holding Troop trainees enjoy(?) an early morning dip at Camp near Settle

The necessary extra mural activitity to erect the tents, coloured lights, bunting, etc., under the able supervision of Sergeant W. F. Kilburn was appreciated by our visitors.

Tennis

The tennis season is well under way now. The first fixture we had was for the Royal Signals Tennis Tournament which was held in Catterick. Luckily the weather was fine throughout the tournament and some excellent tennis was played. Our two stars were Major M. L. Willway and Signalman McClean, who reached the finals in both the Open Doubles and the Inter-Unit Doubles, but unfortunately were defeated in both by a narrow margin.

13th REGIMENT WIN THE ROYAL SIGNALS PASSAGE RACE

By Captain J. J. Bally

Alright for some, but . . .

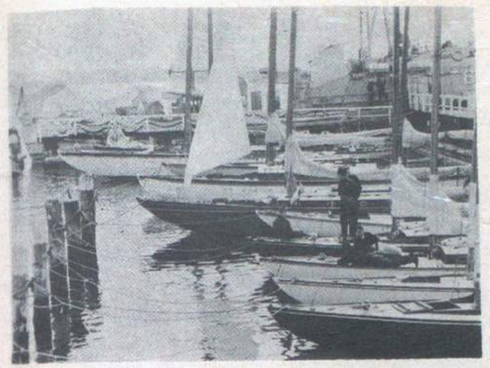


SERIOUS DISCUSSION

L. to R: Captain J. J. Bally, Lance Corporal Coxon, Signalman Hollands

The Regiment was allocated a boat on the No. 4 Baltic Helmsman's Training Course at Kiel from 18th-24th May. On the 17th, duly loaded down with compo and plenty of changes of clothing, we made our way nearly 400 miles to Kiel. On arrival we took over *Friese* and made ourselves comfortable. The first day and a half of the course were spent trying to teach the uninitiated how wind makes a boat move in the required direction. After this we ventured forth into Kiel Fjord and put this into practice. Back then to the classroom to do some simple navigation and the intricacies of the Danish buoyage system.

On the fourth day of the course we all set sail for Sonderborg in Denmark, to which place the boats found their way with no trouble! We should have sailed to another Danish port the next day but were invited by the local Danish Yacht Club to join them in a night race round the island—distance of about 50 miles. All went well at the start with a field of about 60 boats. The wind and seas were against us however and after about 2½ hours, with the wind having reached gale force 8,



The Jetty at Kiel before the race. "Friese" is second boat from front

the skipper mumbled something about it being alright for some but he thought that this was a training course. However, we dropped the mainsale and returned to Sonderborg in less than an hour under the jib alone! The skipper reckoned he was right as only 19 boats finished the course and some of them were not looking too good (boats or crews). We were stormbound in Sonderborg for the next day and eventually were off to a 5 a.m. start back for Kiel, where we tidied up, handed over the boat and came back home for a rest. The Danes had the name of our boat down as *Freezer* for the race and they were not far wrong.

We beat '225' and win a telescope

However, this little training cruise stood us in good stead for the Royal Signals Passage Race from 24th-27th June, 1965. We again drew *Friese* so we felt we were on an old friend. Our friends from 225 Squadron had won the trophy for the last two years, and everybody was determined they were not going to do it again. On the first day the course was to Faaborg—a distance of about 43 miles on a steady reach. We caught 225 after about 35 miles and held on to beat them in by 9 seconds (close!). However, on corrected times one of the new *Dan* boats was placed first, much to our annoyance.

The second day was from Faaborg to Aeroskobing on a figure of eight course. After a very fine sail we were second to the finish following of all people 225 again. For the start of the third day we were only a quarter of a point behind 225 but knew we had to beat them in order to win overall. The winds on the last day were quite strong and two boats had to retire. After a very wet trip we were 4th into Kiel, but much to our joy and surprise we found that we had beaten 225 Squadron by about 150 yards—again a very close race over 48 miles. This year there were 12 boats in the Passage Race and we were all lucky to have plenty of wind and sun.

The telescope trophy looks very nice and I hope the Regiment will win it again next year.

The crews for the trips were:—

	TRAINING COURSE		*PASSAGE RACE*
Instructor	Captain J. J. Bally	*Helmsman*	Captain J. J. Bally
Crew	Corporal Newman	*Crew*	Captain (Q.M.) Barnes-Murphy
	Lance-Corporal Coxon		Corporal Newman
	Signalman Hollands		Signalman Farmer
	Signalman Farmer		

14th REGIMENT, GLOUCESTER

It is not always peaceful at COMCAN

It is an odd thing, but some people have the impression that COMCAN units never do anything except sit peacefully in their marble halls and quietly signal. Those who think this and yearn for such an existence, as they trundle to and fro, from exercise to exercise, should pay us a short visit sometime. After the inauguration of TARE, and all that went with it, some hopefuls thought—now for peace!—far from it! The local press came out with a story concerning a Cheltenham resident, Mrs. Evelyn Burke, who was one of the original A.T.S. to serve at Boddington. A hurried conference followed and it was agreed that Mrs. Burke should be invited back to see the site as it is now. This was considered to be a W.R.A.C. matter, so the detail was handed to O.C. 4 Squadron, Major D. D. W. Brousson, W.R.A.C., to arrange.

Mrs. Burke and the good old days

On 22nd June, at 2 p.m., Mrs. Burke was collected from her home and driven to Boddington, where she met the Commanding Officer and Major R. S. Cathmoir. After watching a showing of the W.R.A.C. recruiting film, "This Girl" (which was made at the Regiment earlier this year). Mrs. Burke, on behalf of No. 4 Squadron (W.R.A.C.), presented a plaque to commemorate their service with the Regiment to the Commanding Officer. A short tour of the T.R.C. followed and then the party moved to Robinswood Barracks for a look at cookhouse and the W.R.A.C. accommodation. Here, Mrs. Burke saw some of the W.R.A.C. dressed in the various uniforms worn by the present-day personnel. At this stage the male element said goodbye and Mrs. Burke sat down with some members of 4 Squadron who were also in the A.T.S., for a cup of tea and a natter about the 'good old days'!

Shooting takes pride of place

Many familiar faces have been missing from the daily scene these past few weeks; enquiry revealed that the range had claimed them—the shooting team were either practising or engaged in competitions. 1 and 3 Squadrons represented the Regiment at the Royal Signals Southern Command Shoot at Bulford, between 14th and 16th June. We were hoping that at this meeting and the Corps Meeting, the following week, that we would have a repeat performance of the previous year. The writing, though, was on the wall during the final week, in the shape of Captain David Insall of the 21st Regiment, who, at this stage, was firing with some of his team as guests. 1 Squadron had a good meeting and won the following competitions: The Roupell Cup, the Whitehead Cup, the Roberts Cup, the Team Championship, and the Individual Trophy.

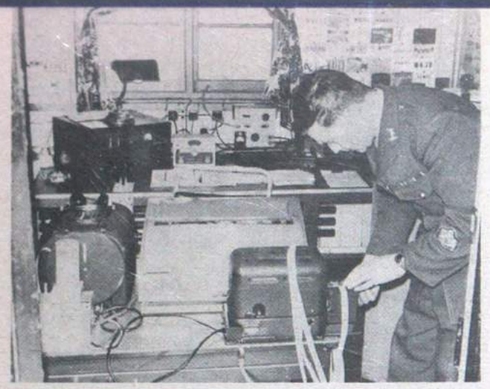
The following week the Regimental Team again went to Bulford for the Corps Meeting, and a most interesting meeting it was. Conditions were poor, although better than the previous week, when they had been appalling. Battle commenced, and it was apparent from the scores that the Team Championship Cup was due to be won by either ourselves or 21st Regiment. On the last day we were trailing 21st Regiment by 123 points, with one competition to fire. It was a forlorn hope, but not necessarily outside of our reach. After some very good shooting, we won the last competition by 102 points from 21st Regiment, but this was not quite enough to win the Corps Team Trophy. Congratulations to 21st Regiment on such a good shoot.

We won at this meeting the Whitehead Cup and the Methuen Cup.

After the Corps Meeting the Regimental Team proceeded to



3 Squadron S.M.G. Team receive their Prizes in the Regimental Shoot
Left to right: W.O.II A. Copestake, Sergeant C. T. Hall, Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Emley, Sergeant D. Hall (hidden), Major E. M. Fox, Corporal R. Ferriver, Signalman E. Reis (hidden) and Captain T. McKirgan



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Arrival of G.O.C., Aldershot District at 3 Squadron, Major E. M. Fox shaking hands

Bisley. Here, Corporal P. Jukes finished 20th in the S.M.G. Army 30. W.O.II H. Haw fired very well in the rifle competitions and managed to get into the Army Hundred. A very fine performance on the part of both individuals.

So, with our stock of silver somewhat depleted, we look forward again to next year's season.

Aldershot Army Show

Exercise "Envoy II" took place at Aldershot on 19th/20th June. Our mobile COMCAN Troop, 645 Troop, under Lieutenant Price, provided a radio-terminal working into COMCAN, and a party of W.R.A.C., from 4 Squadron, provided a communication centre, at which messages from members of the public were accepted for despatch to husbands, relatives and friends serving overseas, via the COMCAN network.

The communication centre accepted 32 messages on the 19th, and 41 on the 20th, and amongs the destinations were Singapore, Germany, Bahrein, Canada, Aden, Borneo, R.A.F. Kuching, Belgium, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Malaysia, R.A.F. Gan, Salisbury (S. Rhodesia), H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*, c/o G.P.O., Sydney, Australia, Paris, Tripolitania, Malta, H.M.S. *Ajax* in the Far East, Hong Kong, H.M.S. *St. Angelo*, in Malta, H.M.S. *Cambrian*, in Aden. All messages accepted were delivered.

Some examples of message texts were:

From a father to his son: "Why the heck don't you write."

"All my love, from all the Prices at the Army Show, Aldershot, sent by the kindness of Royal Signals."

"Sitting in the boiling-hot sun with pipe band blasting in my ear.—Signed Mac."

"This show is great. Pity you can't see it."

To a member of the R.A.F.: "Wish you were here to see how things can be done, display-wise."

To one of our ex-W.R.A.C. members (Private Walton) now in Malta: "Hiya, Greta, don't work too hard and fall over."

It may be safely said that the representatives of the Regiment did a wonderful job in Keeping the Army in the Public Eye.

Visitors

To demonstrate that the out-Squadrons have just as busy a time as those at Robinswood Barracks, the photographs show some of the happenings at 3 Squadron (Bampton) over the past month. These included a visit by the G.O.C., Aldershot District, Major-General P. H. Man, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Also in this crowded month, Colonel P. E. S. Mansergh O.B.E., O.I.C. Royal Signals Records, and Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., of R.H.Q., have visited and talked to seniors about the matters under their control.

Finally, as we go to press, the Royal Signals Sub Unit of The Nottingham University Officer Training Corps are spending a portion of their summer camp with us, and the Second-in-Command could be heard muttering: "62 sets? Now where have I heard that before?"



Colonel G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E., takes a farewell parade at the 15th Regiment prior to relinquishing his appointment in Aden

15th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 69

Things are hotting up in Aden

XV

Things appear to be hotting up out here in Aden in more ways than one. The temperature has reached an average of 100° F. in the shade and remains around that mark, and the humidity makes everything rather unpleasantly damp and sticky. The Regiment is working flat out on projects assorted, and we are also doing our stint of duties in conjunction with internal security.

Nevertheless, we were still able to find time to pay our respects to Colonel G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E., C.S.O., Middle East, on the occasion of his retirement from the Army. This took the form of a Regimental parade with a short address by Colonel Harris. In the evening the C.O. and the officers of the Regiment entertained him in the Officers' Mess.

For the benefit of readers who have never had the pleasure of serving under Colonel Harris, we would like to mention that he joined the Corps as a Second-Lieutenant in February, 1933, and from that date devoted himself to the Army and to the Corps in particular.

The Officers get "Clobbered"

Sporting activities at present are confined to the cricket league, where we are just about holding our own. Whilst on the subject of cricket, the officers challenged the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to participate in a bout. This was accepted and rigorous training and many tactical conferences preceded the actual engagement. To avoid giving the officers any embarrassment, we will not publish the actual result. Sufficient to say that their secret weapons went phut and that they were "clobbered."

Despite their defeat, the officers did not cancel the barbecue arranged for the evening, and a good time was enjoyed by all. An odd assortment of western characters were topped off by Major (Q.M.) "Fuzzy" Furtado as a prospector-type, complete with donkey.

Another activity pursued by certain members of the Regiment is ten-pin bowling. A Regimental team, bowling under the name of "Mercury," is entered in the local Premier League and at present are in a fairly good position for pulling off a trophy.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Gent, who, despite warnings from various persons, took the plunge whilst on U.K. leave, and is now a starter in the "Matrimonial Stakes." We hope he sorts out his accommodation problems and will soon be able to leave that den of iniquity known as the Officers' Mess.

That's all for this month, so we bid you farewell from this land of sunshine and sand, at one time known, so they say, as the Garden of Eden.



AT THE OFFICERS MESS BARBECUE

'The Western Warblers,' *left to right:* R.Q.M.S. 'Duke' Hill, Staff Sergeant 'Big' Gambell, Sergeant 'Boots' Bletcher, (RAOC), Y of S 'Rocky' Hudson

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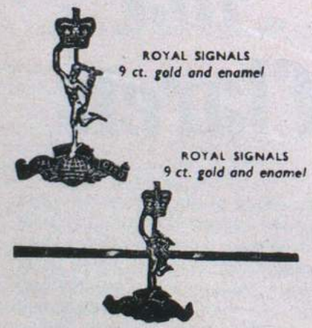
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"There were some who managed to get themselves convincingly lost in the jungle."

18th Regiment c/o G.P.O. Singapore

☆



Special Farewell

There is nothing worse than to open your copy of THE WIRE in order to read the notes of that best of all Squadrons (the one in which you happen to be serving at the time!) and find a long list of arrivals and departures. However, there are many people in the Regiment who would like to wish a special farewell to W.O.I W. H. Lockie on his posting to Catterick to be commissioned as a Traffic Officer.

Inter Squadron Competition

The 18th Regiment Quarterly Inter Squadron Competition has just finished its first complete cycle. On this occasion H.Q. Squadron won very convincingly (who said most of the judges are in H.Q. Squadron?), and are to be heartily congratulated on their excellent effort. These are the Inter-Squadron competitions they won: Drill, the Open Range, Skilled Driving, Qualification, Assault Course, Athletics, Sepak Raga and Basket Ball! However, they will have to look to their laurels as the competition has already stirred up great interest and rivalry throughout the Regiment. 1 Squadron were the proud winners in the last competition of .22 shooting, entertainment at the all ranks' concert and most important of all, the inter-Squadron football. This last achievement is probably not altogether surprising as they had six Corps players in the Squadron. They were also lucky in the concert to be represented by most of the "Blackhawks," a locally famous guitar and song group who have just made their first appearance on "Television Singapura." 2 Squadron won the Barrack Room Inspection, the Cricket and Koran Reading Competitions.

It is worth writing some detail about our quarterly competition in case others are interested. Everything in the life and work of the Regiment that possibly can be made so, has been made competitive. In every quarter the Squadrons compete against each other at driving, drill, shooting, assault course, three major sports, two minor sports, barrack room inspections, entertaining at concerts and even Koran reading—a form of art practised by our Malay soldiers.

Rough Justice

Writing of television brings to mind the sad case of one of our signalmen who hired a set a short time ago for his wife to watch while he was on shift work. Unfortunately because of his shift duties he "did not have a chance" to go and buy the licence for it. Before he got around to obtaining this very necessary document the local G.P.O. caught him and he was taken to court and fined 25 dollars.

It so happened that he did not have so much on him, so the police kept him in jail until he could produce it, and he had to ring up the Regiment to get someone to go down with the money. As he had not reported the case to the Regiment ("he had not thought of it") he duly appeared on orders for this 'crime' too, which cost him £2. There must be a moral in this somewhere!

Two White Coaches

The M.T.O. has recently become the proud possessor of two large white coaches, which he uses for all sorts of useful tasks: carrying shifts on and off duty, taking officers on officers' training, and so on. They are the pride and joy of his life, and for several days after he took them over, they were his only subject of conversation (he was even seen down in the M.T. compound during the evening fondly polishing them!). You can imagine his consternation when a report came through that there had been a terrible accident involving the two coaches in Holland Village. It turned out afterwards that it was only between two minibuses. In fact no one was hurt, except the M.T.O., who nearly had a stroke before he found out that they were NOT his two beautiful new coaches.

At the time of going to press, we are halfway through Corps Week. This began with a bang on Monday afternoon. 249 Squadron were trying to explode the theory that they are all brains and no brawn on the "Murder"/Struggle ball pitch. 237 Squadron, however, eventually finished as well-deserving winners in a very closely fought six-a-side football match against 263 Squadron.

Jungle Camp

One of the most interesting things that has taken place recently is the adventure training jungle camp at Mersing. When the organisers have recovered, this will be written up as a separate story for THE WIRE. (*We await it.—Editor*). However, there have been so many stories of heroism by shift-working members who have come back from their four days' "jungle-bashing" to their air-conditioned signal centre, that it certainly deserves a mention in these notes. There is a very famous story of Corporal Keenan, who fell off a log into a shark-infested river—sorry, leech-infested pool—and went under shouting "aaaah!" and clutching his Stirling to his breast with both hands. Unfortunately, according to some, he was rescued. There were also some who managed to get themselves very convincingly lost on the jungle trek! The Indonesians, in fact, landed some 30 miles further south and none of our chaps managed to get themselves *that* lost.

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THE CORPS MAGAZINE

WHY NOT DO SO NOW

16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

Wide range of activity

Much activity has been going on in the Regiment in the past two months and your scribe has no difficulty in finding items of interest and comment. The Regiment seems to have been almost continuously working or playing during the month of June and much activity has taken place both in the sporting and operational fields.

45th Regiment T.A. participate in "Silver Spear"

We were particularly pleased to welcome during the early part of June Major Draper and Captain McKay and a party of twenty Warrant Officers, Sergeants and all ranks from 45th (Essex) Regiment T.A. They all seemed to enjoy themselves during their short stay with us and they participated in Exercise "Silver Spear." We would like to say here and now how very welcome they all were and how well they all fitted into the pattern of life in the Regiment. "Silver Spear" went off very well despite the so-called summer weather that we have had to put up with in Germany this year.

Our sportsmen are much to the fore

In the sporting fields, swimming, athletics, cricket and sailing have taken up much of the Gladiators' time. The cricket team under the leadership of Major Frank Partington has done particularly well having won ten games and lost three. Signalman Rush now plays regularly for the B.A.O.R. team, whilst Corporal Mason, Signalman Speakes and Signalman Dixon all play for the Rhine Area team. We were very pleased to win the Rhine Area Swimming Championships and the swimming team are very much to be congratulated under the leadership of Captain Ken Mogridge who is temporarily commanding 2 Squadron.

We used to have a Training Officer, Major C M. Sinclair, but for most of the month of June he has been floating around the Baltic either in the Corps yacht *Petasus* or in one of the 30 square metre boats belonging to the British Kiel Yacht Club. We would dearly like this officer to return to the Regiment at some time because his mail is beginning to pile up and we feel there must be a lot of correspondence that he would like to answer.

Athletics saw us neck and neck with 36th Regiment of the Royal Regiment of Artillery in the Rhine Area Athletic Competition. We had a most exciting match. We were equal first in points at the end of the match but 36 won the Cup as they had more first places than we did.

The annual 'torture' produces over £500

The first week in July saw the annual torture known as the 16th Regiment Regimental Fête. We were informed very forcefully that this year we were going to make much more money than last, in fact this happened much to the surprise of everyone by everyone putting their shoulder to the wheel, nose to the grindstone and all the other expressions used when people are trying to squeeze something for nothing out of an unsuspecting set of customers or public. The usual stalls were there in profusion. The Line Troop producing its Treasure Island, TM Troop producing so-called electrical wizardry and the Commanding Officer producing a very fine coffee table which he proceeded to raffle. The Physical Training Instructors brought together a boxing team who gave a most impressive display and the main prize of the raffle was two return air tickets to London. However, most disappointing for us, these two tickets were won by one of our Territorial Army friends from 45th (Essex) Regiment (mentioned earlier in this report). We do not begrudge them the prize at all and a cheque for the money equivalent of the tickets will be forwarded in due course. The total profit from this Fête, well over £507, will be distributed between the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and the various other Regimental and Service Charities on which so much of our welfare depends.

We say 'goodbye' and 'hello'

This last month has seen the departure of many characters from Krefeld and the arrival of some new ones. Amongst those we have recently said goodbye to is our M.O., Major K. Williams, R.A.M.C., who has been continuously with the Regiment and in the Medical Centre, Krefeld, for the past five years. We wish himself and his wife, Wendy, and their family a very pleasant stay in their new station, Gibraltar. Also recently left us for the United Kingdom have been R.M.Q.S. Hopewell and R.Q.M.S. Foster and we wish them and their families all the best in their new appointments. We say "hello" to Major Donald Bell, our new dentist, and Captain Colin Rees who is our new doctor, yet another Rugby playing and beer-drinking Welshman. We wish them both a very pleasant stay with us and hope that they enjoy their time with 16th Regiment.

Finally from Krefeld a closing story to illustrate the sort of things that happen in this area of Germany. The scene is set in the L.A.D. of 16th Regiment. The A.S.M. is working (i.e. feet on the desk, comic, and mug of tea at right hand). The telephone rings. The A.S.M. answers "LAD 16 Signal Regiment." A faint voice in the distance, "I wonder if you could help me?" A.S.M. replies, "Of course, lad, what's the trouble?" Faint voice, "Well, sir, I am the driver of a 10-ton truck of ammunition and I have broken down—my engine keeps catching fire." No comment.

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

Corps Day

We are now well into the active phase of the annual exercise of digging up airfields. At the moment, "L" Troop, at Laarbruch are laying claim to having the most sunburnt bunch of Linemen this side of N.A.T.O.

To give some of us a breather and get things back into perspective, the Squadrons at Laarbruch and detachments from the two out Squadrons attended Church on Corps Day. Those who were there heard a truly inspired sermon by Padre Parsonage, at present Warden of Church House, Iserlohn, who has many associations with the Corps. This was followed by tea and buns, donated by the R.A.F. Catering Officer, and in the afternoon the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s attempted to out-drink the Officers on the cricket field. Suffice it, the game was enjoyable, the consumption reasonable and, in spite of the umpires' efforts, the Senior N.C.O.s finished off the day two runs to the good.

Shooting

The 04.40 hours reveille and the intensive training put in by Captain David Insall and his shooting team have paid handsome dividends, as the results so far received show:

Corps Meeting.—Champion Shot, Captain D. H. Insall; Champion Rifle Shot, Captain D. H. Insall; Champion Team, 21st Regiment.

A.R.A. Meeting.—Winners: Bisley Cup Team, Tate Trophy, second in Pistol Tiles Match, fifth in Britannia Trophy, sixth in Revolver Team Trophy, second in Stock Exchange Cup, highest individual score in Methuen Cup (Lieutenant P. E. A. Chaddock), Walking Man Match (Captain D. H. Insall), second in Army Hundred Cup (Captain D. H. Insall), fourth in Army Championship (Captain D. H. Insall).

All nine members of the unit team shot well, and Captain Insall and Lieutenant Chaddock are training with the Army Eight team.

Tug-of-War

The Regimental Heavyweight Team coached by R.S.M. W. A. Barnes has gone from strength to strength and having won the Rhine Area and R.A.F.(G) Championships, beat 2 RCHA in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. championships, and now meet 1 SCLI in the final on 6th July. (*News has since come in that the Regiment finished in the very honourable position of runners-up in the B.A.O.R. Championships.—Editor.*)

The Lightweight Team won the Rhine Area Championship but pulling well were beaten by 2 RCHA in the B.A.O.R. semi-final. A sterling effort by all concerned.

Team photographs and more details next month.

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22nd REGIMENT, B.E.P.O. 16

The Queen's State visit to Germany

It was with a feeling of pride—and to some extent in awe, that our two guards formed up with seventy-eight other guards at Sennelager to take part in one of the largest dismounted parades ever held in the history of the Army. Each guard comprised three officers and seventy-two men. Including the massed bands which numbered about two hundred and fifty pieces, the total on parade exceeded six thousand. The march on of the three wings, each sixteen files across, presented a magnificent spectacle. The hollow square formed by the three wings was nearly half a mile across. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh reviewed the parade from an open Land Rover.

Dinghy Regatta

Our regimental dinghy team came fifth out of the twelve teams entered for the inter-unit match in the Royal Signals Yacht Club (Germany) Regatta which was sailed at the Mohne See. Individuals were more successful with Major Garratt (helm) and Lance-Corporal Bellamy (crew) and Major Finch (helm) and Lance-Corporal Turner (crew) each winning a race in Stage 1 of the Individual Championship. Major Garratt and Lance-Corporal Bellamy came third in the final. Lieutenant Boden (helm) and Signalman Carr (crew) came second in the individual match (an additional individual race for those who did not qualify for the championship).

Passage Race

We entered two boats in the Royal Signals Yacht Club (Germany) Passage Race at Kiel. One of our crews, Major Garratt (skipper), Major Finch, Corporal Iles and Lance-Corporal Bellamy sailed in one of the new Danboats. Although not as fast as the well known 30 square metre, the Danboat is more spacious below becks and a good deal more comfortable. Our other crew, Corporal Marshall (skipper), Lance-Corporal O'Brien, Lance-Corporal Balment (207 Squadron) and Signalman Jepson (4th Regiment) raced a 30 square metre.

In the final race Aeroskobing to Kiel our Danboat got into trouble just before the start by losing her jib halyard in a sail change. Corporal Iles immediately volunteered to climb up the mast. However, in the heavy chop we decided to drop anchor and haul him up on the mainsail halyard while he sat on an improvised bosun's chair.

This cost us about forty-five minutes which we were unable to make up. The wind was strong, blowing a force 6, gusting 7, and our Danboat, heavily reefed, plugged valiantly into the heavy chop. We eventually reached Kiel just after midnight to be greeted by the sight of many wet mattresses and assorted wet clothing hanging from the 30 square metre fleet. We appreciated our dry, if not fast, Danboat. Corporal Marshall reported an exciting and hard day's sailing with continuous pumping. When we awoke on Sunday morning his ship had settled on the mud. Perhaps he should have gone on pumping all night as well!

Exercise "Silver Spear II"

Between parades and sailing we have taken part in one major exercise, the first full deployment of our radio villages, not to mention innumerable minor exercises, and some not so minor at that! During Exercise "Silver Spear II" we were very pleased to be visited by the Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R. After General Bradley had visited our field locations we attended a church service in the village church at Steinhausen at which our Padre officiated. We were also honoured by visits from General Grunwald, Chief Signal Officer NORTHAG, Colonel Fiarce, Commandant TTR 1 (BE) Corps, Colonel Van Eerden, Chief Signal Officer 1 (NL) Corps, Lieutenant-Colonel Goldbach, Chief Signal Officer 1 (GE) Corps, and Major Donnay, Staff Officer 1 (BE) Corps.



Lance-Corporal Bellamy relaxing on board 'Merganser' one of the new BKYC Danboats, after taking part in the Passenger Race

Regimental Athletics

A good deal of enthusiasm and exciting competition was enjoyed at an inter-troop athletics standards competition between 18 teams organised by Lieutenant Boden. The winning team, R.H.Q. and Pay Office, gained a one point lead over the 1 Squadron H.Q./Recce Troop team. The one point lead was gained by Lieutenant Boden who cleared 8 ft. 6 in. on the pole vault which was the last event.

Comings and Goings

We have recently said farewell to Captain and Mrs. Finch on posting to 19th Regiment in Singapore. Captain Finch has been our MTO for the past three years. We welcome the new BTO, Captain E. R. C. Wall, from 19th Regiment and look forward to the arrival of his wife and family. We also welcome Second-Lieutenant P. Whitehead from the School of Signals who takes up his first appointment as O.C. "Y" Troop in 244 Squadron.

24th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

General. Since the last news of 24th Regiment was printed in THE WIRE, there have been a number of changes. Lieutenant-Colonel G. Peat, Major (Q.M.) B. Sellar and W.O.I T. Licence have all left us. In their place we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Sykes, Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) G. Lynam and W.O.I M. J. L. Molony.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peat was given the traditional farewell, a parade, and then he was towed round the unit lines by a team of stalwart N.C.O.s. In addition, the departing Colonel was the guest of honour at farewell dinners given by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and Officers' Mess.

The Quartermaster seems to be introducing himself to the heirarchy of the Quartermongering side of the Regiment, and enquiring into the availability of their AB 64 Pt. II's!

Our new R.S.M. was introduced to the mess on our last mess meeting. The departing R.S.M. being guest of honour at a dinner, where R.S.M. Molony gave us a stirring "This is Your Life" account of R.S.M. Licence's career as a tribute to him. Needless to say, the evening ended with "games." It was highly regretted by the Romeos of the mess that the ladies of the W.R.A.C. declined to join in.

Sergeant Moon, B.E.M., said his goodbyes to the Army on 31st May and returned to the Regiment on 1st June as Mr. Arthur Moon, B.E.M., civilian instructor. Sergeant Palmer was married at Whitsun. We wish both Sergeant Moon and Sergeant Palmer success in their new roles of civilian and husband respectively.

Sports. The Regimental Soccer Team have recently concluded a most successful season. Although losing in the Army Cup quarter-final to the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment by five goals to two, all other competitions entered for were won in a resounding manner. In the Northern Command Challenge Cup final, 38 Corps Engineer Regiment were defeated by nine goals to three, and in the Yorkshire District Cup

final, 7 Company R.A.M.C. were thrashed to the tune of seventeen goals to nil. The Yorkshire District Soccer League was won again by this Regiment without losing a match. To cap this very fine record, three of our players were selected regularly for the British Army Team, namely, Lance-Corporal A. Forester, Lance-Corporal A. Sutherland and Signalman A. Gordon.

In other fields of sport good performances were put up. The Regimental Badminton Team won the Catterick Garrison Inter-Unit League, and our newest recruits to sport, the Ten-Pin Bowling Team, won the Army Ten-Pin Bowling Championships; team captain, Sergeant Wallington, R.E.M.E., winning the Army Individual Handicap Competition.

Extra Mural Activities. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." These are words which should never apply in this Regiment, because we are blessed with almost a complete list of organised extra mural activities. It would take up too much space to record the activities of them all, so we will only mention a few with special appeal.

The Camera Club is very much in evidence at present, with the photographs taken of the Commanding Officers' farewell parade. These photographs were taken by Capt. A. Johnson, A.C.C., and have been very popular around the Regiment.

The Regimental Hobbies Centre, in the Education Block, is open each evening for a variety of hobbies and occupations, the most popular being the model car track, and the "do-it-yourself" garage.

The Regimental Beat Group is beginning to make its presence felt around the area with occasional shows in the Junior Ranks' Club, but like most of the activities here, it suffers from the continuous change of personnel in the Regiment.

The boats of the Sailing Club are situated up in the Lake District, on Ullswater, it is rather early in the year for good sailing weather, but the club will be fully used during the season.

Within the Garrison we also have the Dales Club, which caters for all forms of outdoor activities, such as fell-walking, climbing, caving and canoeing. It is designed to give beginners the opportunity to try any of the activities under the supervision of experienced leaders. It also gives members the opportunity to discover the adventure offered by the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District.

Adventure Training. On Tuesday of each week throughout the year, approximately 28 men leave 24th Regiment bound for the Lake District, where they spend three days on Adventure Training. In two three-tonners and a Champ, loaded up with camping kit, canoes and personal kit, the party leaves the unit lines at 06.30 hours. They arrive at their camp site, near Pooley Bridge, Ullswater, at 10.00 hours. Whilst one section remains to set up camp, two sections are immediately despatched—one to rock climbing, under the expert eye of Corporal J. Warburton and the other to trek over Helvellyn and Striding Edge. When camp is set up then the third section go canoeing on Ullswater.

The trek over Helvellyn starts at the village of Patterdale, and begins with a steep climb to 2,000 feet to Grisedale Brow. A further climb of 1,100 feet takes the party off Striding Edge to the Peak of Helvellyn. From there, there is a gradual descent to Red Tarn, and then by moorland track to Glenridding, where transport meets the party to return them to the camp site. Total distance is approximately seven miles, and the record time, claimed by Admin. Trades Troop, 1 Squadron, is 2 hours 15 minutes.

The scenery is wonderful, but often the strain of the trek prevents most from taking any particular interest in the scenery.

Rock climbing is done on a sheer face of rock in Gowborrow Park. Once the climber realises that, with safety ropes, there is absolutely no danger, then one enjoys the experience, and the descent, by "abseil," is very exciting and surprisingly easy.

By launching three two-men canoes at Pooley Bridge pier, six men can enjoy a day's canoeing. Safety precautions make it necessary to remain close to the shore. Anyone who has experienced rough weather on Ullswater in a canoe will appreciate the good sense of such precautions. Life jackets are worn by all the canoeists and, on one occasion, the life of one canoeist was "saved" by a redoubtable Staff Sergeant, who waded out into waist-deep water, hauled to his feet a screaming and thoroughly wet and frightened trainee who was floating in his life jacket and obviously prepared to meet his maker in three feet of water.

Look at Life No. 3 — Advertisement

28th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

Franciscа, Franciscan, Franciscant

Some weeks back, a Junior Leader from the All Arms Regiment at Tonfanau, wrote to us enquiring about the Regiment. He said that he was a keen cyclist and, having read about the "Francyclists," those "dedicated" young men who pedal their way to the four corners of Western Germany, he wished to know more about the Regiment. We felt that we were being put to the test, and because there may be other interested future "Proud Walkers" (see our article in the May issue) "Look at Life" this month decided to advertise the holiday activities of the Franciscans of St. Toenis. The pictorial expressions of these activities are by R.Q.M.S. Fawcett, of Fawcett and Son (see our June/July issue).

Francyelist

The basic requirement of this holiday is to cycle 500 miles in ten days. The kit is 15 young volunteers, 10 bicycles, a truck, and camping equipment. The route is decided by the leader, and the party stage at civilian camping sites. Then all that is required is for them to "Beatle" off with a "Ticket to Ride."

Three expeditions have been planned for this summer. In the spirit of youth, the first one, just completed, was led by 50-year-old Captain Cloughley, the M.T.O., with 15 volunteers from H.Q. Squadron (drivers just love changing the seat for the saddle). They had some adventures (they had to—it was adventure training money they were using), reached Luxembourg, and on the way back cycled into Cologne to the British Forces Broadcasting Studio and were "on the air" that night.

Fransail

Three sailing adventures in the Baltic for interested customers are also taking place under the experienced leadership of Captain Bird and Captain Oliver. These are holidays for tough young men prepared to rough it for a week in high seas and in the cramped conditions of a 30-metre yacht. They stay at sea for the whole time and acquire very, very rich tans.

Franciscans also turn to the more intricate and delicate art of dinghy racing. Led by the Chief Franciscan (with apologies to St. Francis for his name) and enfurled with Captain Oliver and Sergeant Mellor, Frandinghies are everywhere in the lead. Captain Oliver and Colonel Pagan were first and second respectively in the B.A.O.R. Corps Championships, and the Regimental team, with three boats, skippered by Colonel Pagan, Captain Oliver and Sergeant Mellor, together with Corporal O'Keefe, Signalmen Palmer and Hall as crews, beat the much-fancied 14th Regiment, Royal Artillery, in the first round of the B.A.O.R. team championships.

Franfly

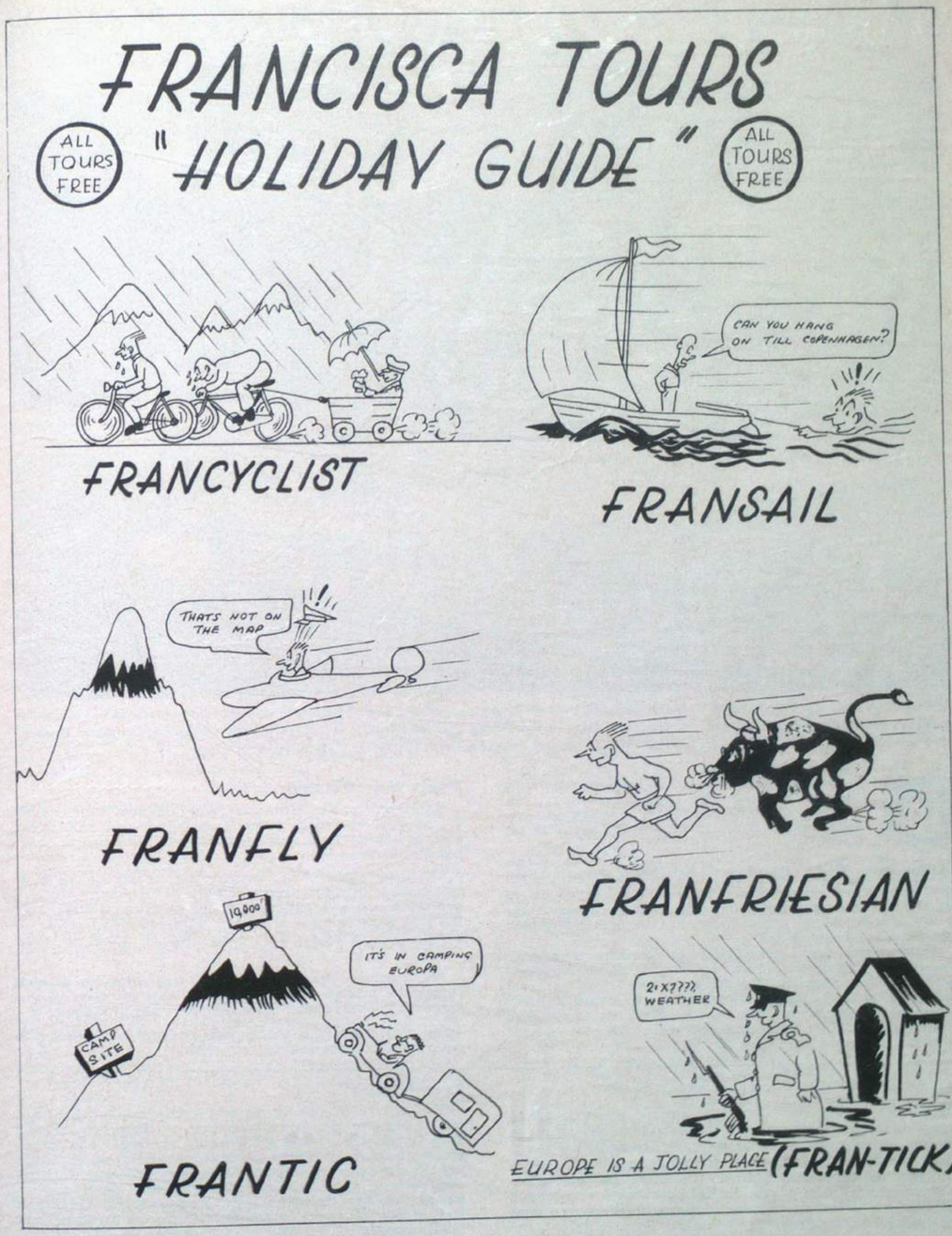
From the crest of a wave to the spiral of a thermal is just one short hop for a Franciscan. We are very lucky to have both a qualified gliding instructor, Lieutenant Hood, and a glider, which we operate on behalf of the Corps. Every week-end, young soldiers, under Lieutenant Hood, go off to a local R.A.F. gliding club. This is a very pleasant and satisfying way of spending a week-end, and a refreshing alternative to the week-end circuit of pit, cookhouse, JRC. However, it is a slow way to learn to glide; consequently, we have devised a series of unusual gliding holidays which we believe to be quite unique to an Army Regiment.

Through the kindness of the R.A.F. and Belgian Air Force, we have found an airfield which is only occasionally used by Belgian light aircraft during the week, so our gliders can use it practically all day and every day. Here, six soldiers can go up and down, up and down, non-stop for five days and acquire skills, including solo flying, which would take many months of week-end gliding only. This holiday is rounded off by the luxury accommodation and traditional hospitality of the R.A.F., with whom our customers stay for the week. We plan a number of these holidays during the summer months.

Franfriesian

To round off our holiday adventures, the Regiment is outward bound to the Friesian Islands in September. Transported

(*Continued at foot of page 272*)



THE 30th REGIMENT ON PARADE

AT ALDERSHOT AND POOLE HARBOUR



1. MAGNETRON—The wonder Robot presented by 30th Regiment, Sergeant Skimming in charge. 2. Gymnasts of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals. 3. General View of the Corps Mobile Display QUICKSILVER. 4. Lance-Corporal Cousins (Comcan Op) setting up communications with Corporal Tatnall (Cipher Op)

To represent the activities of the Regiment during the month of June we present two reports, one covering the Aldershot Army Display and the second covering the Poole Bay Olympic Yachting Trials.

Aldershot Army Display, 19th-20th June, 1965

C.W.A. writes: As in previous years the Regiment was made responsible for sponsoring a Corps Stand at this annual event which attracted some 130,000 visitors to Queen's Parade, Aldershot, during the week-end.

On the Corps Stand were displays presented by: 14th Regiment, 30th Regiment, 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals.

Highlights of the display were the pipes, drums, highland dancers and gymnasts of Junior Leaders Regiment and a 'Free Message Service' for members of the public to relatives serving overseas, presented by COMCAN.

Poole Bay Olympic Trials

B.C.H. writes: On Wednesday, 9th June, 640 Troop quietly moved some sixty of its members the twenty-odd miles to the coast and before lunch had set up a tented camp on the Sandbanks at Poole.

The main object of the exercise was to provide the communications for the fortnight of Olympic Yachting trials and also the World and National Shearwater Championships. To this end some twenty-five stations were provided daily to go aboard boats of various sizes being used on control or rescue duties.

An extremely pleasant two weeks was spent by all even though the weather was so changeable that the cases of seasickness alternated almost daily with the cases of sunburn.

All in all much good training was achieved especially as the radio operators were in fact "any trade."

28th REGIMENT (*Continued from page 270*)

by NATO Luxury Travel, we have planned to set up a base camp on the mainland shore of Ostfriesland and from there to explore the islands, getting to them in Captain Oliver's one-man dinghy, the Regiment's leaking canoes and locally-acquired fishing boats. Once on these beautiful mainly uncharted islands (there is a nudist colony on one) we offer full facilities for bivouacing, trekking, mapping, surveying and some controlled bird watching.

Frantielimax

The pity of all this is that the young man of Tonfanau who prompted this article cannot become a Franciscan because he is training in a trade which we do not use. This is important, because in addition to these splendid tours, the Regiment is actively engaged in the mobile international communication business. For this we are "franfully" sorry, and we feel that we have failed his test. "Look at Life" wishes him good luck in his future adventures and may he "walk tall and walk proud."

Royal Signals (Malaya) Dinner Club

☆

A group photograph taken earlier this year



Seated (left to right): Major A. C. Dexter, Major K. E. P. Andrews, Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Masser, Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Silvester-Bradley, O.B.E., Brigadier P. A. L. Vaux, O.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch, Colonel G. H. Hoerder, M.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Rahilly, Major D. J. Commerford and Major T. E. D. Baxter
Front Row Standing (left to right): Major J. G. James, M.C., Major E. R. Hardy, Major P. H. Bolton, Major W. A. Rowbory, Captain B. J. Burke, Captain D. W. Stubbs, Captain H. A. Cuerden, Lieutenant M. P. Walker, Lieutenant T. Jones, B.E.M., Major A. C. Earl and Captain Abu Bakar
Standing Behind (left to right): Major A. C. Bate, M.B.E., Captain C. J. Crow, Captain P. D. E. Chase, Major M. C. Deverill, Captain F. R. Maynard, Captain D. J. Jolly, Captain P. A. Thompson, Captain P. E. C. Davies, Lieutenant D. P. Herring, Major J. A. E. Hasell, Lieutenant Idris bin Abuad, Captain A. R. Bushell, Major J. A. Findlater, Captain Lai, Major Ariffin bin Muda, Lieutenant J. J. Greatrix

Our Corps Week was even better this year . . .

H.Q., ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG, B.F.P.O. 1

That was the week that was. Corps Week, 1965, will be remembered as a period of considerable social and sporting activity, much enjoyed by all concerned. This is the second year that Corps Week, as such, has been celebrated in Hong Kong, and from all accounts, this last one was even more successful than its predecessor. Much of the work of organisation fell to the lot of 252 Squadron, and our thanks are due to them for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

A day at sea and then . . .

The week commenced with Squadron outings by both 252 and 253 Squadrons, of which more details will undoubtedly be provided in Squadron notes. In each case, some 150 to 200 members of the Squadrons and their wives and families spent a day at sea on one of the ferry boats, very generously made available by the Hong Kong and Yaumati Ferry Company. On the Saturday the annual Inter-Squadron Swimming Sports were held at the swimming pool in Victoria Barracks, and the large attendance of families was again a feature of the event.

Fierce Squadron Competition

Competition was fierce in the swimming events, and although 252 Squadron had a comfortable margin of points at the end, their victory was not as easily gained as that of 246 Gurkha Squadron over 253 Squadron in the final of the Water Polo Competition. In this match it was only too obvious that Major Val Swindale and Captain Tommy Livingstone had played the game before.

On Sunday, a Royal Signals' Church Service was held in the Garrison Church, Victoria Barracks, attended by representatives of all the Signal Squadrons. The service was conducted by the Rev. D. S. Coey, M.A., B.D., C.F., D.A.C.G., H.Q., Land Forces, who very generously donated the collection to the benefit of the Benevolent Fund. A curry luncheon in the Officers' Mess followed, and we were very pleased to have as our guests a full gathering of officers and families of all three Services, and of civilians closely associated with us in Hong Kong and, in particular, Lady O'Connor. Very unfortunately, the Commander, British Forces, himself could not attend, owing to illness.

It's 252 Squadron again!

Monday was another full day, in spite of the rain. An inter-Squadron Basketball League Competition was organised and, needless to say, won by 252 Squadron, in conditions more appropriate to water polo. It says much for the stamina and enthusiasm of all the competitors that the day was such a success. Having got wet outside, many of those participating then proceeded, in the evening, to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for the Old Comrades' Reunion, and got equally wet inside.

Ex-Comrades at the Reunion

The reunion was particularly successful, some 50-odd ex-members of the Corps accepting our invitation to attend. Maybe a previous Chief Clerk's ears were burning a few days before this event, however, when it was found that a file containing the names of known ex-members of the Corps in Hong Kong, and compiled with the greatest difficulty last year, had been destroyed in the course of clearing up the "bumph." Many a harsh word was spoken—but it would still have been nice to have had him with us. The liquid stocks were quite adequate! Our old comrade guests included Mr. A. G. Crook, the Postmaster-General, Hong Kong; Mr. R. G. Gaut, the Chief Engineer, Hong Kong Telephone Company, and late P.O.L.O. of the Signals Directorate; Mr. K. R. Seamans, of the Telecommunications Division of the G.P.O.; Mr. Nigel Bromley, of G.E.C.; Inspector W. R. Dean, of the Hong Kong Police, who was decorated last year for very gallantly diving into the harbour during one of the fiercer typhoons and saving two local civilians from drowning; and Mr. J. D. Mooney, ex-R.E. Signals. It is of interest to note that some 120 ex-members of the Corps are living and working in the Colony, the Hong Kong Police and the Hong Kong Telephone Company being particularly strongly represented. Next year we hope to have even more guests at the reunion.

With the conclusion of Corps Week, our undivided attention is given to the forthcoming visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. A very satisfying result of Corps Week was the fact that by means of the church collection and sundry raffles, £42 was raised for the Corps Benevolent Fund.

★

Sergeant Palmer and Corporals Gordan and Genties

★



RELAXING IN THE UNIT CLUB

★

Representatives of the three Services at ease



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R/O Chambers, L. A. C. Hirit and L/Cpl. Hardy

★

COMMANDER, ROYAL SIGNALS, BORNEO

Due to the one year tour in Borneo changes in staff occur simultaneously. Thus our small branch has said farewell within a few weeks to Major Ridge, Captain Cheal, Sergeant Connery and Signalman Wright, all of whom have gone to units in Singapore, and welcomed their replacements Major Cox, Captain Austin, Sergeant Ogden and Signalman Simmons. Lieutenant (Traffic) E. W. G. Hill is also about to join us.

News from any H.Q. Royal Signals, even in an operational theatre, is never particularly interesting. We have many visitors from all over the world who seem to enjoy their Borneo tours, and we ourselves clock many miles each month, mainly by air, getting round our large parish. Labuan to Kuching is equivalent to London-Edinburgh and our frontier is the distance from the Baltic to Rome. The view from above in transit is unfortunately somewhat different!

This month we celebrate Corps Day in a small way, and in July we look forward to the visit of the S.O.-in-C.

Meanwhile we continue to enjoy the privilege of serving in what we think is the best of all possible worlds for a soldier and a communicator, with plenty of communications and plenty of problems.

Affairs technical

The month started with a bang when a CRAFT (Controller Royal Air Force Telecommunications) team arrived for a five-day inspection visit. They examined every aspect of communications; traffic handling, procedures, security, equipment, maintainence programmes and serviceability rates. This was certainly a unique experience for a predominantly army unit to be inspected by the Junior Service and we eagerly await their report.

The 105 ft. tower which is to hold our radio relay aerials now dominates Divisional Headquarters and the antics of our R.A.F. aerial erectors high above the ground evoke considerable interest.

M Troop technicians have worked wonders in wiring and installing the new system control and on the 20th June all links with the old control were literally severed. The changeover was not without incident but all is now functioning well and perhaps Corporals Willby, Morris and Crow can go to bed.

In the Comcen Competition Sergeant Leslie and his 'A' Shift won the Shield, presented each month to the shift showing best traffic handling efficiency. It is interesting to note that since January the monthly traffic figures have risen from 81,916 to 94,900.

Personal column

We were very pleased to hear that an ex-member of the Squadron, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) V. de Witt, had been awarded the M.B.E. for his efforts in Borneo and that W.O.I (Y. of S.) Gubler gained a Mention in Despatches. Congratulations are also due to W.O.II (S.S.M.) Gibbs on the award of his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

One casualty this month has been our R.A.F. Officer, Flight-Lieutenant Andrews, who was "casevaced" to U.K. with an eye complaint. He is replaced as CDSO for a short period by Lieutenant Scarff before he too leaves for 249 Squadron.

Details of our arrivals and departures would take too much space but we are particularly glad to have received a bunch of apprentices straight from A.A.S. Harrogate.

Unit Club a success

Extra mural activity continue apace. The Unit Club is proving immensely successful and the efforts of Corporal Cairns and Lance-Corporal Thomas cannot be praised too highly. They have produced a most attractive club from a marquee, bamboo poles and bits of hardboard and we are indeed grateful to them for this important contribution to Squadron life. We have held several successful functions but none more enjoyable than when we entertained thirty ratings from H.M.S. *Albion* which anchored off Labuan over the weekend 26th/27th June.

The Water Ski Club is flourishing under the direction of Captain Last and we now have some very polished performers. Signalman Laidlaw was involved in a head-on collision with a small boat but it is reported that the boat suffered no damage.

M Troop deservedly won the Tighe Soccer Cup after maintaining a very high standard of play throughout the competition.

Rugby flourishes

Our Rugby fortunes have taken a turn for the better with the arrival of some new blood on the island. In the last game against the R.A.F. we included Lieutenant Thompson and Corporal Dunbar of 249 Squadron (here on detachment) and this completed a formidable team which managed to reverse the trend of a series of defeats. Overheard in the front row:—

"We'll provide the filth, let the young 'uns do the running."

"Kick it into the sea, and we'll have a rest."

No apology is given for writing so much about Rugby. The Corps has a fine tradition in this game and has certainly made it popular here.

Two founder members of the team play their last game for us tomorrow and their team mates would like to take this opportunity of thanking Lance-Corporal Hardy and Signalman Brown for their tireless and willing efforts on our behalf. They are good club men who will be difficult to replace.

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FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

It was really a Simple Job but . . .

By W.O.II (Y. of S.) French

YEOMAN of Signals French goes off on a routine job from British Honduras — really a simple job — but it wasn't so simple as all that in the end. It led him into a South American earthquake, and then, for good measure, a car crash . . .

Set off

It was really a simple job, just escort a bag of diplomatic mail from Belize, British Honduras, to San Salvador, and bring another one back the same day. The date, however, was the 4th of May, 1965, and the B.B.C. had reported earthquakes the day before in San Salvador. This at least would make the trip interesting!

Having collected the bag and all its associated documents, I reported to the airport to find the plane an hour behind schedule. When we eventually took off I thought "Well, never mind, it only means a shorter lunch break in Salvador and then home by 15.30 hours." If only I had been able to see what was ahead. The plan staged through San Pedro Sula in the Republic of Honduras and then on to my destination. With only 15 minutes to touchdown, I had my camera at the ready, expecting to see great cracks in the earth's surface. Here, however, I was disappointed, the only sign of damage from the air was one or two houses that had crumbled away on the outskirts of the city.

I met Mr. John Owen (the man from the Embassy), and after going through immigration he told me that the airport restaurant wasn't fit for use after the "bang" (as apparently earthquakes are referred to by all the locals), and that he would take me to the Gran Hotel for a meal. On the way through the city he pointed out some of the damage, mainly plaster facing and small landslides on the roads, but said that the worst hit areas were in the old part of the city and in two villages about five miles away. The casualty figures, he said, were 101 killed, 400 in hospital and over 4,000 homeless. The local population, fearing still further tremors, were moving out on to the streets and into the parks, using anything to give them shelter from the sun and rain (the rainy season was just starting). I saw them lying on their beds under old bits of canvas, brown paper, even newspaper, in every open space we passed.

Stranded

When we arrived at the hotel, John told me he would pick me up at 1 o'clock to return to the airport, and I went up for dinner. The dining room had suffered slightly, plaster had fallen and cracks were appearing in walls, but otherwise everything was normal, and after a very juicy steak with all the trimmings, I went downstairs to the foyer to wait for the taxi. Sure enough, at 1 o'clock he arrived, and after buying some presents from the hotel's gift shop for my family, we left for the airport. "Well, this is it," I thought, "I am glad *I* will not be here tonight."

That was what I thought. When we arrived at the airport I found that my flight had taken off an hour and a half before schedule and there were no further flights that day. Fate, they say, goes its own way, and now it certainly had. John very kindly offered to put me up for the night, saying that the Gran Hotel was too big to be safe and the last tremor had cracked its foundations. By now, although John didn't know it, I was worried. Storms, hurricanes, floods, I didn't mind, but what the hell did one do to protect one's self in a blasted earthquake? After plucking up courage, I put the question to John. "Nothing," he said. "If your number's up you go, and it doesn't matter where you are."

Then he told me about the 'quakes of 1917. "Had a bad bang that caused a lot of damage, and then two days later another one, only much worse." "Thank you, John," I thought, "most encouraging." It was now two days since their first "bang." Anyway, John left me at home and away he went to the Embassy, promising to send transport for me to look around the shops. It was by now about 3 o'clock, and after a quick wash, I sat down to read some magazines.

"Shake, Rattle and Rock"

At 3.55 p.m. the house started to shake, rattle and rock. I jumped to my feet and then—it stopped. The maid came in and opened the front door. "Just in case you need to leave in a hurry," she said. Ten minutes later my taxi arrived and I went down to the shopping centre. Even here the only damage I could see were broken plate glass windows and plaster.

At 5.30 p.m. I made my way to the Gran Hotel to meet John, and whilst having a drink we had another slight tremor. Nothing like the last one, but the glasses on the bar rattled. John suggested a game of snooker in the British Club to pass away the evening saying . . . "and the British Club is in the safest area." That was good enough for me, so at about 8.00 p.m. off we went for a few hours of comparative safety.

Another "Bang"

And so it was, not a tremor did we feel, but on the way back to John's home . . . we had an accident in the car. John was driving, and at a busy intersection another car ran straight into the side. Neither of us were badly hurt, although it gave me a splitting headache and a couple of nasty bruises. The car, however, was a write-off, and as luck would have it, some friends of John's came by and took us home. As you can imagine, by this time I had decided that San Salvador was not for me. I went to sleep that night wondering if that particular piece of ceiling directly above me was destined to meet my head sometime in the small hours of the morning.

I awoke at around eight in the morning, all in one piece, and after a wonderful breakfast, collected the "dip" bag and caught my plane for Belize. As we took off from San Salvador Airport I thought, "Im still alive then, after all that."

So ended a 'simple' job

After staging through Guatemala City, I arrived in Belize at 14.10, delivered the bag to Government House and then arranged to send Signalman Dryland, one of the Troop's Training Operators to San Salvador to provide communications for an airlift of supplies for the homeless. Before he went, I told him to "get through" and 24 hours later he did just that. However, that's his story, and when he comes back I'll ask him to tell it to you. In the meantime, never think a job of work is simple until you have done it!

Expedition to Kufra

By Sergeant W. Heaney, 245 Squadron

On Sunday, the 28th March, 1965, a Signals Detachment comprising Lance-Corporal Moodie, Signalman Kellett and myself, Sergeant Heaney, were part of Cyrenaica Area GSO II expedition to Kufra in the Libyan Desert. Kufra is famous for its camel saddles and colourful leather goods, etc., and of course steeped in World War II history. The expedition, consisting of 14 men, five vehicles—two 3-tonners and three Land Rovers—covered the round trip of approximately 1,400 miles in eight days, which included time to empty both 3-tonners in order to load a broken-down Land Rover on to one of them and redistribute the stores.

A quick routine for getting through

I was co-driver of one of the 3-tonners on which the wireless station was mounted, and operated the C11/R210 on a daily schedule. Apart from routine periodical five-minute stops to stretch the limbs, the radio schedule was the only reasonable halt on our daily first-to-last-light attempts to make good time.

The routine was quickly established whereby all vehicles stopped at 12.50 hours and the G.S. 3-tonner nosed up to the wireless 3-tonner. The braided aerials, poles and co-axial feeders were handed down to willing helpers who set about connecting them all together and fixing the poles into specially constructed brackets on the sides of the 3-tonners then backing the G.S. vehicle until the aerial was taut. In the meantime the set had warmed up, a few seconds to tune in and traffic was flowing at 13.00 hours. The sandwich meal was then ravenously consumed during the schedule which usually lasted half an hour, then we packed up the kit and drove on until last light.

We had to use metal sand channels several times through very soft sand and quite a few blisters were raised. Several vehicle derelicts were discovered on the journey but the most interesting one was an old Long Range Desert Group wagon with the markings still visible and the rest of the metal work beautifully burnished by years of wind-driven sand.

An improvised float charging system

Kufra was reached early on the 31st March where I found that my 300 watt generator had "packed up" and by this time my batteries were beginning to drop, so I balanced two 12v 75AH batteries on the wing of the G.S. Land Rover and connected the vehicle dynamo and batteries in parallel. I did the same on the other Rover with the remaining two batteries, started up and we were in business again with three hours to scheduled time. Just before opening up I connected one lead of the C11 to one bank, the other to the remaining bank and a shorting strip between them and we had two Land Rovers float charging the batteries while I worked the set. Communications were thus established in a satisfactory manner, ably assisted by Lance-Corporal Moodie and Signalman Kellett who dismantled the station from the 3-tonner and set it up by the Land Rovers, then erected a dipole aerial between the 3-tonners.

A story with a little toughness in it

Adventure Training in Bavaria

SIGNALMAN WILSON of 206 Squadron, B.F.P.O. 17, writes this account of a fortnight spent on Adventure Training in Bavaria. The programme included hikes through the mountains, cross-country treks, canoeing and spending 24 hours on "survival island"—an exercise designed to simulate leaving a sinking ship and getting to an island in the middle of a lake—the water not being far from freezing point! All in all it's a story with a little toughness.

"A" Troop travelled by train from Munster to Murnau in Bavaria on the 15th May. On arrival at our camping site we found that the advance party had done a marvellous job and that everything had been laid on for us. The 160-pounders which we were to live in for the next fortnight had been erected and a meal had been laid on, in anticipation of our arrival, by Corporal Mike Brint, who, throughout the whole period that we stayed in Bavaria, was to work near miracles on his No. 1 cookers. The camping site was situated at the side of the Staffelsee and was surrounded on three sides by the highest mountains that most of use had ever seen.

The less hardy were thrown in

The day after arrival was spent sorting out kit, swimming in the lake, which we found was as near freezing point as it could get without being solid! This was due to the fact that, even as late as May, the snow on the mountains was still thawing, and running into the self-same lake. This did not do very much for morale, but as soon as the hardier ones amongst us had ventured in, they were followed by the rest. The few who did not feel inclined to subject their more fragile bodies to the "deep freeze" were forcibly thrown in. Once the initial plunge had been taken, no one seemed to notice the cold.

Civilians looked on in 'blank amazement!'

On Monday morning our training began. At 07.45 we were roused from deep slumber and prior to breakfast we were taken on a mile run, followed by a dip in the lake—which was not appreciated by anyone at that time of morning—the civilian campers who were foolhardy enough to be up at that unearthly time of the day looked on in blank amazement!

After breakfast we undertook a half-day trek through the mountains—finding that the beautiful scenery which we had hitherto admired, had to be climbed—no easy task for the beer-soaked bodies which we then were, after intensive weekend fraternising with the local pubs, bars and population.

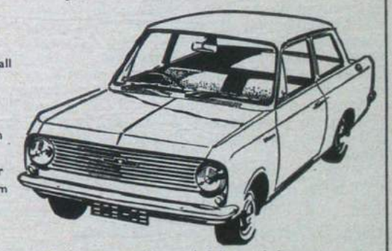
'Survival Island'

The ensuing ten days were of a similar routine which included canoeing, cross-country treks, and twenty-four hours on "survival island" which was an exercise designed to simulate leaving a sinking ship, getting to an island (in the middle of the lake) and staying there until we were "rescued." Some of us were without shoes, shirts or even trousers! But the British squaddie, resourceful as ever, managed to survive on a bar of chocolate, half a pint of drinking water, and Corporal Spike Lockwood's all-in herbal stew. The Officers and Sergeants in charge insisted on canoeing to just outside stone-throwing range and consuming cigarettes, beer, hot coffee and sandwiches in full view, but they gallantly agreed to test the lake first on subsequent mornings.

All this training, we were later to find, was a mere build-up for the "grand finale," a two-day "bash," consisting of canoeign and climbing mountains, which we all agreed should have been restricted to mountain goats, yetis and Sergeant Matthews. What it boiled down to was twelve miles of canoeing, followed by a forty-mile trek through the mountains. The troop was split in half, one half canoeing while the other half did the trek. Unfortunately, due to low cloud in the mountains, much of the Troop was unable to take on some of the mountaineering. However, of the squads which managed to finish the course, the leading one, Corporal Upton, Corporal McClengahan and Signalman King-Smith took just under twenty hours continuous slog to complete the entire trek, which should give readers some indication of the terrain covered.

On Saturday, 31st May, a much fitter, if rather tired Troop, gratefully entrained in Munich for the 500-mile journey back to dear old Munster, and home.

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Famagusta to Beirut in a 50 Square Metre

By
W.O.II Peter Gale
9th Regiment



A view of Beirut with the Yacht Club in the foreground

SOMEONE, somewhere, once likened offshore sailing to standing under a cold shower tearing up five-pound notes.

Be that as it may, it was seven very eager people who arrived at the Military Quay in Famagusta Harbour on the morning of Friday, 4th June, and started to load stores into *Goldammer*, a 50 square metre, acquired from the R.A.F. by the Army Cruising Association (Cyprus) and now being looked after by 9th Regiment

A chequered career

One of the well-known Windfalls, *Goldammer* has had a chequered career, and needed a major overhaul this year. She was only launched on 24th May, after concentrated efforts by the shipyard and 2 Squadron in their off-shift periods. With the co-operation of Major I. C. Spear, in London, and Transport Command, she was re-equipped with navigational aids, which proved invaluable.

To try her out, after the refit, a voyage to Beirut and back over Whitsun was planned. The crew consisted of those who had worked on her while she was on the slip. The skipper was Major Cooper; the mates were Captain Hodges and Lance-Corporal Walker, with W.O.II Gale, Sergeant Cudlip, Lance-Corporal Harper and Signalman Burr as the crew. Captain Hodges doubled as chief engineer—a vital post in view of the somewhat dilapidated diesel which is the current auxiliary.

At 10.40 the diesel duly fired and *Goldammer* left Famagusta Harbour at a steady two knots. Fortunately, the wind blew and she was soon beating in Force 3, with her huge Terylene genoa set.

50 square metres are not the roomiest of boats, but even with seven on board, it was possible for those off watch to stretch out below.

Lack of wind but we fed well

The voyage to Beirut was marred by lack of wind from midnight onwards, and the engine was pressed into use. By reason of new main bearings, it had to be used at half power and allowed us to make a mere 2 to 3 knots.

However, the trip was enlivened by a wonderful salad, produced by Sergeant Cudlip, which would not have disgraced a hotel table; an excellent bacon-and-egg breakfast from the hands of Lance-Corporal Harper; whilst to interest us there were the antics of flying fish and a "tunny-type" fish which would leap out of the water and fall back with a splash which was clearly audible quite a distance away. One of these fish became quite attached to us and accompanied us almost to Beirut, which was sighted at lunchtime on Saturday, and which we seemed to approach very slowly. The eager anticipation of several of the crew members to sample the delights of this large city had reached almost to the point of frenzy when eventually, at 19.30 hours, we picked up our mooring in the yacht basin of the Beirut Yacht Club, an event that was not without incident.

Some confusion when mooring

We approached the Yacht Club at a very sedate speed and saw a group of people standing on the jetty. No instructions were received as to where we should moor, so the skipper put the helm over and we turned to port in a fairly tight circle. On the second approach waved arms instructed us to a mooring, and as we did so, one of the club hands jumped aboard who, unfortunately knew nothing of the age of our motor, and whose rather frenzied instructions of "forward" and "reverse," delivered at fantastic speed, eventually left us bereft of motive power, unfortunately, not before we had managed to moor our bow to a buoy and our stern to the jetty.

The gang plank was soon aboard and we were ashore. A great deal of cajoling on the part of the crew managed to get us cleared through Immigration, and half-past nine saw us all heading out through the dock gates, the two officers bound for an hotel where they hoped for a shower, a good meal and a good night's sleep; the rest of the crew already showered and shaved, heading for the centre of the city, where they hoped to find a meal, a few beers and have a look round before returning to the club.

From all accounts, the rather short stay in port was put to good use by all concerned, and 11.30 saw the five members sleeping aboard back at the Yacht Club. But not to sleep. Some eventually managed to snatch a few hours' broken rest under blankets in the muggy heat, but the remainder routed well organised swarms of monster mosquitoes. One of the crew gave up all hope of sleep and spent what remained of the night walking along the mole.

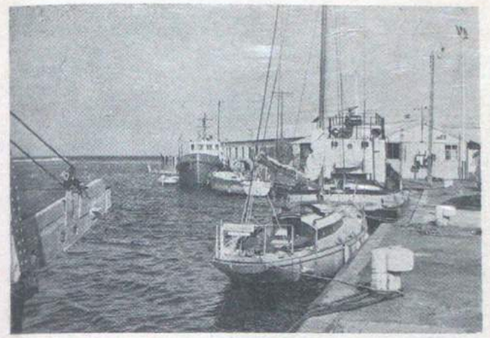
. . . in a cramped position in the hottest part of the boat . . .

By 07.00 hours, Sunday morning, the boat had been washed and cleaned and we thought all was ready for our return trip to Famagusta. However, the appearance of Captain Hodges soon put paid to that dream. Inspection showed that damage to the shaft had been caused by the previous day's shunting and that repairs would take a considerable time—if possible at all. Before long our engineer, aided by the skipper, was lying in a cramped position in the hottest part of the boat trying to at least free the shaft so that we could sail home.

The remainder of the crew amused themselves as best they could, while hammering and "picturesque" language floated up from the bilge. The wait was enlivened for Lance-Corporal Walker, when he saw W.O.II Gale, while trying to recover a baulk of timber for one of the club members, hurtle backwards down a very slippery slipway and land, fully-dressed, in the yacht basin.

We swept out of Beirut

At 10.30, a very hot, very dirty, and exhausted engineer announced that we were ready for sea and, accompanied by numerous craft from the club, who were off to race outside



'Goldammer' alongside the Military quay in Famagusta after the voyage

the harbour, we swept out of Beirut with a fair breeze. Clearing the mole and setting course for home, we were accompanied for a while by a luxurious launch, the crew of which informed us that they would be arriving in Famagusta themselves in a week's time.

However, once clear of land the wind fell and orders were given to start the engine. Despite the misgivings of the engineer, all went well and we motored on. The sails were not abandoned, the skipper, having served his apprenticeship in ocean racing, where fantastic speeds are achieved by stockbrokers, soldiers and others, motor-sailing home from business engagements. In fact we made a steady 4/5 knots all afternoon and most of the night.

To the discomfort of those off watch and the credit of the engineer, motor-sailing continued until Cape Creco was sighted. A fine offshore breeze greeted us and we started, for the first time on the trip, to sail really fast.

An hour saw us reducing sail and hurtling down the coast towards Famagusta at 7/8 knots with spray breaking over the deck, rigging taut, and a long creaming wake lying behind us.

Retrospect

And so, salt-encrusted and sunburned, we went alongside the quay in Famagusta to be greeted by a blast of warm air that seemed like walking into an oven.

To the crew it seemed a long trip—35 hours out and 30 hours back—but one is fortunate indeed to make a passage of 110 miles in under 24 hours against head winds.

Cold water? Five pound notes? Nonsense, all agreed. Perhaps tepid water and a ten-bob note and, of course, mosquitoes.



Cheerful faces as Beirut gets closer—(Signalman Burr, Captain Hodges, Lance-Corporal Walker, Sergeant Cudlip)

MPT's can be Fun!

By Lance-Corporal Clive Hinton, 252 Squadron, Hong Kong

ON 7th March, 1965, thirteen men of 252 Squadron, five men of 253 Squadron, and one man from 246 Gurkha Squadron assembled at Sai Kung Camp in the New Territories of Hong Kong Colony for a combined MPT II/MPT III Course. Sai Kung Camp is a training camp with no regular occupants, which meant we were on our own, undisturbed by the normal day-to-day routines of our Squadrons.

At the opening address our Drill Instructor and Course Sergeant-Major, W.O.II Lawry, told us that we were to run the camp ourselves. Accordingly, we formed our own messing committee to assist the one ACC cook. We formed our own canteen committee, to run our canteen; and one of our members, Lance-Corporal "Paddy" O'Neill, became responsible for our evening entertainment film-shows.

I will not dwell on the instructional side of the course for long, as MPT courses are MPT courses, but we may have been a little unusual in that most of the subjects were taught by specialist instructors—Field Engineering by the R.E.s, First Aid by the R.A.M.C., and so on. The most notable personalities to arrive as a result of this were our weapon training instructors, Sergeant Morgan and Lance-Corporal Trevitt of 1st Bn. South Wales Borderers. Sergeant Morgan, in addition to his weapon training activities, thought we had too much time on our hands during the evenings, so he dreamed up a series of night exercises.

Corporal Lyons stepped over the edge of a cliff . . . .

The first (a simple attack and defence scheme within the camp) went well. The second was a different story. This was a night map-reading exercise with attack and ambush thrown in. It was to take place over the "small hills," as Sergeant Morgan called them (actually, we reached a 372-metre trig point during the course of the evening, along tracks and through scrub). It was the first time that we had tried map-reading at night. To illustrate how persuasive Sergeant Morgan is, he even got the S.S.M. to come along. Half the course, the defending party, went to the first objective; the remainder split up into three attacking parties. The party with Sergeant Morgan as umpire was captured. The party with the S.S.M. as umpire decided to carry out an outflanking move. All went well until the S.S.M. called to Corporal Norman Lyons, who was in charge of the party, that he had found a better track, and that we were to come across. Corporal Lyons took this literally and stepped over the edge of a cliff; he managed to grasp the edge, and his plea—"Help me, mates"—was fortunately answered. During the final approach through scrub the S.S.M. was lost down a pit for several minutes, but suffered nothing more than a severe shaking and a few bruises.

The attackers got ahead of the defenders

However, all parties eventually rallied at the rendezvous, and moved on to the second objective which was at the top of the previously mentioned 372 metre "hill" (mountain to me). Somehow the attackers got ahead of the defenders, and everything happened to everyone at once. The leading party, again Corporal Lyons and Co., decided to follow a rocky water course and all the other sections followed. This water course became steeper and steeper until it was impossible to continue. A way out was found which led up the side of the gully and along a path which was extremely narrow. After a few minutes' climbing, dislodged rocks seemed to fall for ages before they hit the bottom of the gully. It was a long, perilous climb out for the majority, those behind having to dodge when possible the rocks dislodged by those ahead.

Two miles without boots or socks

At one stage Signalman Chin lost all adhesion and started to proceed down the hillside end-over-end. He was fortunately caught by Sergeant Morgan and Signalman Connor. Those who reached the top decided to return to the bottom of the water-course and to re-assemble there with the others. This they did by the easy route, down a clearly defined path, which we had previously missed in the dark. At the bottom, much hallooing revealed that a party was still up the water-course, and Sergeant Morgan and Signalman Connor once again set off to rescue it. The party still "up the creek" was my section;

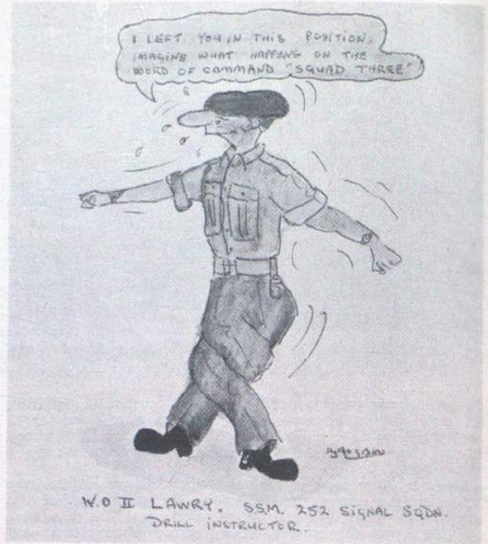
in attempting a different route out of the gully we had got stuck, and for a time could go neither up nor down. However, Lance-Corporal John Taylor (ex-Marine) eventually found a way down via rock traverse and treacherous gully. On descending we met up with Sergeant Morgan and Signalman Connor. When we returned to the rendezvous we discovered that the other two absentees, Corporal Hayton and Signalman Don Chin, had returned to the fold. Signalman Chin was without boots and socks; during the ascent, he had decided that he couldn't get a grip with his boots and so he had taken them off, but in the course of the climb they had fallen from around his neck and they still remain somewhere on the mountainside. (Write-off?) He had travelled almost two miles barefoot over difficult country to catch up with the remainder of the party. We made him temporary footwear using Hats tropical and Puttees to get him back to camp. Strange as it may seem, we managed to get back to camp without further casualties!

A third night map-reading exercise went off without incident, but also without success as our night map-reading was still indifferent.

Hard but plenty of laughs

The three-week course was hard, but I think we all enjoyed it. We were away from the normal routine and environment, on our own, and the comaradie was excellent. We had many laughs at the expense of each other or the instructors.

The end-of-course celebrations proved too much for Signalman Buchanan, who went swimming in Sai Kung Harbour—ugh! Lance-Corporal "Paddy" O'Neill standing at the prow of a sampan giving his Irish/Chinese version of the Gondolier's song, didn't go down very well either! However, it did serve to round off the course in a memorable fashion, and looking back from the perspective of the daily grind, it certainly provided some nostalgic memories.



W.O II LAWRY. SSM. 252 SIGNAL SQN. DRILL INSTRUCTOR.

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The Squadrons

205 SQUADRON, TIDWORTH

Pageant of Waterloo

It may not be generally known that 5 Brigade fought at the Battle of Waterloo but the fact is clearly imprinted on the minds of everyone in the Squadron! On the 150th anniversary a Grand Ball and Pageant was held at the Officers' Club and the Squadron volunteered to produce the cast, some of whom are shown. In addition, Sergeant Trotter looked after the hill-top firework display whilst Corporal Browne, similarly equipped with a radio, despatched the mounted courier on time to arrive in the searchlight beams. Nothing is complete these days without PA equipment and Corporal Robson's combination of privately owned microphones and amplifier lash-ups worked perfectly.

The Squadron now has a Defence and Employment Platoon composed entirely of Royal Pioneer Corps and the Squadron Commander, accompanied by R.S.M. Allen, flew in a Brigade Scout to the RPC Depot, Bicester, to take the pass-off parade. Each man has been especially chosen and trained for the task and they are now valuable members of the Squadron.

Bisley successes

We were all delighted to hear that Lieutenant M. A. Payne came 2nd in the Young Officers' Cup at Bisley. F. of S. M. D. Thornbury was well placed in the Army Hundred and represented the Corps in their successful results.

We welcome the arrival of Sergeant Harwood from 200 Squadron and Corporal Hodgkiss from 640 Signal Troop. Staff Sergeant Chiverton is now looking after the top floor of the "Q" Stores and in a few days we say "goodbye" to Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Gamble who are off to Catterick. Second-Lieutenant M. L. Martin heralded his arrival by gaining 4th place in the Brigade Cross-Country Championship and a few weeks later he won the mile in the Divisional Athletic Meeting.

The Squadron is now reaching a high standard in First Aid knowledge thanks to the instructions given to us by Signalman Taylor, an experienced St. John's Ambulance man. His audience was particularly attentive when he was dealing with "the various pressures to apply to a female."

Quite recently we had a pleasant visit from the Signal Platoon of Bristol University OTC who stayed for a few days. Lieutenant L. E. D. Guest, our MTO, assisted by Sergeant Pringle and Signalman Crawford, ran a most interesting "Motor and Signal Excercise" combining the map reading aspects of a motor rally with signal questions at each check-point.

As Block Leave approaches we try to forget the hectic weeks that are in store for us immediately afterwards.



Part of the cast of the Waterloo Pageant
(*Left to right*): Corporal Hall, Signalman Pratt, Lance-Corporal Pinkney, Signalman Brodie, Signalman Lindsay, Signalman Williams, Signalman Perry, Signalman Barker

206 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 17

Army driving championships

The championships were held this year in B.A.O.R. under the name of Exercise "Roadmaster" and attracted some 80 team entries. It consisted of a series of road sections interspersed with special tests. The event was designed to test as many aspects of a driver's skill as possible, including vehicle handling and upkeep, road safety and consideration for other road users, map-reading and route finding, physical fitness and skill at arms, and the ability to relate time and distance.

The Squadron team was Lance-Corporal Coulston, Lieutenant Bristow and Signalman Wackrow (Land Rover and trailer), Signalman Birchall, Corporal Wilson and Craftsman Chopping (3-ton) and Driver Eccles, Corporal Palmer and Craftsman Mawer (3-ton). Each vehicle was heavily laden to be self-contained for food, petrol, etc., for the whole exercise.

The start—in thick fog

After many hours mapping out the 1,200-mile route, vehicles left the start point at Sennelager in the early hours of Monday morning, 14th June, in thick fog. One 3-tonner got only 200 yards past the start line before the petrol pump fell off, losing the securing bolts. The bodywork of the vehicle soon revealed two bolts of the required size and it was mobile again after only 40 minutes. After about eight hours' running, each member of the crews indulged in the physical fitness test, consisting of a two-mile cross-country run up and down the hills near the East German border; the scenery there would have been magnificent, had we been in a fit state to admire it.

The rest of the day's motoring, through the American area of Germany, brought us to the Hockenheim Ring, a well-known car and motor-cycle race track. Here the nominated drivers took part in a regularity test round the track by night, and everyone tried to answer some first aid questions about the very realistic casualties that were on view. A few hours' sleep, then on the road again at dawn. The day's route included 12 miles across country on a U.S. Army training area.

At about 2 o'clock the next morning each crew split up, the nominated drivers navigating themselves around a fifty-mile route, including part of the picturesque Moselle valley, while the co-drivers did a simple four-mile road run in full kit . . . simple . . . that is if the centre of the course hadn't been 600 feet below either end! The next eight-hour road section ended at the Vogelsang Training Area, where we had the second cross-country driving test. This time it was about eight miles of rough track, ditches, steep hills and MUD, and during half of which we all had to wear respirators. Here, Birchall's vehicle helped the organisers' recovery team by winching a thoroughly bogged competitor off the course, but we didn't notice any credit points in the results!

Seventy hours and twelve hundred miles

We eventually got back intact to Sennelager, some 70 hours after leaving it, having covered 1,200 miles and having had only four hours' sleep, plus what we could grab in the back of the moving vehicles. Map-reading on the road sections had not been too difficult, providing one believed the civilian policemen, postmen and countless small boys who stayed up all night to see the cavalcade of battered vehicles on to the right road, but did not follow the vehicle in front! There had been many hidden spies to check on road safety—we particularly remembered two basking in a cornfield, below corn level, to record whether we obeyed a "Halt" sign!

The final day was taken up by some impossible manoeuvering tests, TOET on the S.L.R, shooting, and the test of German traffic laws (no scores, no names!).

We win the Royal Signals trophy

When the results came out on the Friday, we learnt that we were 11th overall out of only 18 complete teams to finish, and had won the Royal Signals Trophy. Next year we hope to get to U.K. and actually challenge 24th Regiment, the previous holders. No one in the team was sorry to see the end of Exercise "Roadmaster," but it had been most enjoyable, if exhausting. The exercise had been designed to encourage the competitors to be better soldier-drivers, and from what we all learnt, we were sure it achieved its aim.

207 SQUADRON—B.F.P.O. 30

Athletic Success

On the 2nd June we were invited to Verden to compete in the 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment athletics meeting. It was a very fine day and we were very well entertained. All members of the Squadron enjoyed themselves, especially when the results were finally known and it was realised that we had won the meeting for the second year running. This season, so far, our athletes have done exceptionally well, and in particular we would like to congratulate Lance-Corporal Jeff Wild, 13/18 Hussars, who is now the Army Individual Long Jump Champion. This feat required a lot of hard training and determination, and we are all very pleased that his efforts have been rewarded so fully.

Entertainment

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Ball was held on the night of the 3rd June. This was a truly splendid evening which went with a swing from the moment the doors were opened Music was provided by the Alamein Band of the Royal Tank Regiment, and an excellent buffet supper was prepared by Sergeant Weeks and his cooks.

A week later the Officers' Mess Summer Cocktail party was given, a large number of guests from the Corps area were invited, and during the evening many old friendships were renewed. Both this party and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Ball were a great success, this was due mainly to the hard work which all ranks of the Squadron had done in and around the respective Messes for some weeks before.

Amsterdam

Over Whitsun a party from the Squadron stayed in a camping site near Amsterdam. Visits were made to Amsterdam itself and to Arnhem. The Dutch were very hospitable, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed himself. The visit provided a welcome change from the scenery around Soltau.

. . . One step up the Command ladder . . .

After all these highlights of entertainment at the beginning of the month, we set forth to the serious business of Exercise "Silver Spear II" on the 11th June. During this exercise everyone took one step up the ladder of command, and practiced the job of the person above. Thus it was an extremely valuable exercise. This was followed, a few days later, by Exercise "James Pigg," a 7th Armoured Brigade IS exercise in the Bremen area.

We now have a month's respite from major exercises, but we are getting very busy preparing for H.M. The Queen Mother's visit to the 11th Hussars at Hohne.

262 SQUADRON (CYPRUS), B.F.P.O. 53

Sergeant John Francis, B.E.M.— His communications were always 'through'

Readers will have already appreciated the May-June edition's article, "Lonely Life for Mountaintop Signallers" and following, rather aptly, we feel, it is with pleasure that we report the award of the British Empire Medal in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List, to Sergeant John Francis.

The pictorial spread bears testimony to the words of the article and supports the citation, which quoted the difficulties facing the detachment and its commander.

Snow, 100-knot winds, below zero temperatures, scaling ice-encrusted towers in darkness, and the fact that members were on duty for days at a time when blizzard conditions prevailed, were all points mentioned in the citation.

It further emphasised that for the 17 months of Sergeant Francis's command, communications were always "through," and paid tribute to his inspiring leadership, which at all times was effective in maintaining the highest standard of technical efficiency and morale.

Whilst the award is a personal one, we believe that Sergeant Francis has accepted it as a tribute to the work of the detachment as a whole. His own words: "We have learnt to live and work as a team," we feel, support this belief. More generally, of course, we are proud of this recognition, because it has brought creditable focus to the work and men of the Corps. Well done, Sergeant Francis.

Sergeant Francis joined the Squadron from 15th Regiment in 1962, and took over the Troodos Detachment in July, 1963. At the time of writing, he is enjoying some well-earned ex-tour leave prior to joining 7th Regiment.

Due to his departure, some 48 hours before the announcement of the award, it is only possible to refer readers to his parkha-clad likeness in the previously-mentioned article.

It is possible, we understand, that a more recognisable likeness may well be preferred in posters designed to beckon to the civilian members of our country's youth. Permission was sought to feature Sergeant Francis in recruiting publicity.

This is one field in which the writer need have no qualms. Grey and thinning "thatch" has put him at that awkward age for military publicity. Too old for adventure themes—too young for the "Visit Britain" type which features such personalities as members of the Yeomen of the Guard.

With no apologies and echoing the requirement that one must have a sense of humour, we offer the following unexpurgated, and no doubt truthful, account of one of the Squadron's activities. An apt title, if we may borrow the line, would perhaps be:

"Say not the struggle naught availeth"

Not all ventures (or are they adventures) are a complete success. For the second time—the first attempt ended rather unexpectedly prematurely on near incarceration lines—the little-known band of Field Troop would-be operators (would-be if they could operate) under their O.C., Second-Lieutenant Cox, prepared to set forth into the setting sun. This is the only way we have found of getting them off in the right direction according to their maps.

Their exodus, for official records, was inspired in the name of Exercise "Quick Silver" (someone has been to Catterick!). In reality, it was a sort of five-day Cox's tour of Cyprus, named aptly or otherwise as quoted.

Base over apex

Perhaps the first sorry seeds of unsuccess were sown when Troop Sergeant 'Earp' Wyatt spent Friday demonstrating the art of descending his verandah steps on the base-over-apex principle. Small son amused, father incapacitated, right shoulder and morse key appendage inoperative. Troop Sergeant then became "rear details," saying he would look after the S.S.M. during the Troop's absence. (Someone had to keep, or should it be mark, time for the S.S.M.; Troop member Signalman Piggott was wearing his G10 watch). This reminds me, I must find out why the Sergeant-Major has one!

It is normal for a certain amount of precision and pre-determined movement to be associated with military operations or exercises, and such unusual words as echelon, convoy, column, and leager creep into orders and instructions or historic accounts.

. . . A freshly purchased 'cool seat' . . .

Perhaps it is this custom and the habit, thereof, that made the loudspoken query: "For the fifth time, haven't you gone yet?" sound just a little discordant. I should add that it was voiced by the Second-in-Command to the Troop O.C., who was intercepted coming from the NAAFI clutching an obvious freshly-purchased "Cool Seat." This is a desirable device for motorised personnel in such hot climes and is designed to keep one's "upholstery adhered to" portions. With a nonchalent wave of said "cool seat" (disgusting) and shouts they didn't really mean of "don't get locked up, sir," the "caravan"—and I insist on this being the more correct word—of two Land Rovers, three one-tonners (and a pure-bred Guernsey cow—sorry, Tom Lehrer) got under way to the Liverpudlian tones of the S.S.M. saying: "I'll arrange for you to meet the barber when you return—if you return—sir."

The journey to Troodos Leave Centre area by one radio detachment was made uneventfully. Uneventfully, that is, for Cyprus: it did in fact include a couple of punctures. It seems the bigger the tyre, the bigger the puncture! One aspect of the exercise which was overlooked entirely by this detachment was their location altitude and accompanying lower temperature. Still we udderstadd they dow kdow bedder!

At this stage, all major problems were vehicular, and with communications "through" to give our nomads heart, the venture pressed on into its second day. The weather, of course, was constant—hot!

One gentleman, we understand, was an unexpected member of the exercise, and found himself unwillingly receiving transmissions on his transistor. This was at Troodos, so we will blame the altitude.

Difficulties mechanical

Further difficulties mechanical were not too long in coming, and on day three, with day two remaining clear. "B" Detachment (Corporal Aldred, Lance-Corporal Roberts and Signalman Broom) passed the following message to Corporal Foody. "Static with burnt-out clutch and am going on tow to base." The one note of success which will remain with us and give hope was the fact that this message was passed. The fundamental requirement was being met!

Things were looking grim from a vehicular point of view and were destined to remain so. On day four, fate and mechanics were to wield yet another blow. This time "C" Detachment (Sergeant Chapman, Lance-Corporal Cowling and Signalman Tait) were savagely jolted from their reverie. Their dreams of being the winners of the first overland "Firefly" class race on the island came to an end with a smoking gearbox.

An order to return to base was given to Sergeant Chapman, and any grief he may have held in his heart of his particular misfortune was added to when he received (still "through") the following message:

"Your Firefly, which was being transported from Dhekelia to Episkopi for the regatta, has been holed in transit." His normal bulldog jaw-line became definitely hang-dog and his eyes flooded with unshed tears. He rallied sufficiently, like a good signalman to acknowledge the message with a voice that only hinted at his innermost feelings.

A stalwart attitude

The two Land Rovers, at this stage, were making headway east. Setting up an aerial which was awash with the Mediterranean, brought forth a wisecrack from the Troop O.C.: "I know we are using C11's but this is ridiculous." The volume of appreciative applause was not recorded, but it does indicate a stawart attitude. A quick move was made, followed yet again by a tactical, or should we say tactful, move from a site within a sacred area.

It was here that a message was received that the radiator on the second vehicle of "B" Detachment was leaking.

"Three down—three to go!"

Catering in the field gave opportunities to Lance-Corporal Sale to exercise his culinary art. A supposed curry, based on Irish stew, meat and veg, with tree bugs to flavour, was enjoyed by all, and the cook now reigns supreme as "Fanny Haddock" (Field Troop).

The unequal struggle is given up

Next morning the voice of the O.C. Squadron was heard coming from the set in competition with "who wants Irish stew for breakfast." The O.C. had given up the unequal struggle and was giving orders to return to base. The battle with vehicular snags was not one to be fought at long distance and our caravan trickled back piece-meal to assemble once more in barracks.

Here the news was heartening—six new vehicles—long-awaited—had arrived, and with our wheeled problems solved, we can now hope to combine mobility with our communications. In fact, "Westward—look—the land is bright."

633 SIGNAL TROOP, BRITISH HONDURAS B.F.P.O. 12

WRITTEN BY W.O.II (Y. OF S.) P. DURRANT

Impressive enthusiasm

I was so impressed with the enthusiasm of the troop for "Wire" notes on my arrival here three weeks ago, that I made a vow to continue the good work. Unfortunately I didn't realise how quickly the first three weeks in a new unit passes. As further evidence of the Corps spirit here I find that each member of the troop is prepared to pay 5s. 3d. in order to obtain his copy of "The Wire" by airmail.

Settling in trials and tribulations

In addition to the trials and tribulations of settling down with a new Yeoman of Signals, the troop this month have been

(*Continued on page 284*)



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involved in two hurricane exercises. One took place on my first day in the chair. I am tempted to forget this day but it wouldn't be honest. I was assured that there was nothing to worry about and that the aim was to test the sheltering of personnel and important stores. In fact communications wouldn't be tested! Needless to say, long before the morning was over both the Command and Company Nets were ordered to open up.

The second hurricane exercise was for the benefit of the civilian authorities. The troop provides a C.11 Station and operator in the town for the joint Army/Police H.Q. and the same at the City Police Station for the Operations Room. The Command Rover, Company H.Q., Detachment Platoon, Signals Rover with control at the TX site then make up the rest of the Net.

Full of confidence and two hours before the net was due to open up we left the Garrison to set up the two C.11 stations in town nine miles away. At 10.15, 15 minutes ahead of schedule, all was well and we were set to return to camp to take over control. Alas, we were met by the driver of the Command Rover with the sad news that his PSU was faulty. Not to worry, a straight swop of vehicles solved that problem.

The rest of the exercise was successful and for that we are eternally grateful. Unfortunately it doesn't end there as we are still left with the problem of a hurricane-proof antennae. An end-fed passed through an open window is hardly realistic. We have plenty of plans and ideas and have every intention of testing them out.

The children's playground—the part we played

One other activity in which the troop took part this month was the opening of the children's playground at Cinderella Town. This playground was built and paid for by "C" Company of the 1st K.S.L.I. for the benefit of the local children. It was opened with a military parade attended by H.E. The Governor. The Garrison Commander handed over the playground to the Premier who then performed the opening ceremony.

Our part in all this was to provide the P.A. equipment. Well, we are only a small Garrison and the welfare equipment we have is not very elaborate. Fortunately the local Radio Station Rover arrived before us and set up shop. The only trouble was, their equipment was faulty and so we had two lots of P.A.

As in most places this troop is fully stretched. One would think that with a Yeoman and only eight men that it would be difficult to do anything. However, in the past three weeks both Signalman Knott and Signalman Wood have attended driving instruction and passed their test. Signalman Forbes, our E.D., has managed to attend full time education and look after the battery shop and Corporal Rolfe and Signalman Dryland found time for a run into Mexico.

To end I must mention how pleased the whole troop are with the news of the promotion to Corporal of our technician Jerry Wilmott.

A.E.R. and T.A.

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

Camp

The Regiment, with 316 Squadron (T.A.), went to camp at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, at the end of May. The journey to camp was less uneventful than usual. H.Q. Squadron was the first on the scene of a serious collision between an American serviceman's car and a coach load of old folks. Members of the Squadron rallied round and gave first aid and Lance-Corporal Hibbs, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), a St. John's Ambulance bronze medallist, did particularly good work.

As usual, the first week was spent in training, preparation for the ceremonial parade, and getting ready for the four-day exercise of the second week.

Slight Medical Misunderstandings!

This period produced its usual crop of amusing incidents, centred chiefly on our M.O., Major Ken Walker, R.A.M.C. (T.A.). One W.R.A.C. P.S.I., reporting to the M.I. Room with indigestion, was asked by the officer behind the M.O.'s desk whether it was acute, and on replying in the affirmative, was informed that he could not help as he was R.E.M.E. We had no R.E.M.E. officer in camp. The doctor had two very



C.S.O. Eastern Command, Brigadier M. D. Price, O.B.E. with C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D., R Signals/T.A. inspects 2 (Medway) Squadron

pleasant and efficient regular R.A.M.C. orderlies, one of whom in doing the usual Pulheems eye test on a certain sergeant, was told by him that he could read perfectly with his left eye but could see nothing at all with his right. The orderly, upbraiding the Sergeant for having him on, entered "good sight" for both eyes on the card and was somewhat taken aback when the sergeant removed his glass eye. Difficulties also arose when S.S.M. W. M. Nicholls of 1 (Kent) Squadron had his Pulheems. The orderly, on completing his form, discovered that in fact the form was that of S.S.M. Yvonne Nicol, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) of R.H.Q. Oh the joys of a mixed Regiment!

The all ranks' dance, on the first Thursday, was a great success, thanks to the hard work of Major Jill Nye, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) our new S.W.R.A.C.O., our Padre, Jack Wardle and their band of helpers. Earlier in the evening the Officers had visited the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess having been piped there by Pte. Hibbert, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), who is Pipe-Major of the Nicolson Pipe Band of Folkestone.

Band to the Fore

The Band did extremely well. Apart from carrying out its military commitments, including leading the march past at the C.S.O.'s parade, it took part in the Scarborough Festival, during which they completed the strenuous 4½-mile carnival march.

The Drill Competition, won by 2 (Medway) Squadron, produced drill of a high order; the C.S.O., complimenting the quarter-guard, said that the drill was up to regular standard.

At the mid-camp ceremonial parade, Brigadier M. D. Price, O.B.E., C.S.O., Eastern Command, took the salute and presented the following awards:

Territorial Decoration.—Major J. R. Truphet, O.C. 3 (SCA) Squadron.

Territorial Efficiency Medal.—W.O.II V. Button, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), 3 (SCA) Squadron.

Corporal D. W. Bingham, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), H.Q. Squadron.

Staff Sergeant R. G. Bartlett, 3 (SCA) Squadron.

Meritorious Service Certificate.—W.O.II L. Gunner, Sergeant R. Peel and Corporal J. Douglas, all of 2 Squadron.

Visitors

Brigadier M. D. Price, O.B.E., C.S.O., Eastern Command; Colonel M. D. M. Humphery, D.D.W.R.A.C., Eastern Command; Lieutenant-Colonel M. M. Salt, C.W.R.A.C., H.Q., 44th Division/District.

402 SQUADRON (RADIO) A.E.R.

Annual Camp, 1965

402 Squadron camped at Blandford between 3rd and 17th July, in weather which as varied as the colours in the plaid skirts of the W.R.A.C. of 82nd Regiment, which camped at Blandford during the same period.

The Squadron went to camp under the command of Major I. B. C. Jones, who formed the unit in 1961, and under whose guidance has achieved the efficiency developed the fine spirit which exists today. Major Jones relinquished his command on 10th July, prior to joining 81st Regiment as Second-in-Command, a post to which he goes with the good wishes of 402. The Squadron is now under the command of Major P. A. Lancaster, T.D.

Major Jones was presented with two crystal decanters by his brother officers at a dinner given in his honour and, at an all ranks' party, held at the Star Hotel, Blandford, a set of glasses and a silver salver were presented to him by Signalman Morgan, to mark his five years' service in 402 Squadron.

With the emphasis this year on technical training, 82nd Regiment and 224 Squadron undertook the necessary instruction which resulted in many 402 personnel obtaining an improved trade rating. To both units we offer our thanks for a job well done.

The .22 rifle competition for the Squadron Trophy was keenly contested, as the following scores of the three top marksmen indicate: 1st, Second-Lieutenant P. R. Wheeler, 25, 24, 25; 2nd, Signalman A. McMillan, 25, 24, 24; 3rd, Corporal B. Blackburn, Signalman J. C. Mackel, Lance-Corporal A. Thornton, 24 points. The maximum possible score was 25 points.

A cricket match between 82nd Regiment and 402 Squadron resulted in a win for 402, mainly due to the efforts of Signalman W. H. (Bill) Graham, who scored 49 runs.

65th (CITY OF LONDON) REGIMENT (T.A.)

City Honours Regiment

On 1st June, 1965, the Regiment was honoured by the City of London by being granted the privilege of adding City of London to the Regimental title. The Regiment has always had strong ties with the City, not least our close association with the ancient City Livery Company, The Worshipful Company of Skinners. We are therefore delighted that this bond has received further recognition in our new title—65th (City of London) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

On 17th June the Regiment was again honoured by being asked to provide a guard for the Worshipful Company of Skinners on the occasion of their Election Day Service. The guard marched from the R.H.Q. in Worship Street, through the City to the Church of St. Mary Aldermary. After the service the Guard Commander, Lieutenant J. Webster and members of the guard were asked to tea in Skinners Hall.

The annual visit to the Regiment by the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Skinners took place on the evening of 22nd April, 1965. They were accompanied by the Honorary Colonel, the Right Honourable The Earl of Malmesbury, T.D., V.L. The Master first inspected the Skinners Guard outside R.H.Q. and then visited the Regiment undergoing the various aspects of training which take place on a training evening. During the visit the Master presented the Company's awards for the year. A silver tankard to Lance-Corporal N. W. Todd, and a powder compact to Lance-Corporal P. A. Steel, W.R.A.C.

The Regiment again entered a team for the Middlesex Tough Training Competition. The team, from 4 Squadron, achieved the very creditable result of coming fourth out of 20 entries. 12 of which were from Infantry units—well done.

On 19th June, the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes held a dinner dance. This was extremely well organised by the R.S.M., W.O.I R. R. Bulloch, on behalf of both messes. The evening—a new venture by the Regiment—was proclaimed a success.

EX-W.O.I (R.S.M.) W. J. RUSSELL

Many will be interested and pleased to hear that Mr. W. J. Russell has now brought the Royal Signals contingent at the Tower of London up to three, having been sworn in at St. James's Palace as a Yeoman Warder on 22nd July. His address is: 8, Tower Green (Lower), H.M. Tower of London, London, E.C.3.



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Scottish T.A. Signal Regiments Beat Retreat at Edinburgh Castle



Massed Pipes and Drums

ON Saturday, 5th June, the massed pipes and drums of the three Scottish T.A. Signal Regiments had the honour of beating Retreat on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. The three Regiments concerned were:

51st (Highland) Regiment, T.A. (Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Wotherspoon, T.D.).

52nd (Lowland) Regiment, T.A. (Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Johnston).

61st (City of Edinburgh) Regiment, T.A. (Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Beattie).

In fine, though cool, weather, the massed pipes and drums, led by Drum-Major A. B. Easton of (61st (City of Edinburgh) Regiment, T.A., marched over the drawbridge from the castle on to the esplanade to the tune "Captain Oldfields' Welcome to Kilravoch." They were greeted by a large and appreciative crowd of Whitsun visitors to the City.

After the impressive Retreat ceremony, in which the performance of the drummers was superb, the bands gave a programme of music in which the aim was to depart from the normal run of hackneyed massed band favourites and yet to present a selection of tunes with popular appeal. The programme decided upon was:

Retreat Airs. — Lochanside. The Highland Brigade at Magersfontein.

March. — The Inverness Gathering.

Strathspey. — Dornie Ferry.

Reel. — Thomson's Dirk.

March. — Major John McLennan.

Slow March. — My Home.

March. — Dundee Military Tattoo.

March. — 25th Farewell to Meerut.

The affiliation between the 51st (Highland) Regiment and the 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment was notably marked by the inclusion in the band of a visitor from the 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment, Lance-Corporal Dhan Karne Rai, who was attending a course at the Lowland Brigade Depot. It was an honour to have him with us for the occasion and to join with the pipers of his brother Regiment in the ceremony.

A Proud History

51st (Highland) Regiment, whose pipers and drummers wear the "Red Grant" tartan, can trace its history back 100 years. The Regiment fought with the famous Highland Division throughout the Second World War, and its present Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., LL.B. was its commanding officer at the time of El Alamein. The youngest Regiment on parade was 61st (City of Edinburgh) Regiment wearing the dark green "Cumming" tartan. This Regiment has had many roles in the course of its short history, including that of G.H.Q., Home Force Signals, during the war, and after the war was an A.A. Signal Regiment until the disbandment of A.A. Command. By contrast, 52nd (Lowland) Regiment, the oldest Regiment on parade, dates back to 1859. Lord Kitchener was its Honorary Colonel from 1898 until his death in 1916. The pipers of 52nd Regiment wear the "Ogilvie" tartan, and the contrast in colours of the kilts of the pipers on parade was impressive.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal—Her Personal Banner Carried

For the first time since the sad death of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, the three pipe-majors were carrying her personal banner, an honour bestowed personally by Her Royal Highness on each Regiment in turn. The banner shows on one side the Princess Royal's personal standard and, on the other side, the Regimental Crest of the Regiment concerned. 51st and 52nd have carried their banners since 1938. 61st had the honour of joining them only last year, when Her Royal Highness presented her banner to them during their annual camp at Scarborough.

The salute was taken by the Chief Signal Officer, H.Q., Scottish Command, Colonel D. D. Fairman, O.B.E. During the short time that he has been with us, Colonel Fairman has absorbed many Scottish traditions, and it was appropriate that he should be taking the salute on this occasion, as it was in the nature of a public farewell to the three Regiments. After a tour which has been marked by its brevity, but notably by the enthusiasm which the C.S.O. gave to it, he leaves in August on posting to S.R.D.E.

Finally, the bands marched off the esplanade back over the drawbridge and in the Castle to their Regimental marches: "Scotland the Brave" (51st Highland and 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiments), "Highland Laddie" (52nd Lowland Regiment) and "Sir Harold Mitchell" (61st City of Edinburgh Regiment

A Sad Occasion

For Colonel Sir Harold P. Mitchell, Bt., J.P., D.L., this was a sad occasion, as it coincided with his retirement as Hon. Colonel of 61st Regiment, an appointment which he held since the Regiment was re-formed in 1947 as 13th A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) A full account of his farewell will appear in the next issue of THE WIRE.

3 SQUADRON, 64th REGIMENT (T.A.),

It is not very often that this unit puts pen to paper for the purpose of advertising its existence to its Regular and T.A. brother units of the Corps. However, since the beginning of 1964, so much has happened to, or within the unit, that some of the more important events should no longer go unrecorded.

Civic Honour to T.A. Signals in Rotherham

In the not-too-distant past, the Squadron was probably better known as 308 Signal Squadron (Guards Brigade) T.A., being an independent Squadron to the Brigade of Guards, a role the unit held for three years until the end of 1963, when the Guards Brigade changed its role. On 26th April, 1964, the Squadron, as 308 Signal Squadron (T.A.), was honoured by the people of Rotherham, when they presented to the unit a suitably-worded scroll to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the formation of the Royal Signals T.A. in Rotherham. A ceremonial parade was held to mark the occasion, and was attended by His Worship the Mayor of Rotherham, Major-General The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Scarborough, and all the civic dignitaries of Rotherham. The scroll was presented by His Worship the Mayor to Major G. L. Holleyhead, Officer Commanding (a founder-member of the Royal Signals, Rotherham), who made a reciprocal presentation of an inscribed wall plaque bearing the Corps Crest. This shield now occupies a place of honour in the Rotherham Council Chambers.

March, 1965, saw the end of 308 Signal Squadron (T.A.) when it was redesignated and became 3 Squadron (Rotherham) of 64th Regiment (T.A.) (Sheffield). This was yet another of many redesignations that have been made to the Royal Signals (T.A.), Rotherham.

On 12th June this year the Squadron was again in the news when the P.S.O. of the unit, Captain J. E. H. Arnott, was awarded the M.B.E. in H.M. The Queen's Birthday Honours. On this occasion the Squadron is pleased to accept the sidelights, while this member takes the limelight.

Thus, some of the accumulated news of a small unit of the Corps adds just a little more interest to the magazine—so popular where ever Corpsmen are to be found.

Army Department Constabulary

Further to this office letter, reference 2/Recruiting/65/ADC, of April, 1965 (to which there has been a satisfactory long term response), the Army Department Constabulary can now anticipate a number of vacancies, mostly with houses, up to the end of 1965, and in early 1966.

Four-week training courses are planned to start on 6th September and 15th November, 1965, and 24th January, 1966.

A course can count as a pre-release course, and wherever possible, offers are made to fit in with release dates.

It would be appreciated if this could be brought to the notice of your senior ranks.

Corps Cricket

June Tour

The June Tour this year consisted of three matches—Saturday/Sunday, 12th/13th June, the Royal Marines, at Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth; Monday/Tuesday, 14th/15th, R.A.S.C., at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, and Wednesday, 16th, R.M.A., Sandhurst, at Camberley.

We travelled by road on Friday, to allow a good night's sleep before taking on the Royal Marines. Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny, with a strong breeze blowing from the south-west. By 11.30, however, it had clouded over and the wind had dropped.

Corps win against Royal Marines

Major de Clive-Lowe won the toss and put the Marines in to bat on a wicket which had a lot of grass on it. Bowles and Butler opened the bowling and soon had the Marines in trouble. They lost two wickets for six and the third wicket fell at 64. At this stage Signalman Worrell came on to bowl. He bowled Lieutenant Persee, a Navy cap, with his first ball, and took two more wickets in this over and the score slumped to 64 for 6. They lost another wicket at 70 and then there was a good stand between Captain Oakley and Sergeant Sagon, which took the score to 132. They were all out for 134 just after lunch.

We went out to bat and lost our first wicket with the score at six. However, this did not deter our run-rate, and we scored 213 by 17.40; the highlights being a very good innings from Lance-Corporal Mayes of 71, and a hard-struck knock from Signalman Crichlow. Crichlow must learn that 20 or 30 is not enough, and concentrate for longer periods. The Marines had another 40 minutes to bat before the close of play, in which time they scored 55 without loss.

Sunday morning was pleasant, but cloudy, and the Marines pushed their score on to 77. After this, wickets fell frequently, and they were all out for 179; Signalman Worrell finishing off the innings with a hat-trick, which was only released by the scores. Signalman Worrell finished with 6 for 87 and Captain Potts 4 for 48. The Corps won by 8 wickets.

That evening we moved on to Aldershot to play the R.A.S.C.

Century knock against Corps

On Monday, the nicest day, Major de Clive-Lowe lost the toss and we went out field in hot sunshine. We got two quick wickets, but after that we toiled in the sun, with wickets falling at intervals until the score reached 129 for 6. When Major Fenner and Major Mercer came together they took the score to 251, when they declared. Fenner was not out 115, Mercer not out 30.

We went out for 30 minutes before tea and lost Lance-Corporal Mayes with the score at 24. We did not bat very well, other than Major de Clive-Lowe and Signalman Crichlow, who scored 46 and 39 respectively, and we were all out for 163 at 11.42 on the second day.

The R.A.S.C. batted again and had scored 114 for 5 when rain stopped play. This was a pity, as it would have been an interesting finish.

Wednesday dawned rather stormy and we went off to Camberley to play the R.M.A. We got started a little late as some of the Cadets had to be extracted from a rehearsal for the Drill Competition. At lunch we were 99 for 6, of which Second-Lieutenant Colman had scored 15—not very satisfactory. However, we were rescued by Signalman Butler (53) and Lieutenant Price (18), who made our total look respectable at 187. The afternoon was rather miserable and wet, but the R.M.A. stuck to their task manfully. It started to rain very hard at tea and no further play was possible.

The tour was a great success, but was, unfortunately, spoilt by the weather.

The touring party was as follows:

Major S. G. de Clive-Lowe, School of Signals; Captain J. D. Potts, 24th Regiment; Lieutenant W. Price, 14th Regiment; Second-Lieutenant S. Coltman, 8th Regiment; Sergeant F. Lee, 24th Regiment; Lance-Corporal R. Mayes, School of Signals; Signalman J. Brown (245), School of Signals; Signalman P. Brown (766), 8th Regiment; Signalman A. E. Bowles, 24th Regiment; Signalman Crichlow, Signalman L. Worrell and Signalman Butler, 2nd Divisional H.Q. and Regiment.

Captain G. Morgan, our umpire, 24th Regiment.

Signalman Beston, our scorer.

We wish to express our thanks to the Commanding Officer, 2nd Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment for allowing Signalmen Crichlow, Worrell and Butler to be available for the tour.

Southern Command Meeting

The Royal Signals Southern Command Rifle Meeting was staged at Bulford on 15th/17th June, 1965. Over a hundred competitors took part including, for the first time, eight Junior Leaders.

1 Squadron, 14th Regiment, were once again the best team and won every match, except the S.M.G., which was appropriately won by 216 Squadron (Parachute Brigade Group). Sergeant G. J. Williams, of 1 Squadron, 14th Regiment, retained the Champion Individual Shot Cup, with scores good enough to give him a high place in the Army Championship.

W.O.II W. R. D. Clark, of 3rd Regiment, broke the individual record in the Roupell, and W.O.II A. Copestake produced his usual steady form to finish second-best individual. Corporal A. J. C. Ferguson, of 30th Regiment, won the Class B in each rifle match and has distinct promise for the future. Junior Signalman P. J. Lockhart won the prize for the best Junior Leader.

Winning scores were as follows:

Roupell.—W.O.II W. R. D. Clark, 171.

Whitehead.—Sergeant G. J. Williams, 161.

Roberts.—Staff Sergeant (F. of S) F. W. Matthews (30th Regiment), 128.

Parachute Regiment Cup.—Corporal P. Jukes (1 Squadron, 14th Regiment), 111.

Corps Sports Results

Tennis

Corps v. R.A.S.C. Corps won 7 matches to 2.

Corps v. R.E.M.E. Corps won 7 matches to 2.

Corps 5 matches; Staff College 1 and 3 matches halved.

Corps 4 matches; R.A.O.C. 5.

Corps v. R.A.E.C. Corps lost 8½ matches to ½.

Yachting

Triangular Match at Seaview.—R.E. 1st, 125 points; R.A. 2nd, 119¼ points; Royal Signals 3rd, 114¾ points.

A.S.Y.C. Regatta.—Major Ian Spear was second to Stewart Jardine, the Olympic yachtsman (crew: Lieutenant-Colonel Holbrook, Lieutenant-Colonel Glover).

Inter-Service Conningham Cup.—Signals crewed one of the four Army boats and the Army won.

Golf

Royal Signals 2½ v. R.A.S C., 9½, played on 23rd June.

Royal Signals 3¾ v. R.A.P.C., 4¼, played on 21st July.

Royal Signals 6 v. Royal Artillery 6, played on 22nd July.

Association Notes

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Achievements and Difficulties

The 19th Annual Reunion Dinner was held as usual on the second Saturday in May at Blightmont Drill Hall and was once again well supported.

The Sheriff of Southampton, Alderman Reg Haskell, a local sporting personality, proposed the toast of The Association, and after praising its achievements spoke of the difficulties in maintaining membership of local branches, commenting that with more Territorials joining the Branch it was essential to keep it flourishing.

The Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., in reply, agreed that it was difficult to attract the younger men. "Most of you, were brought together by comradeship forged in war," he said. "When there was no major war, people tended to become more self-centred, and it was difficult to generate the type of feeling that was wanted in an association of this type."

Major W. C. Loveless, T.D., the Branch Chairman, welcomed Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., whose annual visit the Branch was not jeoparded by calling on him to speak at each occasion.

War veterans present

Illustrating the C.S.O.'s remarks were a very large number of 43 Division Signals war veterans who had travelled from afar to be present. These included Brigadier Clifford Howarth, Len Joughlin and Jack Reddall from London, Norman West, Ron Parsley and Bunny Austin from Devon, Tim Foley and Ron Sturgess from Sussex, Percy Anyon from Lancashire, George Franklin from Essex, Norman Williams from Luton, and George Burbidge and friend Bray from Trowbridge.

There was a special welcome for former Branch Treasurer Bill Evans, making his first visit since moving to Battle.

The Branch was again indebted to 63rd Regiment, T.A., for their usual co-operation, and the presence of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Parker, and many of his officers was a further indication of the close ties of the Association with the T.A.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during June, 1965:

	£	s.	d.
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	2	0
H.Q. Mess (Derby Drew)	3	15	6
224 Squadron	30	0	0
3rd Regiment (27 Unit Branch)	8	0	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	30	0	0
2 Squadron 41st Regiment (T.A.) Tribute to memory of Captain F. Enright	4	4	0
54th Regiment (T.A.)	5	11	0
59th Regiment (T.A.)	1	1	0
13th Regiment (T.A.)	20	0	0
16th Regiment (T.A.)	19	2	5
H.Q. Allied Forces Northern Europe	1	12	0
245 Squadron (Cyrenaica)	20	0	0
Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 69	6	0	0
Lieutenant Colonel P. M. Luttman-Johnson, T.A. (Retd.). Tribute to memory of Captain F. Enright	2	2	0
Major F. C. Forbes. Deed of Covenant.		5	0
Various individual donations	2	5	9
Total Receipts	£155	0	8
Expenditure during June, 1965 (Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£514	8	5

Recollections No. 2

Old Comrades Reunion 1965

(By Bert Howell, 2328525, 81, Layburn Place, Peterlee)

ONCE again I managed to get to the reunion, along with 699 Old Comrades, their wives, families and friends. Having encouraged the junior element of my household to stock up their piggy banks, I committed the foul deed and broke them open on Saturday morning, 26th June, and then proceeded, with joyful anticipation, once more for 'home' for the weekend—Catterick Camp!

I completely missed the welcome sign at the Catterick roundabout and was, as usual, binding like mad, "Where are the blasted notices, again?" when our Branch Secretary, 'Stan,' informed me that my spectacles required scraping. Apparently the sign welcoming others like myself was so big that I had completely missed it looking for a wee notice tucked away in some hidden corner. Teach be to keep my big mouth closed next year, ahmen!

After 'billeting'—and foam rubber mattresses too, I descended upon the RSARS 'ham' Station where I found communications so good that some distant operator was listening in to a conversation between the local 'Sigs Ham' operator and 9M2GF, Kuala Lumpur, across the room. 'Fine work' and 'Hi' at the radio shack to get a 'Roger' from 'Bob' out in Singapore via the kind services of 9M2GF (K.L.) so quickly. If you read this in The Wire, as you did last year, 'Bob,' my answer to your enquiry—"We all had a wonderful time at the reunion thanks due to all those concerned.'

Glad to see 'Vic' and 'Dodger' from Aldershot once again. Don't forget that 1957 menu card I gave you 'Vic'—couple of valuable autographs on the rear.

An expert 'One-armed bandit robber' also from Gateshead, neatly relieved the Garrison Mess 'bandit,' during Sunday Church, leaving with a pocketful of 'tanners.'

That 'fixture'—dear young 'Charlie'—once more into the throng of thirsty Old Comrades with his annual charity demand, "Gentlemen, here's my hat, I want it filling." Nobody, but nobody, refuses 'Charlie!' even though I am not sure he would rather have had ten bob notes than a pile of half dollars, the former being lighter to carry, and much kinder on his headgear.

For me it was the first sight of the intensely proud 'splinter group' of the red and white tie gentlemen of the Kensington Regiment. Nice to see you, and nicer still to see you proud—so very proud—of those unique colours.

The 'retreat,' the 'display,' the church parade with No. 1 Squadron leading (Old Comrades), topped the bill of fare.

This in short says, that as ever, the reunion was a resounding success, thanks due to the staff and host units and not forgetting all those old comrades who made the pilgrimage to show their appreciation of efforts on their behalf.

Happy to meet, sorry to part, hope to see again—next year.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Twentieth Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Camp on Sunday, 27th June, 1965

Present:

Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E. (Chairman); Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E. (Vice-Chairman); and approximately 150 members of the Association.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those who had come to the Reunion. He mentioned that over 700 were attending and this was a record. He was pleased to see members from branches as far away as Northern Ireland, the South of England and Torbay. In particular he was very glad to welcome the Colours and the Colour Party of the 41st Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A., and a number of that Regiment's Old Comrades. He hoped that they had enjoyed their visit to Catterick, and that perhaps we might see them again in future years. The Chairman went on to say that he would like to record on behalf of the Association their sincere appreciation for all the preparation and work that had been put into ensuring the success of the Reunion by the Training Brigade and School of Signals. He doubted if any other Corps or Regiment did so much to entertain their Old Comrades. The laying on of the Reunion was a very heavy commitment for the serving Corps at Catterick, who in any case were very busy with their normal duties; yet they accepted this extra load cheerfully and willingly. He hoped that all Old Comrades fully realised this and he would like Brigadier Woodrow and Brigadier Warburg to accept the grateful thanks of the Association and to pass them on to all concerned.

1. Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting were put to the Meeting and having been duly proposed and seconded were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2 Chairman's Report and Review of Accounts

The Chairman stated that as there were several other items on the Agenda which might take up some time he proposed to keep his report short.

(a) The number of Branches of the Association remained much the same.

(b) Young soldiers during 1964 had continued to join as Life Members in very considerable numbers due to the enthusiasm of the Depot Regiment and the A.A.S. Harrogate.

(c) The scale of Association Benevolent work continued at a high level, and altogether some £6,500 was spent in 1964. In addition some 600 clothing parcels were distributed. There were no signs of any slackening of demands for Welfare assistance in 1965.

(d) During 1964 employment had been found for about 90 ex-members of the Corps.

(e) The Wire was selling at the rate of about 5,800 copies a month. Due to the increase in price from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. a copy and careful editing The Wire subsidy for 1964 had been reduced to some £400 compared to some £1,200 in 1963.

(f) Accounts

Copies were available on the floor and had been distributed to all concerned. They had been passed by the Central Committee. Salient points were:—

(i) Accumulated funds stood at £108,000.

(ii) The Income and Expenditure Account showed a surplus of some £2,400 for 1964. This was due mainly to the reduced Wire subsidy already mentioned, a reduction in administrative overheads, the increased number of Life Membership subscriptions and the grant of £1,000 from the Officers of the Corps compared with £700 in 1963. The Chairman here stressed the support received from the serving Corps, which in 1964 was: Officers—£1,000; Unit Donations—£4,000.

He said that he mentioned this because shortly the meeting would be discussing the "Day's Pay Scheme" which envisaged the stepping up of this support.

He went on to say that in view of the surplus income for 1964 the Central Committee had decided to make special grants to two organisations which needed money badly, and who had stood very much behind the Association over the years. These were the Army Benevolent Fund and the Star and Garter Home. Since 1950 the Army Benevolent Fund had contributed no less than £24,000 to Association funds. The Star and Garter Home had always looked after our seriously disabled cases for many years and were now faced with a major re-building and modernising scheme that would cost them £100,000. The Central Committee, therefore, had decided to make a grant to the Army Benevolent Fund of £1,000 and to the Star and Garter Home one of £500. He hoped that this would meet with the support of the Annual General Meeting. The Accounts were put to the meeting and after being duly proposed and seconded were approved by a show of hands.

(g) The Chairman informed the meeting that he had, on his own initiative, invited Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Mountbatten, to become an Honorary Life Member of the Association and he was sure that all would support him in this action. He had done this because of Earl Mountbatten's outstanding position in the field of service communications and his many contacts with the Corps. As he was shortly to retire it had seemed to the Chairman appropriate to invite him to accept Honorary Life Membership without waiting for formal approval and he was glad to inform the meeting that Earl Mountbatten had accepted the invitation with pleasure. He had also accepted Honorary Life Membership of the Royal Signals Institution.

The Chairman's statement was received with acclamation.

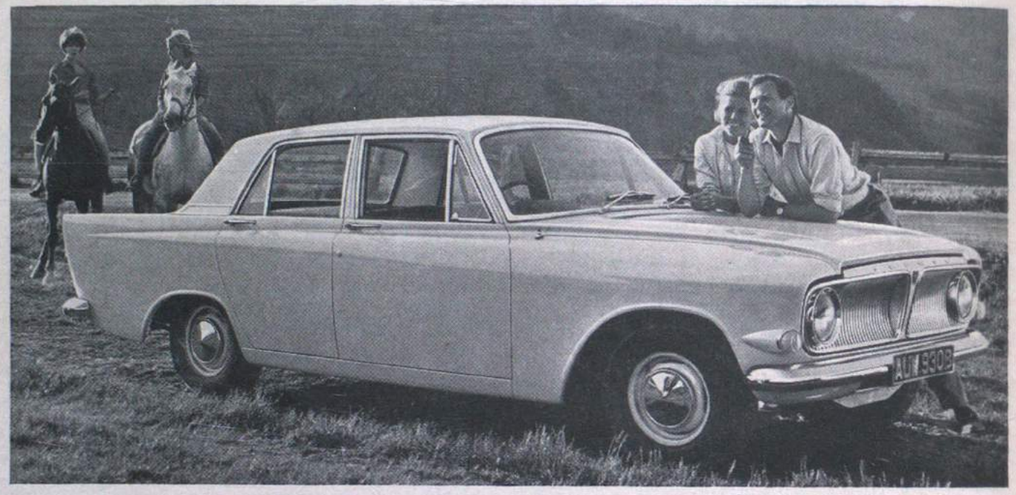
3. Honorary Membership

The Chairman invited the General Secretary to explain the purpose behind this item of the Agenda. The General Secretary stated that the present rules regarding Free Life Membership and Honorary Membership were unsatisfactory. At present the rules laid down that Free Life Membership might be granted by the Central Committee to Annual Members under certain laid down conditions in respect of having rendered valuable service over a long period to the Association, but that these conditions had been qualified in 1962 by a circular which required branches before putting up names to consider "*what*





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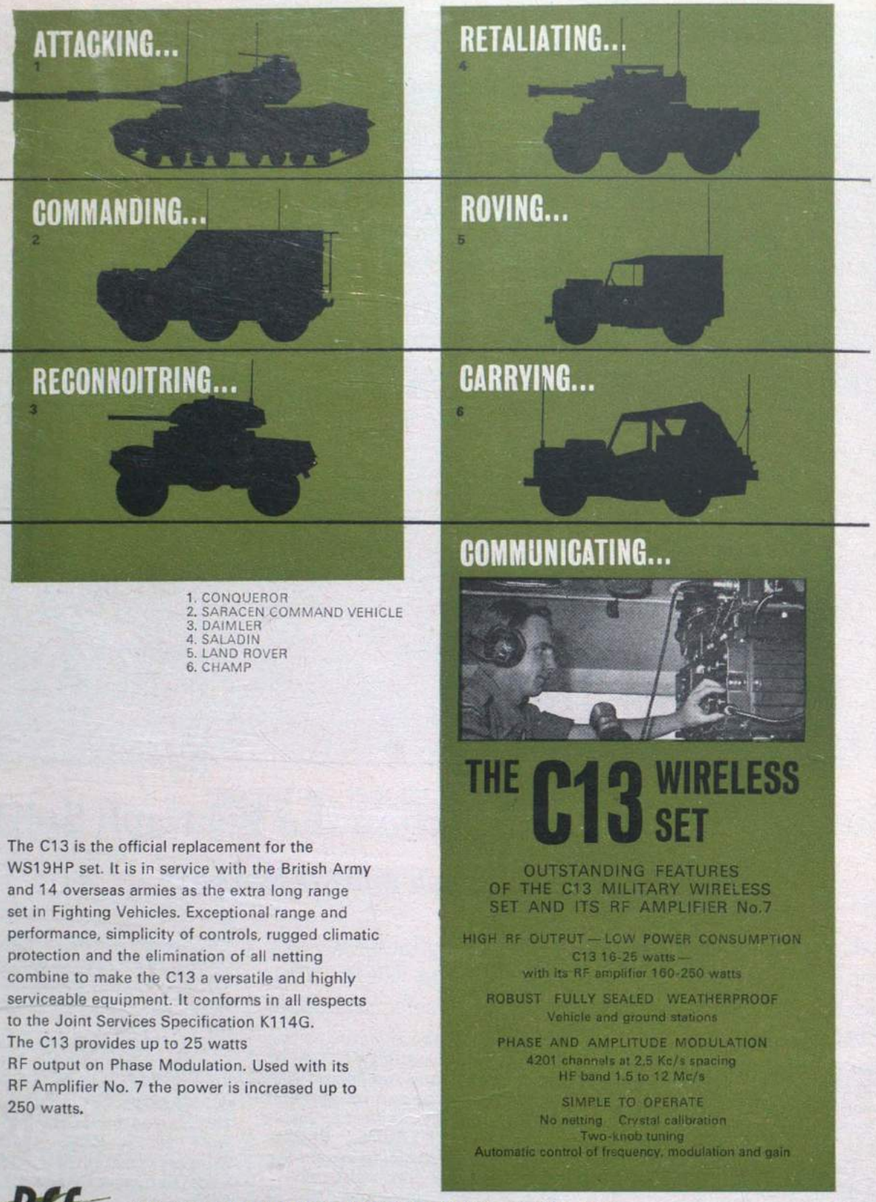
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1965

Vol. 19 (*New Series*) **No. 10**

Editorial

SUCCESS IN SPORT

A particular bee in the editorial bonnet is the training necessary for the achievement of success in sport.

While the Corps is clearly regaining its former high standing in the world of sport there still may be some who expect success to fall into their laps without undue effort.

The fact that in a unit there are individuals adept in some particular sport is of little consequence if full and proper training or preparation is not carried out. In fact a number of average performers who have bothered to train hard and enthusiastically will almost invariably turn out to be a winning combination against more proficient individuals who have neglected to do anything much about this.

It is good, therefore, to read in this copy of THE WIRE the following **"Any reader who has voluntarily done press-ups on the Kiwi's Eye before breakfast may understand our will to win. Training for shooting should be exactly the same as that for athletics, and no man should earn a place at Bisley unless he has worked for it. The hard training bred a team spirit which is rare in this sport"** (See 21st Regiment's notes, page 323).

Also **"These outstanding successes are due to the hard work that our team and reserves have put in during the last few months. The majority of the training was done after hours and was always well supported"** (See 207 Squadron's notes on their athletic team, page 330).

Again in the July/August WIRE we read in the account of how the 13th Regiment won the French Army Canoe Championships that their trainer, R.S.M. C. W. Palmer, after the team had completed a toughening up expedition lasting ten days, made them all go over the entire length of the competition course the day before. Major Painter in his article remarks: **"No other team carried out such an arduous dress rehearsal."**

In each of the examples cited above much preliminary effort resulted in success—and, indeed, probably in greater success than was ever originally expected. Hard and sustained training for a sporting event not only makes each individual a great deal more proficient but it normally brings with it two invaluable psychological boosts—an enthusiastic team spirit and a determination to win.

As an incentive to training on the part of competitors themselves, must go the advice, encouragement and active support of one or two officers, W.O.s or senior N.C.O.s who are prepared to give up their spare time to this end.

The successes of the 13th and 21st Regiments and of 207 Squadron are due in no small measure to such an incentive.

No doubt others will take note.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From time to time we are taken to task because there are few letters to the Editor of the WIRE. A correspondence column can be interesting and can add to the attractiveness of a magazine. The answer lies with readers of THE WIRE. Send us letters and we will publish them, but please let them be of general interest and where the subject is contentious let the approach be constructive.

FARAWAY PLACES — UNUSUAL JOBS

In the last two issues of THE WIRE we have published a section under the above heading in which we have tried to include a few of the very many 'real life' stories of the Corps doing unusual jobs in faraway places. We would like to keep this section going every month, but to do this we must have **your** story illustrated, if possible, with photographs. There must be many stories and adventures we have not heard about yet. What is happening in Dharran? Has anyone been to Macao? What about that bistro in Beirut? Any more ascents of Mount Kinabalu in Borneo? Please let us know.

If you are not a very good writer don't worry—we will do our best to polish up your article. So have a go!

Joint Comcentre, Labuan



'Very nice to meet you chaps" ... no soldier was overlooked ,countless hands were shaken and many old friendships renewed

The Signal Officer-in-Chief visits Borneo

MANY visitors come to Borneo, but none has been more welcome than Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., who came to spend five days with us in July. Indeed it would be right to say at once how pleased we were to see him and Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., arrive by air at Labuan on 19th July. Unfortunately their aircraft arrived unannounced ahead of schedule and the welcoming party missed this actual event. However, it was, we believe, the one and only hitch in a programme covering some 2,600 miles by medium and short range aircraft, and some 25 miles by longboat, which enabled the General to see every Signal Unit at its operational task, as well as visiting forward units and meeting Commanders and staffs.

Travelling as he did from one end of our 900-mile front to the other, demonstrated clearly to the S.O.-in-C. the differences in terrain and operational tasks in the various Brigade areas, and thus the variety of the communications required.

There is variety also, of course, in the signal units out here, from the Joint Unit at Labuan, to the Brigade Squadrons of Gurkha and Malaysian Signals and 209 Squadron Royal Signals.

A minute by minute account of the tour, with lists of who was who, and of all the places visited would be tedious and too long. The accompanying photographs show a few of those who met General Bradley, who was indefatigable in his interest and questions. No soldier was overlooked, countless hands were shaken and shoulders patted, and many old friendships renewed. For all of us the General's presence and encouragement was a most stimulating and welcome experience.

Certain highlights should be mentioned. A trip by Beaver to Sebatik island to meet old friends in the Malaysian Infantry, take off from the dirt strip being enlivened by an ant who, resenting being sat upon, stung the pilot unmentionably and caused him to abandon ship. There were visits to company bases on the border, to admire the defence works, the self help and agriculture, and the cheerfulness of the infantry in these isolated outposts.

It was in Brunei that the S.O.-in-C. travelled by longboat piloted by soldiers of the 1st Bn. 2nd Gurkha Rifles; in Sarawak where the Royal Marines showed him round their trenches on a border hill; and in Sibu where a Royal Naval Helicopter Squadron explained the problems of ground to air signalling.

The General's main aim of course was to meet at work the British, Australian, Gurkha and Malaysian soldiers in the signal units in Borneo, and this he did, conducted through each area by several officers commanding, Major J. H. Hild, Major T. E. Bolt and Major R. Pope, Royal Signals, Major H. McI. Paterson and Major G. L. Davies, Gurkha Signals, and Major Ooi Teong Aun, Malaysian Signals. At Kuching, the S.O.-in-C. presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to W.O.I (Yeoman of Signals) G. D. Gubler and W.O.II Tekbahadur Ghale, Gurkha Signals. At Tawau, Lieutenant Tony Hunt learnt with surprise from the S.O.-in-C. personally that he had won the Whistler Trophy.

Although in Borneo we are on active service, with the sense of adventure this entails, life is often lonely and conditions often uncomfortable. Thus the General's interest and appreciation of all he saw was a tremendous satisfaction and encouragement to us all.

No doubt Lieutenant Martin Lance, Gurkha Signals, A.D.C. to the S.O.-in-C., could himself write his own memoir, if only to tell you of his dhobi arrangements as the tour progressed, and of his innocence concerning the frilly lace item that was erroneously delivered to the General whilst in Brunei. Incidentally, whatever did happen to them, Sir?

General Bradley sees things for himself in the Borneo Operational Area



1. Arrival at Sibu. "Reminds me of my old airborne days."
2. Yeoman of Signals L. Waumsley. "You yeomen are doing a splendid job."
3. Signalman J. Fleming, Labuan. "Glad to see all messages cleared."
4. Signalman C. R. Main, Labuan. " A bit of a change from Catterick, eh"?
5. Mobile Detachment, 248 Squadron. "Now one last point."

The Whistler Subalterns Trophy

It will be recalled that this trophy is competed for annually by Subalterns and temporary Captains of the Corps and the winner is adjudged as the young officer who has best shown qualities that are the hallmark of leadership—what an officer can GIVE to his Corps and the men under his command.

This year we congratulate Captain A. W. de V. Hunt whose record while serving as a subaltern in 640 Troop gained him this award. In the citation mention is made of his vigour and enthusiasm and how he helped to create an excellent Troop spirit. In particular he took great interest in his men's trade training as well as devoting much of his spare time in encouraging the sporting and recreational needs of the more junior members of the Troop. He also applied himself with characteristic enthusiasm to helping a school C.C.F. signal platoon which was only four strong but soon built up to full strength with a waiting list because of his efforts. These are but some of the achievements mentioned in the citation.

He is summed up as "a source of strength to his men and a person who has won credit for his Corps."

Captain Hunt has set a high standard and here lies an example and a challenge to all young officers of the Corps.

Whose name shall we see inscribed on the tankard next year?

Brigadier A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C.

THE WIRE has just heard that Brigadier Deane-Drummond is to take up the appointment of General Officer Commanding 3rd Division in August 1966. He is of course a most distinguished Royal Signals Officer notable for his service with Airborne Forces and more recently as an outstanding exponent of gliding in which he has earned international honours.

All will join in congratulating him on this appointment.

Mentioned in Despatches

For their good work in Borneo

THE WIRE has pleasure in publishing below the photos of two Warrant Officers who have distinguished themselves. It is particularly appropriate that these two Warrant Officers should be top tradesmen respectively in the two main spheres of Corps work—the technical and the operating. Foremen of Signals have established their high reputation over many years. Yeomen of Signals are new and are now building up their good name. It is gratifying to see one of them Mentioned in Despatches.



W.O.II (F. of S.) R. Stather of 248 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron



W.O.I (Y. of S.) G. I. D. Gubler attached to 248 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron

Movements—Officers

SEPTEMBER, 1965

Major J. B. Prince	... ...	To 11th Regiment (HS) (alt SRDE)
Major P. Ashlin	... ...	,, H.Q. Southern Command
Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Brown	...	,, H.Q. Western Command
Major R. C. K. Baron	... ...	,, C.A.F.S.O. Branch FEAF
Lieutenant J. J. Bally	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) T. Bennett		,, M.O.D. Signals 36 (b)
Lieutenant R. Boden	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Lieutenant R. F. Brooks	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Lieutenant D. J. Buckley	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Lieutenant C. E. Byrom	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Captain R. Bell	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Lieutenant A. P. de Bretton Gordon		,, 7th Regiment
Major (T.O.T.) S. W. E. G. Bowser		,, 630 Troop
Major M. M. Barker	... ...	,, Regular Commissions Board
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) L. R. Churchill		,, 1st Regiment
Lieutenant M. F. Collins	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Clarke	...	,, School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant M. K. Carson		,, 11th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) C. C. Cross, M.B.E.	...	,, H.Q. COMCAN
Major (Q.M.) N. J. Coslett	... ...	,, Royal Signals Records
Lieutenant C. H. D. Cross	... ...	,, A.A.C.C.
Major A. Coates	... ...	,, H.Q. A.A.F.C.E.
Lieutenant B. M. Cooke	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Captain A. H. Carling	... ...	,, A.A.C.C.
Captain P. A. Dally	... ...	,, 15th Regiment
Lieutenant R. Darrell	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Lieutenant K. G. Doyle	... ...	,, School of Signals
Major (Q.M.) J. A. Dunbar, M.B.E.		,, 61st Regiment (T.A.)
Second-Lieutenant P. J. K. Dickinson		,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Captain D. A. Davies	... ...	,, Mons. O.C.S.
Major J. F. Everard	... ...	,, 631 Troop
Lieutenant L. G. Fraser	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Major M. S. Gordon-Jones	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
Captain M. Q. M. Greaves	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Lieutenant J. G. Greatrix	... ...	,, School of Signals
Captain J. L. E. Gryspeerdt	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant S. C. L. Gadd	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Lieutenant R. M. Goymour	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Lieutenant S. H. D. Golding	... ...	,, 237 Squadron
Major A. M. Henson	... ...	,, Army Apprentice School
Captain (T.O.T.) M. Hogan	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Lieutenant J. F. Higden	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant G. W. Howard	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant D. Hunt	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant E. Hampson	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Lieutenant N. A. Horler	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Captain J. B. J. Halford	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Captain G. R. M. Holland	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Major D. M. Humphries	... ...	,, Eastern Command
Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Harvey	...	,, Army Apprentices School
Lieutenant A. G. Ingham	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Captain C. N. Last	... ...	,, H.Q. FARELF
Lieutenant (Q.M.) P. Lewis	... ...	,, 2nd Regiment
Captain D. Lycett-Gregson	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Captain M. Marples	... ...	,, 211 Squadron
Lieutenant G. A. Maude	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant M. J. McCann	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant G. T. Mills	... ...	,, School of Signals
Captain D. S. Mullineaux	... ...	,, School of Signals
Major C. Mitchell	... ...	,, H.Q. SHAPE
Captain C. R. M. Noonan	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant P. A. Neale	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Captain D. W. D. A. Poole	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Captain E. W. Penny	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant P. J. Pritchard	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Lieutenant R. B. Smith	... ...	,, School of Signals
Major F. B. Saul	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Lieutenant P. Stanley	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Lieutenant M. R. Stephenson	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Major N. D. Shaw	... ...	,, H.Q. COMCAN
Captain I. R. D. Shapter	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Lieutenant G. Schofield	... ...	,, 3rd Regiment
Major P. A. Toombs, T.D.	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) R. F. Thirkell	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) L. J. Taylor, M.B.E.		,, JCU (266 Squadron)
T/Captain M. J. P. Vann	... ...	,, 621 Troop (LSA)
Lieutenant E. E. Vulliamy	... ...	,, 601 Troop (Ship)
Captain G. Wilkie-Snow	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Lieutenant R. A. Wright	... ...	,, Royal Mil. College of Science
Captain S. Wood	... ...	,, 205 Squadron
Lieutenant P. B. Webster	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Lieutenant J. M. Passmore	... ...	,, 237 Squadron (not 208 Squadron as previously notified)

ADDITIONAL AUGUST POSTINGS RECENTLY RECEIVED

Lt.-Col. E. J. Bardell, O.B.E.	... ...	,, A.L.F.C.E.
T/Major J. R. E. Cross	... ...	,, British Army Training Team, Kenya
Major J. L. Donne	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.) (for SEATO Planning Staff)
Major P. H. Flear	... ...	,, 3rd Regiment
Major J. R. Garratt	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Lieutenant C. R. Crew	... ...	,, 602 Troop
Major J. E. Denton	... ...	,, M.O.D. (Signals 4 (Army))
Major I. M. Rose	... ...	,, 225 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant T. N. Singleton	...	,, 7th Armoured Brigade Group H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Major J. F. Hart	... ...	,, 249 Squadron

ADDITION TO JUNE LIST ALREADY PUBLISHED

Lt.-Col. T. I. Ronald, O.B.E.	... ...	,, H.Q. B.A.O.R.

Movements

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

SEPTEMBER, 1965

W.O.I W. A. Bain	... ...	...To H.Q. Southern Command
W.O.I (F. of S.) G. H. Sharp	...	,, H.Q. Comcan
W.O.I (F. of S.) J. Weeke	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) G. Hayes	... ...	,, 17th Gurkha Regiment
W.O.II W. P. Smith	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II B. Adcock	... ...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II E. Bell	... ...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II C. Wood	... ...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II K. A. Waterworth	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
W.O.II J. P. Williams	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
W.O.II N. W. Cunion	... ...	,, 1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
W.O.II C. A. Smith	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) M. I. Caplan	... ...	,, 249 Squadron
W.O.II R. Acott	... ...	,, 3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment
W.O.II J. F. Byrne	... ...	,, M.O.D.
W.O.II M. J. Levins	... ...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II R. N. Howells	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) H. J. Perry	... ...	,, 10th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. Keany	... ...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant C. J. Gillman	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. E. Tompkins	... ...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant E. Cooper	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. M. Martin	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regt., R. Signals
Staff Sergeant J. M. Cardnal	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant N. Hutson	... ...	Ordnance Depot (Cyprus)
Staff Sergeant T. Dolan	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. W. Pugh	... ...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant E. Robinson	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. J. K. Hawtin	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. R. Hurnell	... ...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. N. L. Cassling	... ...	,, 621 Troop
Staff Sergeant R. D. Cox	... ...	,, 24th M.S.L. Regt. Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant R. E. Keeler	... ...	,, 44th (H.C.) Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant A. Gibson	... ...	,, 2 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
A/Staff Sergeant H. P. Underwood	...	,, Royal Signals Records
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. A. McKay		,, 260 Squadron
Sergeant G. J. Williams	... ...	,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Foster	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Custus	... ...	,, H.Q., 7th Armd. Bde. Gp. Sig. Squadron
Sergeant L. Price	... ...	,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Malone	... ...	,, 249 Squadron
Acting Sergeant R. J. Woods	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant T. W. Potter	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant L. Gray	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant S. C. Gibney	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant B. R. Lawrence	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant A. H. Kirk	... ...	,, Jun. Leaders Regiment
Sergeant A. G. Rose	... ...	,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant G. Reynolds	... ...	,, Ministry of Defence
Acting Sergeant J. P. Byrne	... ...	,, 259 Squadron
Sergeant R. Bell	... ...	,, H.Q., A.L.F.C.E.
Sergeant W. F. McGrath	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant P. W. Nichols	... ...	,, 4th Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Sergeant D. I. T. Whiteside	... ...	,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant L. Davies	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant R. G. Porter	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant H. J. Dee	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant E. L. Hamilton	... ...	,, 225 Squadron
Sergeant R. Fell	... ...	,, 602 Troop
Acting Sergeant R. G. Gill	... ...	,, Jun. Tradesmen's Regt., Rhyl
Sergeant N. Akester	... ...	,, 257 Squadron
Sergeant E. Hall	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. P. Beasley	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant F. R. Gardner	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant D. M. Maxted	... ...	,, School of Signals
Acting Sergeant C. L. Brown	...	,, 53rd Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant A. J. Playford	... ...	,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.

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The Empire Field Day of Remembrance

With the kind permission of the Rector of St. Margaret's and the support of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, the Empire Field of Remembrance will be held from 11th to 15th November inclusive.

The Field will be opened at 12 noon on Thursday, 11th 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. Stead of Association Headquarters, together with members of Home Counties Branches, will be the official representatives of the Association at the opening. If any other member of the Association is likely to be in London on Thursday, 11th November, and would like to attend the opening, he or she should notify this H.Q.

The following are available from the British Legion Poppy Factory, and if it is so desired, will be planted on behalf of Branches or individuals by the official representatives of the Association at the opening ceremony:—

Badge Cross, 21/-; Field Cross, 15/-; Poppy Cross, 10/-; Wreath Cross, 5/-; Remembrance Crosses, 6d. each.

Correspondence and orders relating to the Field of Remembrance should be addressed *direct* to: The Secretary, British Legion Poppy Factory, Petersham Road, Richmond, Surrey (with a copy to this Headquarters). Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to the British Legion Poppy Factory Ltd., and should be crossed.

Please send in your orders as soon as possible, but not later than 28th October.

Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the Cenotaph, Sunday, 14th November

Any member wishing to parade with the Royal Signals Contingent should apply at least a week prior to the date through his/her Branch Secretary who, in turn, should apply to this Headquarters for tickets. Corps tie, medals and decorations should be worn on this parade.

Deaths

CRABTREE.—Major E. Crabtree, late of the 64th Regiment (T.A.), suddenly, at Harrogate, over the week-end 1st/2nd August. He was formerly a National Serviceman in the Corps.

GUY.—Ex-Signalman C. J. A. Guy, at the age of 64, on 24th July. He enlisted in Royal Signals Supplementary Reserve in 1926, after previous service with the R.A. (T.A.), The Gloucester Regiment and the R.A.F. He was an annual member of the Association. Home address: 35, Parker Place, Ely, Cardiff.

WEBB.—Mr. Frederick George Webb, on 13th August. Mr. Webb joined the K.R.R.s in 1916 and rose to the rank of R.Q.M.S. and served with Royal Signals from 1921 until 1945. He was a stalwart member of the North London Branch of the Association to whom his death comes as a shock. He was an Annual Member of the Association.

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Retired Officer, Grade III Vacancy, School of Signals

One vacancy exists at the School of Signals. The duties of the officer will be mainly concerned with course planning and training programmes. Any officer accepted will be expected to move with the School of Signals to Blandford in 1967 on payment of such expenses as are authorised by regulations.

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Two engineers are required of T.O.T. or F. of S. standard by Rank Bush Murphy Ltd. of Welwyn Garden City. The appointments call for good practical experience in planning and installation of VHF, VHF and microwave systems and some carrier or VF telegraph experience would be an advantage. One appointment calls for about three months of each year being spent overseas.

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For further details write to: Major W. Dermit, Electronics Division, Rank Bush Murphy Ltd., Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

Gallaghers May Want You

Gallaghers, the tobacco manufacturers, have decided to make a new post—that of Communications Assistant. Initially, he will work under the O. & M. department, but otherwise will be very much on his own. They require someone with initiative who has a good, sound knowledge of all aspects of telecommunications and who will be able to plan and supervise the running of their future inter-factory and office communications. The firm are about to install a computer, and this will be linked with the other data processing machines they have in their various factories, warehouses, etc. It is understood they are considering a H.F. wireless link with their Northern Ireland factory.

Mr. Delano-Osborne, the assistant personnel manager (who is a retired regular Lieutenant-Colonel, ex-Royal Scots Fusiliers) is looking for someone, aged about 36, though they would consider someone older if he were technically qualified and had been recently doing this sort of work. The position would suit a Royal Signals Officer who has just retired or is about to retire.

You can ring Mr. Delano-Osborne at MIN 2500.

Portrait of a Man We Seek

He is between 26 and 45, married, and has dependant children and probably with no previous insurance experience. He is ambitious, wants and needs more money than he can earn at present. He wants to do work of significance, likes to feel that he is spending his time helping others. People like him, and he likes people. He can take direction, has the capacity to learn Estate Analysis, and is willing to spend time in study. He possesses leadership qualities and drive to reach objectives.

This is an opportunity for stimulating, profitable work and continuous study in the field of taxes, wills, life insurance, psychology and advertising. There is ample opportunity for advancement in various directions, including management. Many fringe benefits are available, including an excellent pension plan for retirement.

For full information, please write or telephone: H. F. Wood, Esq., Confederation Life Association, 70, Fore Street, Ipswich, Suffolk. Telephone: Ipswich 57161.

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Because of the expansion of the telephone service vacancies are continually arising in the Birmingham Telephone Area and technicians from the Forces are ideally suitable. For full particulars write to the Telephone Manager, Birmingham Telephone Area, Richmond House, 84, Newall Street, Birmingham 3.

Letter—with an equation—to the Editor

Lieutenant (Q.M.) 'Bob' Stilwell, of 7, Ash Row, Bromley, Kent, writes to the Editor and poses this equation: 11th Regiment (Depot) + The Wire, July, 1964, + Memories = Nostalgia full circle.

The July, 1964, edition had an article and a page of pictures of the March into Helles Barracks by 11th Regiment (Depot).

Mr. Stilwell writes:

On 17th June, 1945, I arrived at Vimy "C" Lines, Catterick Camp, the then home of 1 Operators Trainings Battalion (yes, Battalion), having just arrived from "Civvy Street" via the Royal West Kent Depot at Maidstone and Fairmile Head Camp, Edinburgh, where I had been one of the guests of Scottish Command.

Those were the days when the mention of Catterick struck terror into the hearts of even the toughest new recruit.

However, to press on with my tale. On arrival at the "dreaded destination," after being shepherded from Richmond Station (and I was quite convinced afterwards that the marshals who met the "recruit trains" received their training by rounding up the sheep that seemed perpetually to be wandering from the moors on to R.S.M. Hart's square) we were suitably "indoctrinated" about the virtues of "passing-out sharpish-like, if you want to get away from 'ere."

In my case, this was not to be. In fact, I finished my time on the Cadre at Catterick; whether I was brain-washed or not I shall never know, but I really liked the place in the end.

Mind you, I had a pretty strong reason for doing so. I met my wife, Vivian there, in fact she served me with my very first cup of Vimy "C" NAAFI tea, which looked like coffee and tasted like cocoa. You can imagine what sort of conversation took place between my future wife and myself over this incident (especially as she had made it). We still have a laugh about it.

Another reason I have to remember Vimy "C" for is the fact that I received my first tape (local unpaid) there. Who would have thought then that that was just the start. Being demobbed as Sergeant, I carried on in the S.R. becoming R.S.M. of 22 Corps in 1952, serving after with 21st Army, 88th Signal Regiment and 85th Signal Regiment, from which unit I was commissioned as Quartermaster and posted to 409 Signal Squadron (Park) A.E.R. to receive command of a Stores Troop.

Where does 11th Regiment (Depot) and The Wire, July, 1964, come in? Oh I nearly forgot.

I was browsing through back copies with my wife the other evening, when she exclaimed, look, there's Vimy "C," but it can't be, because the caption reads: Scene of the march-in at Helles Barracks. This prompted me to read further, and, of course, she was right (she usually is). I should have known anyway it's a well-known fact that a woman always remembers where and how she meets her husband. Needless to say, the photographs were immediately shown to our four children, the oldest of whom is now 18, with remarks like: "Look, that's where I met your father," etc., etc.

Memories—nostalgia—of course, but it does one good.

So, to all past comrades and friends—all good wishes.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) 'Bob' Stilwell

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EXERCISE CYGNET III

'Schools' Morse Net Cadets' Camp with 30th Regiment is a Great Success



ALL SMILES AT THE END OF THE COURSE

Seated at the centre are the officers concerned with the course

(*Left to right*): Lieutenant Engledew (Christ's Hospital), Lieutenant Kirby (Christ's Hospital), Lieutenant-Colonel Postill (Victoria), Captain Bell (30th Regiment), Mr. Vincent-Smith (Christ's Hospital)

From the Channel Islands and Yorkshire

For the third year in succession 30th Regiment has run a camp for carefully selected cadets from schools signals sections. The cadets came from as far afield as the Channel Islands and Yorkshire. They had one thing in common; they had worked the schools morse net, and each cadet had a morse working speed of at least eight words per minute. This year the following schools were represented:—

Christ's Hospital, Haberdashers' Askes, Bridlington School, King Edwards (Birmingham), Kings (Bruton), Marlborough, Victoria College (Jersey), Pocklington School (York).

Before the camp started, almost all of the cadets had had their morse and procedure tested 'live' over the school's net. This preliminary test made sure that all the cadets could be put in the field for a long morse exercise.

The first day and a half of the camp was spent in 'firming up' their morse speed and procedure, and teaching them the C11 and 62 sets they were to operate. They were also given an EW presentation and a view of some of our new HF radio, including the C15. They worked from eight in the morning to nearly eight at night, and thrived on it. And they said the food was better than they had at school!

Increased distances and a steady improvement

The rest of the camp was spent in the field. First, they had one day working within the camp. During this time they got used to their station, and the role of each cadet in the detachment. The next day was spent in a slightly more ambitious exercise, with more movement and increased ranges.

Exercise "Cygnet III," a three-day exercise, followed. As the exercise progressed the nets grew wider, until ranges of about thirty miles were being worked. Two nets were operated, so that 'through' message procedure could be practised. The operating speed also improved, and by the end of the exercise the fast operators were working a reliable fifteen words per minute and morse was being worked satisfactorily on the move.

This camp was a great success, and the following lessons stand out:—

The cadets were worked hard—and enjoyed it.

High standards of signalling were demanded. (A morse operating speed of eights on a live circuit is above average for a cadet).

Does this form of encouragement pay dividends? We think so, read on.



Cadet Sergeant Roberts (Marlborough) and Cadet Corporal Webber (Christs Hospital) in their C11 vehicle

The Whistler Trophy

Readers of The Wire will know of the Whistler Trophy, awarded each year to the subaltern who has done most for his Regiment, Squadron or Troop. **What they may not know is that on the two occasions this trophy has been awarded, it has been to an old boy of Victoria College, Jersey.** Lieutenant-Colonel Postill (see photograph), who is both headmaster and O.C. of the School Signal Section, educated both the Whistler Trophy winners. He served in Royal Signals during the war. Each Sunday morning he can be heard on the school's nets chatting at 28s to Lieutenant Kirby. If any of his old friends read this I am sure he would be glad to hear from them.

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13th Regiment Challenge the Rhine again

By Second-Lieutenant G. W. Pearson

THE WIRE makes no apologies for featuring another canoeing story. Full of action and interest these accounts highlight what must be one of the most challenging and exciting of all sports available to our young soldiers. So popular has canoeing become that it is now an official Corps sport with its own Sub-committee to co-ordinate canoeing within the Corps as a whole.

Off to Basle

Following in the paddle strokes of W.O.I (R.S.M.) Palmer, who did the trip in 1964, I set out with a band of 15 intrepid souls from 13th Regiment, 4 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, and Rheindahlen Garrison to try our luck against the River Rhine from Basle to Krefeld.

The idea of a canoeing trip down the Rhine was farthest from my mind when one day it was casually mentioned to me by our Second-in-Command, Major R. P. D. F. Painter, who gave me the timings, the men, the kit and the suggestion to get on with it.

After about two weeks' intermittent training the party, consisting of five instructors and the rest mainly novices, caught the night sleeper to Basle. This was to be our last night of luxury for eleven days.

An exciting but somewhat chaotic start

Having arrived at Basle and successfully manoeuvred our way past a suspicious customs official, who requested that in future we be so good as to produce passports, we made our way to the river where we were greeted by swollen, turbulent waters and a fast-moving current. All canoes, seven doubles and two single Kleppers, were successfully launched, when suddenly the dreaded cry "Capsize" went up. Because of the speed of the current it was impossible to attempt to paddle back up stream to give any assistance, so the party made for the river bank to prepare to intercept an upturned canoe floating downstream. This proved to be our undoing. Within two minutes Signalmen July and Monaghan found themselves in the water and heading downstream chasing their canoe. Sergeant Greek, Royal Canadian Signals, and Signalman McHale in a double, and myself in a single, set out in pursuit. Jury and Monaghan were swept under a bridge where Jury managed to get a grip on a wooden support, and Sergeant Greek went to his assistance while I chased Monaghan. Unfortunately Sergeant Greek, being in a less manoeuvrable double kayak, was unable to prevent his canoe from colliding with one of the supports, and so he and his companion found themselves keeping Jury company in the water. Monaghan having been delivered ashore with a considerable volume of Rhine inside him, I turned my attention to the other unfortunates who in the meantime had got to the bank. The capsized canoes were guided to the river banks where one was successfully beached while the other wedged itself under two moored boats.

By now a considerable portion of the population, including police and fire brigade, had turned out to watch our antics, and decided to lend a hand in rescuing the canoe. Our frantic shouts to leave it alone only increased their determination to "save" the canoe. They dragged it out from under the boats and on examination we found ourselves with a canvas skin full of firewood. Jury and Monaghan were very despondent when it was suggested they hitch a lift home on a barge, but fortunately a local canoe club came to the rescue in the shape of an extremely obliging young Swiss who (incredibly) managed to patch the canoe, named "Sinister," together again. It completed the trip without further mishap.

In the meantime the first "capsizers," Signalman Thompson and Corporal Downie of 4 Division, had come out of their experience with nothing worse than a soaking.

We enjoyed the hospitality of the Canoe Club for the night, where we slept in the boathouse, and the next morning a somewhat less intrepid band made its way once more to the water where, amid cheers from the local populace, eight canoes and a forlorn hope in the shape of "Sinister" managed to get out into midstream without mishap.

Taking things in our stride

We formed up and so began the long slog back. For five days the weather was glorious. We enjoyed the routine of an early rise, an hour's canoeing, breakfast, canoeing, lunch and shopping (no rations were taken), rest, canoeing, and finally making camp. "Sinister" bore up well and we made good progress. As the party gained in experience and confidence things seemed to be going too well. Even the long tiresome portages round locks and weirs were taken in our stride. At each portage we were assured by Staff Sergeant Walton, who did the Rhine last year with R.S.M. Palmer, that this was the last, and round every bend there seemed to be another. Nevertheless our spirits were high as we reached Strasbourg, where once again bad luck struck the party. We had been suffering the irritating attentions of swarms of mosquitoes and horse flies which infest the river banks but, despite a few choice descriptions of the insect in question, no one appeared any the worse for them until finally Trooper Simpson who, it turned out, had been quietly enduring several painful and unpleasant horse--fly bites, was forced to report sick to Staff Sergeant "Doc" Walton. Simpson in fact was quite ill with blood poisoning and obviously needed medical attention. The Orderly Officer of a nearby French Garrison was unable to assist except to suggest that we go to a German hospital, which we did. They advised against Simpson carrying on—so, much against his will, he was borne off to R.C.A.F. Baden-Soellingen, where the Duty M.O. immediately incarcerated him in the camp infirmary. He has now returned to base fully recovered, and somewhat disappointed that he did not complete the course.

High waves, winds and barges

The party now consisted of 15—so I was obliged to leave my single with the Canadians and take Simpson's place in a double. From this point we were dogged by bad weather, which however was compensated for by the high waves, wind and barges, which made interesting, and sometimes dangerous, canoeing and left little time to worry about the rain. The river was full and overflowing in parts, the current was swift and a good pace was maintained.

Close to Lorelei, which we approached cautiously, having been regaled with gruesome tales of wrecked craft by Germans farther upstream, we were met by Major Painter and the R.S.M. who accompanied us for the rest of the trip.

On the final day we were met by the welcome sight of two three-tonners and the Uerdingen Bridge at Krefeld, whence we were shipped back to camp—with mixed feelings—sorry that the experience was over, but glad that the job had been done.

Participants:

13th Signal Regiment: Second-Lieutenant Pearson, Staff Sergeant Walton, Sergeant Greek, Corporal Utley, Signalman Jury, Signalman Monaghan, Signalman Button, Gunner Morris, Signalman McHale,

4 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment: Corporal J. G. Akehurst, Corporal J. Downie, Corporal L. Downie, Signalman C. Thompson, Signalman J. Papworth.

Rheindahlen Garrison: Trooper Simpson, Trooper Whitelock.

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FIFTEEN MEN AGAINST THE RHINE. *Canoes capsize and crews are tipped into the turbulent waters but the journey goes on . . .*



1. **"Line Ahead" near Remagen.**
2. **"Sinister" bore up well . . . the wrecked canoe after patching and temporary repairs.** (*Cox*): **Signalman Jury,** (*Bowman*): **Signalman Monaghan.**
3. **We were met by Major Painter. Here seen brewing 'char!'**
4. **Also by the R.S.M. Here cooking bangers! (Staff-Sergeant Jones, on the left, also came for the last 2½ days).**
5. (*Cox*): **The author Second Lieutenant G. W. Pearson.** (*Bowman*): **Trooper Whitelock.**
6. (*Cox*): **Sergeant Greek.** (*Bowman*): **Signalman McHale.**



Exercise Mercury 1965. All three services participated and the very real and pressing communication problems of the present day were considered

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Exercise "Mercury, 1965"

HOT on the heels of "Quicksilver," came "Mercury"! This statement does not describe a race between two "Jimmies" battling for a marathon prize, but merely seeks to state as a fact that no sooner had we cleared up after Exercise "Quicksilver," than frantic preparations for Exercise "Mercury" began. This was to be a joint communications exercise which, in the normal course of events, would have been held at H.M.S. *Mercury*. However, owing to accommodation difficulties, it was agreed to run it at Catterick, where we knew we could look after the administrative side of the exercise without undue strain. For the School of Signals, this was indeed a proud and happy occasion, and we were glad to be able to offer our hospitality to our Royal Naval and Royal Air Force colleagues.

Joint Communications in Limited War

The aim of the exercise was to study joint communication problems in a limited war setting, using equipment and resources known to be available today. Unlike "Quicksilver XIII," which looked into the future, some 10 years hence, "Mercury" was more down-to-earth, and considered the very real and pressing problems of the present day.

"Joint" Effort

Participation and attendance was well and truly "joint." The Conference Directors were Captain D. V. Morgan, M.B.E., R.N. (Chairman), Wing-Commander H. M. Carson, R.A.F., and Brigadier T. R. Warburg, C.B.E. The Executive Committee was likewise a joint affair, with Colonel J. M. Sawers, M.B.E., in the chair, and Commander R. D. Franklin, R.N., and Wing-Commander B. Brooke, R.A.F., as members. The actual task of staging the various presentations was equally divided amongst the three Services and included our own Royal Marine Liaison Officer, Captain E. St.V. Troubridge, R.M., whose somewhat swashbuckling style and distinguished naval ancestry gave the proceedings the authenticity of tradition and history.

Valuable Lessons Learnt

Without going into detail, which security regulations would not in any case permit, it can be stated that the exercise was of great value to us all. Each service was able to see its own communication problems in relation to those of the other Services, and joint consideration of these problems against a common setting taught many useful lessons. It was possible to identify the main problems, to consider and agree possible and practicable solutions and to decide the best agency to take effective action.

The exercise was not all work, however, and there were occasions of relaxation and entertainment, some of which are worthy of mention.

Flag Hoisting and Lowering Ceremonies

Because this was the first exercise of its kind to be held at the School of Signals, and because it was so very obviously a joint effort, it was decided to fly the Ensign flags of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, together with the Union Flag, in front of the Headquarter Mess. The hoisting and lowering of these flags was done in true naval style, with a bugler sounding the "Alert" and the "Carry-on" each morning, and a "Sunset" ceremony each evening. The ceremony on the evening of 30th June was particularly impressive. It came at the conclusion of a cocktail party. Catterick was at its best, with clear skies and a bright setting sun. The Band, dressed in ceremonial scarlet, marched on and played marches appropriate to each service. This was followed by the evening hymn, during which the flags were lowered by a sailor, soldier and airman. The National Anthem was then played and finally, to round off this simple, yet dignified ceremony, the band marched off to the strains of "Officer of the Day."

Guest Night

On 1st July a joint guest night was held in Headquarter Mess. This proved to be an exceedingly convivial occasion and, like the exercise itself, was a truly joint occasion. One had only to listen to snatches of conversation, both during and after dinner, to realise that this was no place for the single-Service die-hard, and indeed, it is quite likely that many of the morrow's problems completely dissolved in the free-and-easy discussions which took place that night. The last day of the exercise was particularly noteable for the presence of the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals), Rear-Admiral E. B. Ashmore, D.S.C. In his closing remarks, the Admiral said that it was clear that much had to be done in the matter of joint communications, and that there was a danger of trying to do everything at once.



Exercise Mercury

Brigadier Warburg and two Naval visitors in lighter mood. Lieutenant Colonel Richards (*background*) more serious

He felt sure that exercises of this kind helped to sort things out in order of priority. It is thought that future joint exercises of this sort may be held, in rotation, at other Service establishments. If this is so, Catterick may not have the pleasure of being host again. However, a warm welcome to Royal Navy and Royal Air Force delegates will be kept available as part of our new set-up in Blandford, just in case.

Senior Officers' Command and Control Study Period

Earlier in the year it had been decided that there was an urgent requirement for senior Army officers to study the problems of command and control in the light of current and future communication equipments, techniques and trends. To meet this requirement, the School of Signals was given the task of running a short course, from 13th to 16th July, for a maximum of 40 senior Army officers.

The course was attended by seven Brigadiers, four Colonels, eighteen Lieutenant-Colonels and eleven senior Majors. These officers came from senior staff and command appointments, and most Arms and Services were represented. Among those present, as students, were Brigadier I. H. Lyall-Grant, M.C., Commandant, R.S.M.E.; Brigadier R. E. Ward, D.S.O., M.C., Commander, 20th Armoured Brigade Group; Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Newall, R.A, G.S.O.1, Assault Ship Army Trials Staff; and Major E. D. Smith, D.S.O., M.B.E., C.O. (Designate) 1/2 Gurkha Rifles; to name but a few. The United States Army was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Zacharias, Assistant Army Attaché, American Embassy.

The course was opened by Major-General R. M. P. Carver, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Director of Army Staff Duties, who had travelled up from London especially for the occasion, and who was due to start out on his tour of the Far-East before the week was out. An equipment demonstration followed, in which current Army equipment was explained and displayed. A peep into the future was provided by Colonel K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E., who outlined future trends in communication equipments and techniques. Major-General D. B. Long, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Director of Army Training, gave a most interesting talk on Army Training, during which he explained the current studies which are in train to make training in the Army more effective.

The course covered the military applications of Automatic Data Processing and included a study-exercise dealing with a limited war situation in a Far-East setting. When the time came for Brigadier T. R. Warburg to close the course, everyone felt that the time in Catterick had been well-spent and that both staff and students had benefited from the exchange of views and lively discussions which punctuated each stage of this study period.



W.O.I (F. of S.) I. J. Rose, Staff-Sergeant (SQMS), E. A. Brewer, Staff-Sergeant J. L. Booth, R. Aust. Signals after the presentation of LS and GC medals

Annual Administrative Inspection and Presentation of L.S. & G.C. Medals

The administrative Inspection this year was particularly noteworthy because it included the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to three distinguished members of the School:

W.O.I (F. of S.) I. J. Rose, Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) E. A. Brewer, both of the Corps, and Staff Sergeant J. L. Booth of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, who is on No. 20 Foreman of Signals Course.

At a simple ceremony, the Commandant, Brigadier Warburg, presented the medals. It is of interest to note that both W.O.I Rose and Staff Sergeant Brewer are ex-Boys of the 1946/47 vintage.

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

We are now approaching the end of the Summer Term and the tempo is quickening as usual in anticipation of the Graduation Parade. This year the parade will be inspected by Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Musson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, Northern Command, and the graduation ceremonies will be reported upon when next we launch into print.

The Chief Instructor, Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Brown, is leaving us this term to take up a new appointment on the staff of C.S.O., Western Command. Whilst driving along the Ripon-Harrogate road recently he lost an argument with an articulated trailer that had shown a tendency to wander. We are glad to report that he suffered little injury and is recovering rapidly—a further testimonial to the efficiency of safety-belts. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

This month has seen a vast amount of energy expended on cycling, cricket, tennis, athletics and examinations! We cannot, of course, produce any examination results, but we have had an interesting crop of sporting results.

Cycling

The Cycling Club is growing steadily and has competed extensively in Army and Command Championships. The School team was second in the Quadrangular Games 25-mile race and also second in the Western Command 15-mile race. Individual members have done well, too. A/T Corporal Crittenden and A/T Lance-Corporal McNeilly have both been awarded Army Cycling Colours. A/T Lance-Corporal McNeilly won the Western Command 15-mile Championship, the Army 15-mile Championship, the Army 25-mile Championship, the Army 10-mile Championship, and was second in the Inter-Services 10-mile Championship. In the 10-mile Championship he set up a new Army record of 26min. 17sec. This time is six seconds faster than the previous junior record and 31 seconds faster than the senior record. Altogether an excellent season for McNeilly, who is to be congratulated.

.22 Shooting

A great deal of activity is evident in this club, which won the Northern Command Inter-Unit .22 Winter League outright, winning all its matches. Eighteen teams took part in the league. The School received a plaque and each member of the team was presented with an ash tray.

The team also came fourth in the N.S.R.A. Regular Army match and each member won a bronze medal. In addition, the club keeps itself busy by firing in the Association of Leeds and District Rifle and Revolver Club's summer leagues.

Athletics

It is impossible to mention all the boys who have contributed to this season's successes, and the list will therefore have to be confined to Army Championships. In the Youth and Junior Championships, which are now open to anyone in the Army who qualifies by age, athletes from the School won no less than twenty medals. Corporal Illman won the junior long

Continued on Page 306



Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Brown, who is leaving at the end of term to take up an appointment at the Chief Signal Officer's Branch, Western Command



Initiative on an Exercise!

jump title and Lance-Corporal Ness the quarter-mile, in which A/T Turvey was second. Turvey was also second in the half-mile. A/T Devitt, in only his second term in the School, was second in the 100 yards, and assisted Corporals Illman, Cribb and Barden to win the 4 x 110 yards relay in the new record time of 44.5 seconds. In addition, Corporal Cribb was second in the pole vault.

A/T Wells had the singular misfortune of breaking the existing records, but finishing second in the triple jump for the second successive year, while A/Ts Hyett and Stanley were third in the mile and steeplechase respectively. In the Youth age group A/T Robinson achieved first place in both the 880 and 440 yards—a splendid performance. Littlewood, Dixon, Dillon-White, Morton and Coburn all earned place medals in their events.

In the Inter-Services Junior Championships, A/T Corporal Cribb was third in the pole vault, Devitt was second in the 100 yards and Turvey reversed the decision on Ness, narrowly beating him into second place. Our relay team, which was selected to represent the Army, proved themselves worthy of the honour with a fine win and a new record.

For the first time, we entered the Northern Command Inter-Unit Team Athletics, and narrowly beat 8th Regiment. Selected to represent Northern Command in the final stage at Aldershot, we were placed fifth of the eight finalists. For a team which included only four seniors from the Permanent Staff—all well over 30—this was a remarkable performance by the School team, which took on the best teams in the Army and gave a good account of themselves.

New School records have been established in the 100 yards (Devitt), the 220 yards (Cribb and Devitt), and the quarter-mile (Turvey). All School relay records, from 4 x 100 yards to 4 x 880 yards have been broken by this year's teams, and with so many younger athletes involved, our future prospects seem very bright.

Lance-Corporal Fenge, who graduated at Christmas, and is still under 19 years of age, is now Inter-Services Pole Vault Champion, British Army, and National Junior Record Holder, and was selected to represent England v. Ireland. He won the event at 14 feet—a very fine performance.

Cricket

This has been a most successful cricket season, but the supreme awards in each of the three championships have eluded us and, despite a new maturity and greatly-improved technique, we have had to be content with the runners-up places.

Many of our most experienced cricketers will have left us before next season, but the promise shown by our latest arrivals in the enthusiastic ranks of the School XIs augers well for the future—not only of the School but of Royal Signals cricket at Corps level.

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

Being in three places at once

Until you have experienced a Summer Term at Denbury and survived, your education will not be complete, it is then that you learn the art of being in three or more places at once. It is a time of great activitivy, when the Regiment is on continuous show. It is a time when much of the preparatory effort of the other two terms is displayed in public. The standard is high by tradition and both Staff and Junior Leaders need endless patience, tact and determination in order to ensure success.

It is inevitable that some Junior Leaders should find themselves urgently needed for one thing, detailed for a second and urgently to do a third. With the aid of MT and much ingenuity they may even manage all three.

This term has been no exception, even if it has been the wettest on record; but, despite the weather, nothing has been cancelled.

Ten Tors a great success

The first great event was Ten Tors, sponsored and staged by the Regiment, for the sixth time, at Whitsun. **The demand to enter this year exceeded all expectations and many teams had to be refused entry.** The weather was cool and the success ratio was higher than ever before.

The control system worked smoothly and efficiently thanks to the communications arranged by Captain Tony Watson and Yeoman of Signals Scrafton. It was inevitable, of course, that some of the better radio operators should happen to be wanted also by the Band for Retreat at the Jamboree, and then finally get selected as members of their troop team. The teams took first priority. In fact the Regiment teams did well, only one Junior Leader from White Spear Troop failing to finish the course. Though two troops, Beaufighter and Francisca, overslept on the Sunday morning and missed their medals by ten minutes and twenty minutes respectively!

Plymouth Army Week, Athletics and Nijmegen practice

June finished with the Plymouth Army Week, at which, from the applause they received, our Gymnasts, Pipe Band and Scottish Dancers appeared to be the most popular displays in the programme.

On 7th July our Athletic Team surprised itself by coming second in the Preliminary Round of the Junior Inter Unit Team Championships at Taunton thus qualifying for the finals at Aldershot on 24th July. This created a host of difficulties for the team contained some Nijmegen marchers due to leave for Holland on 24th July and some bandboys due to perform at the Royal Tournament, also on 24th July. Agreement was eventually reached without bloodshed.

The practice four-day march of 100 miles for those going to Nijmegen was successfully completed on 11th July. Little did some of the marchers, who happened to be Term 4 boys, know that a new Term 4 exercise had been arranged to start four days later on 15th July, when they found themselves setting forth heavily laden with kit on another 50 miles to finish on 18th July. This, plus the final 100 miles to Holland, will make a grand total of over 250 miles in just over three weeks.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., has ideas of turning out some fit young men from Denbury! (*Nijmegen Marches, see page 315*).

Junior Leaders selected to represent British Army

The Nijmegen contingent left as planned and after a somewhat uncertain journey to Dover, arrived at the docks with less than an hour to spare. The party consisted of Major Joyner, Sergeant Mathieson and 12 Junior Leaders from Montgomery and Alexander Squadrons, C.S.M.I. Carpenter and 15 Junior Leaders from Slim Squadron, and Drum Major Yates as cycle orderly. The journey from Ostend to Nijmegen was quite uneventful, but on arrival they were informed that as a break with normal practice, instead of the British Army Contingent on the Flag Parade being selected from all British Units, *this year our complete contingent was to have the honour of representing the 1,300 British Troops marching.* This task was well performed and the boys received a well-deserved ovation from the crowds.

Denbury lads covered the routes in great form

Nijmegen this year was wet and cold, and the routes seemed longer. Perhaps because many of the main road sections had been cut and the routes changed to pass through new suburbs of the ever-growing city and surrounding villages. Nevertheless, the two teams covered the routes in great form, finishing early each day. All were awarded their medals and two more Team Medals were earned to bring the Regimental total to 30. This year, too, a new and quicker checking system had been introduced probably as a tryout in preparation for 1966 when extra competitors may well be expected to take part in the 50th marching festival.

Canoe race has some lively moments

On Wednesday, the Inter Troop Canoe Race, won by Iron Troop, was held at Coombe Cellars near Shaldon. It was a good site and Sailing and Cutter racing were added to the programme. It was a most enjoyable day, the Officers v. Sergeants cutter race being the highlight. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., as cox, rowed by Lieutenant P. Bruce and Captain Cuthill, challenged the R.S.M., R.S.M. Garland, rowed by Sergeant Palmer and Sergeant Eouzan. The Commanding Officer's boat crossed the line first, but whilst rowing back to "assist" the R.S.M. he received a somewhat unfriendly welcome. Battle commenced and despite the gallant efforts of the Officers' crew, it was not long before spectators were to see the C.O. boat and all sink gracefully beneath the waves. It was a most impressive farewell, bringing tears to many eyes. The duty trumpeter was too overcome with emotion to sound the Last Post, but many hands were raised in salute and the second-in-command straightened his tie.

The R.S.M., however, ordered an immediate rescue operation and the C.O. was soon rescued. It was then the turn of the R.S.M., pace stick and all, as the already wet officers decided it was time the R.S.M. met his due. Soon the second cutter had sunk, both crews were in the water and the R.S.M. was to discover that pace sticks are no good as "pook sticks." The sailing officer, Captain McMahon, in the one remaining cutter effected the final rescue of all except the pace stick, which was found in the mud at low tide next day.



R.S.M. W. T. Leeson seen off in traditional manner

R.S.M.s seem to come and go at an astonishing rate in Denbury, but we are happy to say that the "going" part is normally a pleasant one. The departure of R.S.M. W. T. Leeson was no exception as he was leaving on commissioning and posting to 16th Regiment.

Being the only Regiment of our kind in the Corps we pride ourselves on doing things in a proper manner and it was agreed unanimously that our departing R.S.M. would leave the Regiment and the Mess if not in a "blaze of glory" then at least "lit up." We were also fortunate enough to be able to welcome our new president, R.S.M. M. F. B. Garland, at the same time.

The traditional dining out was held on the evening of Wednesday, 14th July, and it really was a splendid occasion. With the bulk of the members present wearing scarlet mess kit the candle-lit tables presented a colourful picture enhanced, to a great extent, by the silver display. The dinner itself was excellent and the Loyal Toast was preceded, in our own inimitable fashion, with a Fanfare by the Regimental Trumpeters. Traditional music was provided during the coffee stage by two pipers in Highland dress.

RSM Leeson was then presented with a sword which came with heartfelt good wishes and congratulations from all Mess members and, we are sure, from all others in the Corps with whom he has served.

The evening was rounded off by the towing of R.S.M. Leeson across the Regimental Parade Ground to his new home—the Officers' Mess. Farewell and bon voyage, Lieutenant Leeson. The accompanying photograph requires no title.

3rd REGIMENT, BULFORD CAMP

After the storm . . . the peace and quiet of Bulford as the larger part of the Regiment enjoys its summer block leave. At least your correspondent can find the right sort of atmosphere for writing THE WIRE notes—simply rethinking the past and not being constantly reminded of the present and the future.

Shooting successes

July, not unlike any other month, was as usual a busy time, but rather more varied than normal months. After the Southern Command and the Corps Shoot, the Regiment was represented at Bisley and achieved some notable successes. Major Adams came 9th out of 1,022 in the Daily Telegraph Cup, and 9th again out of 889 in the Duke of Cambridge Cup. Capt. Carr achieved 11th place in the Duke of Cambridge Cup, and was 3rd in the Army S.R.L. Club match. Both Major Adams and Capt. Carr were selected to represent the Regular Army in the Inter Services Long Range Championship at 900 yards, and in the Inter Services XX at 300 and 600 yards; an achievement well worth noting since the Regiment was the first ever to provide two members of such matches. So we must say well done to the shooting team—and I suppose accept that their long absences on training and what have you were made worthwhile by their success.

Summer Camp at Weymouth

As the sportsmen shooters enjoyed themselves at Bisley, the remainder of the Regiment were enjoying themselves at summer camp, held again this year at Chickerell Camp, Weymouth.

Apart from two or three particularly nasty days, the weather was quite kind, and all the usual soldierly activities of PE Tests and Range Classifications were carried out. This year's programme was more relaxed and afforded opportunities for an Inter Squadron Athletics meeting, Padres Hour, Falling Plate Competition, and above all the chance to get out amongst the happy holidaymakers of Weymouth, where, for instance, in the Pavilion Ballroom, even those soldiers with the biggest of blisters could be seen enjoying the opportunity of a bit of twist and shake.

A very successful 'Open Day'

Summer Camp over, and the Regiment returned to Bulford for what the Commanding Officer called "a Week of Jolly" before block leave. The Corps Band arrived and, as always, gave us their best for the whole week, with Pop Sessions, Band Concert, All Ranks' Dance, Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinners. The highlight of the week was clearly on Wednesday, 28th July, when the Regiment was "At Home for Open Day." The enormous amount of planning and co-ordination



REGIMENTAL 'OPEN DAY'
Billy Walker chats to members of the Regimental Boxing Team—Lance-Corporal Townsend, Signalman Corner, Signalman Barber, Private Bell, RAOC, and Signalman Bennett

effected by 2 Squadron, led by Major Moss, Lieutenant Sutherland and S.S.M. Peat, bore fruit, when, as one accurate estimate was heard to say "there must be all of 1,500" people arrived at Carter Barracks for the official opening by the famous boxer Billy Walker, in attendance also on the platform were Keith Fordyce and Barbara Anne—neither of whom require any introduction. The efforts of nearly all troops in the Regiment resulted in all the usual fairground activities from Children's Pony Rides, Roundabouts, Noddy Train, Cinema, Skittles, Bingo, Treasure Island, PT Display by the Junior Leaders Regiment, Helicopter display, to the always welcome Cup of Tea provided with other refreshments by the Wives' Club. In all, the afternoon was an unqualified success, and the Regiment was "Closed" at about 5.30 p.m.

In the evening followed the All Ranks' Dance. This time it was 1 Squadron who had planned and organised the event under Capt. Mulley and S.S.M. Overton. The Garrison Gymnasium known always as a cruel place of torture, was transformed into a more cruel atmosphere of a witches' den with giant spiders and witches' brooms everywhere, but none the less, a happy and relaxed atmosphere prevailed as the Regiment, its families and girl friends danced to the excellent music of "The Cameos" alternating with the Dance Section of the Corps Band, both of whom gave real professional performances. As always, the dance was a great success, and ended a perfect, yet tiring day.

And so with only one day left in July to tidy up the odds and ends, The Regiment split its many ways, as the majority proceeded on a well-earned summer holiday.

The future—a major exercise overseas, Administrative Inspection and then before we know where we are—Christmas.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Officers' Mess Annual Party

On Friday, 9th July, 1965, the Officers' Mess held their annual party. This year it was decided that it would be in the form of a Greek Wines and Mezes evening, and so the Mess had to do a great deal of interior decorating. A bamboo hut was erected in one corner of the ante-room, and with the artistic touch of the wives, flowers were arranged to give the whole ante-room a Grecian atmosphere. Some 150 guests were invited, i.e., approximately 70 cars and the parking was obviously going to be a problem. And then somebody came up with a bright suggestion—why not do a SAVOY Hotel act, and let the Signalman take the car off the driver at the door and then drive it up to the car park. Would you let somebody drive your car? No—well the majority thought that at first, but when it was pointed out that most people would want to "fall in line" regardless, thoughts changed. So, outside the Mess 12 drivers awaited eagerly the arrival of the first car. What a let down—a 1955 VW!! Guests started arriving and the soldiers by now were competing to see who would get the best car of the evening. Imagine one soldier's delight when round a bend appeared a brand new Mercedes 220 SE, but his face soon dropped when the proud owner refused to hand it over and said he would rather walk. However, the whole evening produced only four abstentions, a Rover 2000, two Mercedes 220 SE and one Peugeot 404. Apart from the odd teeth missing out of first gear and a couple of scratches, most of the guests received their car at the end of the evening in good condition. There is no doubt that this chaffeur idea made a good start to the evening's entertainment.

Officers' Mess v. Sergeants' Mess cricket match

Once again the weather interfered and the match had to be played on the square as the cricket field was still under water.

The officers batted first, and after a few odd decisions left the field some 45 minutes later, all out for 80 after being 60 for four. The tail just didn't wag!! The W.Os and Sgts. then batted, and looked really in trouble at 50 for 6, but thanks to staunch batting by R.Q.M.S. Jagger, managed to complete the innings without further loss.

After tea, there were still two hours left and so each side had another innings. Each player had to bowl at least two overs, often with frightening results. This, very fittingly finished in a tie, both sides scoring 98. A most enjoyable day was had by all, players and spectators, and thanks must be given to the Sergeants' Mess for their hospitality.

The Regimental Athletics

Unfortunately, this year the Regiment could not use the civilian stadium in Herford, which caused a great deal of trouble. Instead, the "field" at the back of the camp had to be made into an athletics track. As it was, it was only big enough for a 300 metre track.

The week before the athletics, the weather broke, and it rained continuously for some ten days, thus flooding the field. With the Morrison Cup only seven days away, the Regimental athletics just could not be postponed and so we all got thoroughly wet. Jokes about paddling round and 100 metres breast stroke wore a little thin by the middle of the afternoon. At the end of the afternoon, 1 Squadron emerged the winners by some 50 points, H.Q. Squadron being the runners-up. Due to the conditions, there were no outstanding events and only one Regimental record was broken.

The "Hairies" of 2 Squadron managed to retain their reputation after a closely fought battle with the "Fairies" of 3 Squadron in the Tug-of-War.

Marriages

Signalman M. L. Gage to Miss Shirley Ann Davis, at English Methodist Church, Brytwn on 26th June, 1965.

Lance-Corporal C. G. Bellamy to Miss Ann Connelly at Register Office, Nottingham, on 26th June, 1965.

New Pattern Corps Ties

At a recent meeting, the Corps Committee approved modified versions of the Corps tie to meet a demand for a tie more in the modern trend.

These ties are as follows:

PATTERN D. — An open-ended tie with diagonal stripes and conventional cut but considerably narrower in width.

PATTERN E1. — A straight-cut tie of narrow width throughout its length with square cut ends and horizontal stripes.

These ties are in terylene and can be ordered from Association H.Q., price 8/- each, post free.

When ordering, it will be sufficient to refer to them as Pattern 'D' or Pattern 'E1.'

10th Regiment, Hounslow

R.H.Q. The Regiment wish Major (T.O.T.) Freddie Cox and Major (Tfc.) Tommy Thomas all the very best in their retirement from the Corps. Major Cox, who has been O.C. Signal Troop (Works), Shoeburyness, for the past six years, will be missed by all ranks, but our loss is a gain by SX Branch, Dusseldorf, where he goes as an R.O.III. Tommy Thomas returns to Cheltenham, where he has decided to settle.



Mr. Arthur Baker after presentation of the Imperial Service Medal

Signal Troop (Works) Shoeburyness. The Commanding Officer, during his monthly visit, presented the Imperial Service Medal to Mr. Arthur Baker for his loyalty and long period of service to the Corps. Arthur Baker was first employed on the ranges at Shoeburyness in 1921, and, except for one short break during the war worked there continuously for 44 years. It was during that year that R.E. Signals became responsible for range communications and took over from the Post Office. The routes at that time had been constructed from old 40lb. bronze, salvaged from World War I, a far cry from the present multicore plastic cables and automatic exchange with two satellite levels.

1 Squadron. As anticipated in our last WIRE notes, July was to be a somewhat hectic month for the Regiment and, in particular, 1 Squadron.

The State Visit of the President of Chile provided one or two anxious moments on his arrival at Victoria Station, but all went well, and even the weather was kind to us on that day.

G3 NOT, the Regiment's amateur radio station, has been touring during this month with recruiting displays at the county shows at Dagenham, the Royal Norfolk Show and Lower Beeding. Captain Scott, Staff Sergeant Davies and Sergeant Tanner have done an excellent job in re-designing our recruiting booth and tackling the problem of putting over the "appeal of Service life" to would-be recruits. At the moment, G3 NOT is with the Eastern Command Cadet Demonstration Team at Crowborough, and will be working from Pirbright and St. Martin's Plain from time to time.

Our Linemen and Comcen Operators have been away from Hounslow for virtually the whole month, assisting at the Royal Tournament, the International Horse Show at White City, and at Stoney Castle Camp, with the A.C.F. and C.C.F. summer camp.

Canoeing. The Canoe Club made a modest start this season. We inherited two canvas canoes from 605 Troop and have since bought a new fibreglass craft with a grant from the Nuffield Trust. Unfortunately, we have no experts in this sport, so O.R.Q.M.S. Singer and his small band of canoeists spend their time slowly acquiring experience on the River Thames. The club has spent one week-end paddling from Abingdon to Wallingford, and is about to embark on a more ambitious programme of week-end canoeing and camping—this a joint venture with the local W.R.A.C. Detachment.

Personal

Marriages.—Signalman A. M. Lobban, on 26th June, 1965, to Patricia Ann Innes, at the Methodist Church, Stratton St. Margarets; Signalman T. J. Nelson, on 17th July, 1965, to Ann Diana Wacker, at Park Presbytarian Church, Middlesbrough; Lance-Corporal D. A. Smith, on 21st July, 1965, to Jennifer Shirley Arnold, at Bournemouth Register Office.

Births.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. W. A. Coltman, a daughter, Pamela Ann, on 1st August, 1965, at Kingston-on-Thames Hospital.

Senior Departures.—Staff Sergeant T. G. Hill, to 28th Regiment, B.A.O.R., on 9th July; Sergeant P. R. Hardman, to 235 Squadron, Malta, on 10th July.

For Older Comrades

Some Thoughts, some Memories and Reflections on a Last Journey

BY EX-W.O.II E. A. STRUTT, ROYAL SIGNALS, 1929-1965, AND LATE OF THE ARMY INFORMATION CENTRE, JERSEY.

The last official journey of an Army career

"And may the boat that takes you over sink to the bottom of the pani Sahib." I cannot think of any reason why I should quote this malediction. I am on a boat, however, the s.s. *Sarnia*, on the last official journey of my Army career. I am taking "the cheapest and most direct route" from Jersey to the R.A.C. Depot, Bovington Camp, where I am to be de-kitted and discharged after half a lifetime in Royal Signals. It is a rough crossing but I am quite comfortable. For seven hours I can relax. Perhaps it would have been more fitting had I travelled to Catterick for release but who at 11th Regiment would know me? Over fifteen years detached from the Corps, as Army Recruiter, Channel Islands! No! the R.A.C. Depot will serve my purpose. Besides, the choice is not mine. In my role as Recruiter I am attached to R.A.C. Depot for all administrative purposes.

Memories come flooding back

As the *Sarnia* proceeds I look back over the years—events and people. Long forgotten names come flooding back. That horrible winter of 1928-9 when I first wore breeches, puttees and spurs. No. 4 Squad, Depot Battalion, Corporal "Dixie" Dean in charge of eighteen young soldiers. Three months "square bashing." I was "Stick man" and I knew that I did not deserve the honour. Keenlyside, Stillwell, "Jumbo" Charlton, good fellows all. Where are they now?

How did we enjoy ourselves in those days? No radio or TV in the barrack rooms! We were happy enough. Discharge by purchase was rare. Ten shillings a week—spending money! One and six for a return ticket to Darlington. Cigs—ten for 4d. (Woodbines). We were very fit and usually hungry. We survived on Army rations until pay day. On this big day of the week long queues formed in Kemmel Lines Y.M.C.A. There was a "Wet Canteen" for beer drinkers but the habitues were certainly not young soldiers—we gradually learned to appreciate beer in the pubs round the Market Squares in Richmond and Darlington. It was an acquired taste. I'll say we were happy. We appreciated the material things because such things were beyond our means.

Shouting, jeering, cheering between rounds

I suppose we spent about an hour a day cleaning and polishing. Discipline was strict but humane. We accepted it and were better for it—even Corporal Stickley's. "I can't give you anything but love baby"—we sang and "Ship struck a rock cake." Lads from the Mounted Wing (there were horses in Royal Signals) sang "We've been in the saddle for hours and hours . . . ." The Boxing Arena (Blood Tub) saw many exciting contests. Shouting, cheering, jeering and clapping took place between rounds. Silence during the bout. The Macworth Trophy for Athletics and Cross-Country Running—"F" (Boys) Company usually the winners—led by Tommy Blades who, even then, had long service stripes from cuff to elbow. (How proud we were to sport that first service stripe after two years). "Ginger" Hutty the outstanding runner of those days liked a pork pie before the start! Sandes Home, near the Camp Centre, an ambitious project, was being built with its own cinema attached.

Back again in 'Don' Company

The s.s. *Sarnia* having berthed in Guernsey has resumed its voyage. Alderney is visible to starboard . . . but I am back again in Don Company trying hard to master the intricies of wireless as taught by a civilian instructor who travelled daily from Darlington. I got on better with line instruments—the Tele 110, the DMK 111 and the Fullerphone.

I qualified as an Instrument Mechanic Class III and got my first posting to A.F.V. Signals, Tidworth. M.B. M.C. sets were being fitted in tanks and we formed in Tank Signal Sections, one section to each Battalion of the Royal Tank Corps. By the summer of 1930 I was back in Catterick on attachment to 4th Battalion R.T.C. A happy Section, about twenty strong, with Lieutenant Severin as O.C.—"Ginger" Munn and "Snaky" Butler, Section Corporals. Back to Tidworth at the end of the training season—and preparation for draft. (But let my memories halt for the moment . . . the *Sarnia* gives a blast on her siren!)

Jimmy takes the High Road

Royal Signals help out with the 1965 Welbeck College C.C.F. Camp in Scotland

By Lieutenant Kelvin Kent

Many Incidents

A DAWN execution; a three-tonner over a mountain crag; the administration sergeant in hospital after an accident with an antenna; medical evacuation from obscure locations, and the undreamt of spectacle of a Foreman of Signals actually carrying an A41 set into a company attack in the early hours! These were but isolated incidents in the hectic Welbeck College C.C.F. Exercise "Scotch Mist," held in the Higlands near Loch Tay between 23rd and 26th July this year.

Communications made the plan possible

In all, nineteen Royal Signals personnel from the School of Signals and 8th Regiment were engaged for a week in assisting Welbeck College C.C.F., where possible, in the running of their annual camp at Cultybraggen. Most of the help given was the supplying of HF and VHF communications for the purpose of controlling the 72 hour escape and evasion-type of exercise. This took the form of a self-contained "irregular" platoon moving on foot across a large area of mountainous country being patrolled by three platoons of a home-based company. The culmination, after two hard days, was a night attack on the company position, followed by a dawn counter-attack on the "irregular" position.

The rather comprehensive communications facilities made possible the complete and successful execution of the ambitious programme preplanned by the Commanding Officer of the Contingent, Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. W. Barker Harland, M.B.E., M.C., T.D.

The Signals detachment was under overall command of Captain Doug Genders, with Lieutenants Bob Brewis and Kelvin Kent in charge of the company and "irregular" platoon communications respectively.



"Some of the Catterick contingent"



'Jimmy' (Signalman Freeburn) was there

All three helped as DS for the exercise, together with Foreman Roy Morris, whose main task was trying to keep track of equipment moving in all directions and the running-repair of waterlogged radio sets and the odd transister. It was quite amazing to see how much was returned in one piece, although the loss of a cable drum by the "irregulars" still remains a mystery, in spite of Signalman Ron Mooney's reply that it had not been left at the camp site. Maybe it was one of those mortar bombs after all!

Hard work and cheerfulness

Apart from communications themselves, a lot of work was put in by the detachment of drivers from 8th Regiment and the School of Signals, who were on call all the time and covered vast mileages over difficult terrain. The cheerfulness of Lance-Corporal Johnson's face at 04.00 hours had to be seen to be believed, and the only mishap during the whole period up there was when a 3-ton vehicle disappeared over the top of a cliff two miles away from where it should have been. It is not believed, however that Signalman "Taffy" Hughes did this sort of thing for a living in "Civvy Street."

A D11 link was arranged to work back to Catterick, with Corporal Michael Godfrey in charge. This created a lot of interest.

It went to his head!

C.S.O., NORCO, paid us a visit and appeared to be pleased with what was going on. However, had he stayed a little longer, and seen the speed at which Sergeant Alan Casey was erecting a 27ft. mast, he might have been convinced that it had gone to his head (Sergeant Casey's, that is!)—poor chap, those five stitches must have been painful.

Appalling weather but all enjoyed themselves

The exercise itself was an unqualified success, and although the weather was appalling throughout, everyone enjoyed themselves and we all learnt a great deal. Indeed, it was most encouraging to find such an interest shown and high standard maintained by the cadet operators. They performed a hard job in difficult conditions (especially the "irregular" platoon), but not once did their communications fail them badly, and despite the fact that at times they were practically sweating blood, their morale remained high. Maybe this was due to the calmness and efficiency of the Cadet Signal Sergeant. After all, you cannot get blood out of a Stone!

(*The rumour that has reached* THE WIRE *that Sergeant Casey has been put up for a Mention-in-Despatches is, in fact, not true.—Editor*)

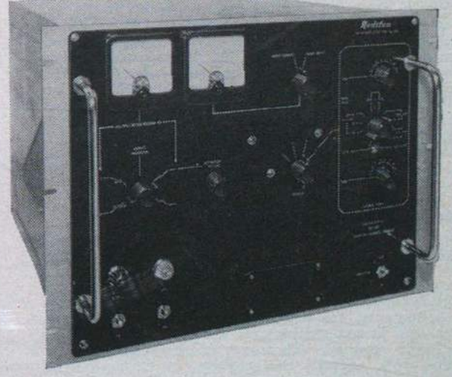
Four Weeks' Rigorous Training on Norwegian Ice Cap

Included in the party of 19, found from the three Services for this expedition, is Lieutenant J. H. Lowe of the Corps. We wish him luck and hope he may have a story for THE WIRE in due course.



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FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

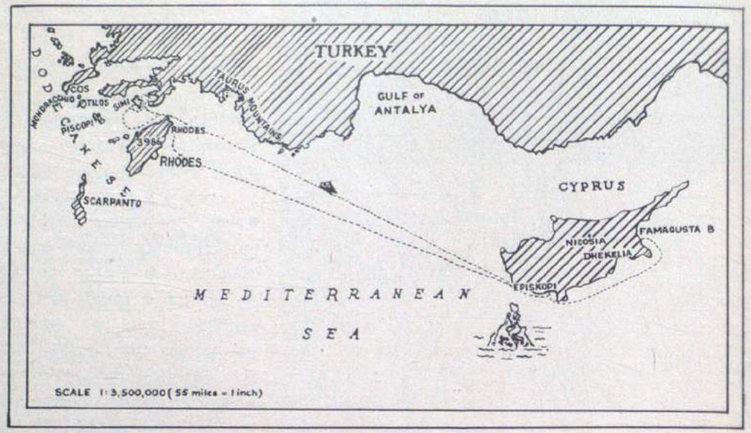
Reports from the Outposts

In the Tracks of History

Cruising to the Dodecanese Islands

That well-known sailing enthusiast, Major Freddy Lockwood, Captains H. Scott and J. M. Newman, Staff Sergeant F. M. Orr and Sergeant J. Radford discover history in these remote islands.

Another story in our series "Farway Places — unusual jobs."



The voyage of the good ship "Natanis."

A hurried departure

SKIPPERED by Major Freddie Lockwood, the party made a hurried departure from Famagusta in order to get well out to sea to beat an unfavourable meteorological forecast given by R.A.F. Episkopi. As the time available for the cruise was somewhat limited, the possibility of having to wait in harbour for more favourable conditions was out of the question. This wise decision enabled us to get well clear of the harbour before the predicted depression reached us. The first two days were therefore by no means what one might expect of the Mediterranean at this time of year; strong head winds and rising seas made progress rather slow. Added to this, the stowage problem had to be tackled under difficult conditions owing to the hasty departure.

The idignity of curried stew poured on his head

On the third day the southern coast of Cyprus was cleared with Paphos receding into the distance as a course was set for the island of Rhodes, some 250 miles to the north-west. Conditions improved rapidly with seas no longer breaking over the deck to catch the unwary hand during sail changes. With the sunshine spirits rose, and the preparation of food in the tiny galley was done in comparative ease, the agility of an acrobat being no longer required. There was one occasion when our most skilful cook endured the indignity of having curried stew and then rice pudding poured on his head as meals were being handed up on deck.

Hove to

By now, all were thoroughly accustomed to the boat and a settled routine of watch-keeping was possible. For those of us not familiar with the art of navigation, there were opportunities to try their skill with the sextant and the RDF set. We were now making up our lost time and hopes were rising at the prospect of making landfall in two and a half days. However, these hopes were dashed by a sudden squall which came upon us by night as we were nearing Rhodes. Speedy setting of the stormsail and reefing down of the mainsail enabled us to heave-to and ride out a force seven wind with the minimum of discomfort from the rather menacing seas. Fortunately, the storm subsided as suddenly as it had come upon us and, apart from a few cuts and bruises, we were none the worse.

Rhodes and a flurry of officials

The dim outline of Rhodes was picked up at a point within five miles of the set course, which was close to the United States ship which is permanently anchored offshore to transmit the "Voice of America" programmes. After a few hours we entered the historic harbour of Rhodes to be met by a flurry of officials who were kind enough to allot us a berth normally reserved for yachts in the millionaire class. We were quick to indulge ourselves in the excellent quayside restaurants, dressed in clothes previously stowed in polythene bags, and now reckoned ourselves indistinguishable from those who had come to Rhodes by more sophisticated means.

We allowed ourselves two days' sightseeing, which was most rewarding. The ancient city itself has a continuous history of some 4,000 years, and traces of its occupation by Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Turks, Crusaders, Venetians, Genoese and Italians could be seen. Its capture from the Germans by the British at the closing stages of the last war provided the opportunity for the island's restoration to Greece after a thousand years.

Welcomed by the monastery bells

After this welcome digression, we slipped our moorings and headed into the eastern Aegean, under the shadow of the snow-capped mountains of Turkish Anatolia. Within a few hours a vista of Greek islands lay before us. Tilos, Cos and Simi were amongst the larger ones which could be picked out as we made for the Gulf of Doris. We decided to explore Simi, a rugged, mountainous and largely barren island, and put into the delightful, enclosed natural harbour of Panormittis, which is dominated by a twelfth century monastery. On approach we were greeted by ringing of the monastery bells, which is the islanders' traditional welcome to strangers. This was no perfunctory affair, but a full peal lasting some five minutes. The abbot invited us to see the church, which contained many interesting carvings and icons, some of which were the gifts of various Czars of Russia.

We found a memorial on the quay to the Abbot, who was shot by the Germans in 1944 for operating a No. 19 set to assist 234 Infantry Brigade during operations to capture the Dodecanese.

A solar sea water distillation plant

On the following day we reluctantly left this idyllic harbour, again to the sound of the monastery bells, and within six hours were entering Port Symi, an attractive town rising steeply in terraces around the head of a mountainous cove. Many of the picturesque houses were found to be derelict, due to a decline in the population from 7,000 to less than 2,000 in the last 20 years, apparently caused by a depression in the sponge trade and the lack of fresh water. The first persons we met on going ashore were two American engineers who run a solar sea water distillation plant on behalf of the World Church Mission of St. Paul, Minnesota. Without this assistance the plight of the islanders would be desperate. The exploits of British and Greek troops against Italians and Germans in the last war are commemorated by a prominent memorial on the quayside.

In the shadow of the towering Taurus

After a dawn departure we decided to explore the Turkish coast before returning to Rhodes for supplies and the homeward journey. This section of the coast rises steeply from the sea with occasional sheltered anchorages which, judging from the ruined forts, had been the scene of many conflicts in the turbulent days of Christian and Saracen struggles. As we sailed south-eastward we were in the shadow of the towering Taurus mountains, which rise to 12,000ft.; our last sight of land being the former Italian island of Castelorizo.

Two migrating swallows joined us for a couple of days and we fed them on various insects we discovered we had picked up at our ports of call. One of the birds flew away several hours before we sighted land, proving its navigational superiority, whilst the other, regrettably expired in the fug in the fo'c'sle and was accorded a reverent disposal.

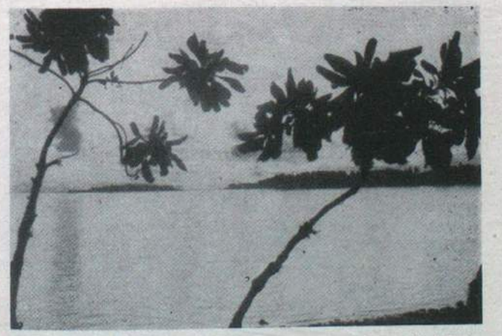
Back to Paphos

Gentle breezes took us back to Paphos, the point on the south-west of Cyprus we had left ten days before. Another 36 hours and **Natanis** was safely berthed at Famagusta beside **Cito.** On the following day we went about our business in H.Q., Royal Signals, and 259 Squadron.

A Corps Technician goes to Gan Island— and gives The Wire his story

By W.O.II (Tech.) J. D. Smethhurst

THIS is a short article by a member of 30th Regiment's other travelling group, the world-wide installation team, who are presently working in Aden, have just been to Gan Island and have Hong Kong, Singapore, and more of Aden to come.



Looking across the Lagoon at the next island which is called Fedu. (Pronounced Faydoo)

An apprehensive departure

An installation to be done in Gan. My wife is always horrified at the prospect of an away job, but this time we were horrified together.

Gan.—An immediate idea of corrugated iron, corrugated sand and the inevitable circle of vultures. Then came the impressions of others: "It's grim. What did you do wrong?" and, "take the paludrin after each meal without fail—not one tablet, mind—take the whole bottle." Then I came across an aerial photograph which was glorious in its simplicity; just a lump of what appeared to be rock.

The day arrived when Signalman Olive (ex-apprentice, Harrogate) and I headed for R.A.F., Lyneham, and the East. We settled ourselves inside a Britannia of R.A.F. Transport Command, along with thirteen other passengers and several thousands of pounds of air freight, or I should say "air fright," because I thought that this aeroplane was never going to lift off, but it did, and a wonderfully comfortable flight ensued—Akrotiri, Bahrein, and then Gan.

We landed at 24.00 hours. "Good evening, and welcome to Gan," said the Movements Officer, with a sunburnt mirthless grin. "Everything may safely be left in the cabin, less paperbacks and periodicals." "Ay, Ay," thought I, "this is where it all begins." Olive prodded me to my feet and out we stepped into a temperature of 85°F. and a tepid rain shower.

Away we went to the Transit Lounge, and there, hand outstretched just like Dr. Livingstone, stood Staff Sergeant W. K. L. Bell (ex-Boy, February, 1946, intake). After that we were home and fairly dry.

Staff Bell runs a Troop of nine, which does a terrific job in Gan. The Troop is detached from 19th Regiment in Singapore, and although 2,000-odd miles of sea water separate the Troop from the Regiment, R.H.Q. make full use of Transport Command to visit frequently, and thus keep the garrison in the picture.

A story-book tropical isle

Gan is beautiful—and I say this with no reservation. It is a story-book tropical isle, complete with palms drooping listlessly over a pink and white coral beach, a sea of azure and aquamarine blue and, of course, a surf-washed reef. Gone are the days of barren earth. Now all is covered by a mantle of carefully cultivated vegetation, exactly the same as grass. Inland, palms have been precisely arranged, to appear as if they are growing at random, in cool, shady clumps.

To back up the attraction of the island itself, there is a variety of sports and hobbies to pursue. The social life is taken care of at a part of the island known at Clubland. This is a collection of buildings situated out of harm's way at one end of the runway. Regarding sport, the thing which impressed me was the floodlighting facility available for the basketball and tennis courts.

Nearest land 600 miles away

Of course, the reputation of Gan is based on a feeling of loneliness. After a short period on the island it is clear that your world is about two miles long and half-a-mile wide, and that the nearest land mass is 600 miles away.

This feeling of isolation highlights the arrival of any aircraft on Gan. For instance, there was always a good turn-out, even to watch the local Shackleton return from a short training flight.

The event of the week was the arrival of a British Eagle Britannia, complete with two air hostesses. These young ladies always called at the local store, and at this time the place was crowded out with shoppers, all breathing hard and taking anything up to 30 minutes to decide between 20 this or 20 that and a box of matches. These girls are always glamorous and it was a pleasure to smoke so much . . .

"Sputnik-spotting"

I was amused at first to find Mess members solemnly making their way to the beach after dinner to sit and spot "Sputniks." All this, complete with after-dinner coffee. But spotting is taken seriously, and there's a sort of league table: "Gemini confirmed, Mariner II unconfirmed," and that type of thing. Soon I was one of the spotters, and I looked forward to see something sail across the heavens at about 7 p.m. each evening. "It's on time tonight, Jock." "Yes, but it's on a different course."



Dhonis at anchor

As time went on and the installation was completed, time hung rather heavily. One day three of us sat on the beach, Jock Bell, Brian Dobinson and myself. Here I must introduce Brian Dobinson: he is the Postal Unit Sergeant and, in fact, runs B.F.P.O. 180. Being a Sapper, Jock and I referred to him as "Dad." We took no notice of his advice, however. If we had taken it, neither Jock nor I would have been able to untie ourselves for days.

An addition to the Corps Yacht Club?

Anyway, there we sat on the beach, observing the stunts of the blokes in the punts—so to speak. Eventually we decided that we would build a boat out of a packing case. That's where the installation selector rack came in. This was great fun. We caulked the case with beeswax and tarred spunyarn, built a prow on the front end, and constructed a rudder for the back end out of bits of packing case. The rudder was controlled with a length of D10.

Naturally, B. Dobinson was at loggerheads with us over a name for the boat. He wanted to call it "Sapper II" or "Chatham" or something. Eventually we compromised with "Certa Cito" and "Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense" painted on side by side. Unfortunately, the whole was marred by the legends "handle with care," "use no hooks" and so forth.

The craft was launched eventually by members of the Troop one carefree Saturday night. I am told that the prow was the first thing to snap off. After that it was very plain sailing.

And so we say farewell

So the time came for us to leave the Island of Gan. Olive came home on the Comet flight and I followed later in a good old Britannia. This time I was accompanied by four of the largest Bristol turbo-prop engines that you could ever meet. "We can't possibly lift off this time," I thought. But, as usual, we did, and arrived at Lyneham full of in-flight food and amazement.

That was that. A quick drive home through the rain-soaked greenery of an English summer to the bosom of my family. "Who's that, Mummy?" asked our youngest, before I flashed him his present from Singapore. "Oh, it must be Dad." It was good to be home.

Mission to Gong Kedak

Another one of the Corps' unusual jobs! Operations Troop of the 19th Regiment are despatched to a remote part of Malaysia to help re-activate a disused runway in the jungle for R.A.F. use.

When the Troop first heard that they were going on detachment to Gong Kedak the immediate reaction was, "Where is it?" Apart from the higher authorities no one had ever heard of it. After a joint map reading session it was eventually discovered as a small dot on the north-east coast of Malaya.

There now commenced the usual flurry of activity that goes with preparation for any detachment; checking troop stores, arranging collection of barbed wire and Far East Air Force mobility packs, lectures on security and hygiene, issue of palludrine tablets and last but not least ensuring documentation went smoothly. For the first week in the field we would be entirely independent and responsible for own security, hence the barbed wire and mobility packs.

By the evening of the 7th April all the stores had been packed, and all was transferred to the local Air Movements for loading, and an early start the following morning.

Over virgin jungles

At 07.15 hours next morning the sun had already cleared the night mist from the ground and its rays had penetrated to where our troop was paraded in front of the stores to draw arms and ammunition prior to travelling to Air Movements for emplaning. On arrival at the airport, our Beverley was not quite ready due to being overweight. This problem was finally solved by leaving our trailer and five miles of cable behind. We eventually boarded the aircraft and after the normal preflight instructions by the Air-Quartermaster, taxied on to the runway at approximately 09.00 hours and were on course for Gong Kedak.

After two hours of flying over virgin jungles we started to descend to the runway at Gong Kedak. First impressions were that it was just a runway in a jungle clearing and very, very hot. Nothing daunted, however, we set to work to unload the aircraft while Major P. D. Tidey (O.C. 2 Squadron) set off to mark out the camp area or possibly catch a tiger. We had previously been wondering how to move the stores from the aircraft to the camp area but to our delight the R.A.F. came to the rescue. It seemed that previous to our arrival a detachment from 5001 Squadron R.A.F. had arrived bringing transport with them and they willingly lent us two 3-tonners to help move all our equipment.

When the aircraft had been unloaded and all stores moved to the camp area we had a break, which gave us a chance to look around. Apparently during the war a Japanese airfield had been constructed here but had since broken up. Across this a new runway had been built by the R.A.F. The runway was surrounded on three sides by mountains and on the other jungle. After a break Sergeant Irvine split the troop into small working parties and everyone pitched in to build the camp site, including Major Tidey and Lieutenant Hampson, the O.C. Troop. It seemed to everyone present that the camp went up in record time. Every member of the troop had equipped himself with sun-glasses and this proved to be very forsighted since, by the middle of the afternoon, the glare was terrific and so was the heat. Even members of the troop who had been in the Far East over two years and had travelled on detachment all over Malaya, Thailand and Borneo agreed that it had never been as hot and by the end of the afternoon all had their shirts on to protect against excessive sunburn. In the meantime, whilst everyone was working, our two cooks—Lance-Corporal Lyon and Signalman Hogan—commenced to get a meal and a hot cup of tea ready and by the time work was finished and we all had a wash we were more than ready for eats. It would be usual at this point to give some standard joke about the cooking but unfortunately the food tasted excellent. After tea, and mindful of the fact that we were responsible for our own security, a guard was detailed and we settled down for a rest and a game of cards. This consisted mainly of learning the finer points of bridge from the O.C. Squadron.

Things that move in the night

Early the next morning we were awakened by some interesting stories from the guards; it seemed that during the night Signalman Gray swore blind that he had seen a light moving up and down over the far side of the runway and also other members of the guard had heard drums beating. We have still had no explanation of these occurences. After a good breakfast Sergeant Irvine and myself set out to check the cable ducts on both sides of the runway and locations of various equipment sites whilst the remainder of the troop carried on finishing the site. The latter included erecting showers and digging rain trenches around the tents. Major Tidey and Lieutenant Hampson went off to the nearest village to make arrangements for ice and bottles of lemonade, coca-cola, etc.

On the 10th Sergeant Irvine and Lance-Corporal Moorhouse commenced to erect and test out our switchboard whilst the line detachment which consisted of Lance-Corporal Hughes, Signalmen Flintham, Long Coyle, Goodfellow and myself started to lay lines.

This went on daily and was counterbalanced somewhat by bridge every evening, sustained by the odd can of beer or two. By the end of the first week we had achieved a network of cables and a flourishing bridge and whist club. During one of the afternoons we were able to fit in a couple of hours swimming. The beach where we went was one of the best I have ever seen with miles of golden sands shaded in most parts by luxuriously foliaged palm trees. The sea was a glorious dark blue and abounded with myriads of brightly coloured fish.

On the 12th, the main party of R.A.F. personnel arrived and characteristically enough the first rain fell at the same time. By rain, of course, is meant that the skies just opened up and let everything go at once. The R.A.F. spent an extremely energetic time erecting tents in between deluges.

Eventually, personnel of the troop began to drift away back to Singapore and "civilisation." Amongst the first to leave were our two cooks who had done an extremely good job and showed that the "Hairies" can turn their hand to anything successfully. As the days slipped behind us more R.A.F. personnel arrived, more lines were laid and eventually the airfield was ready for the R.A.F. Squadron to arrive. Soon our task was completed and except for leaving a maintenance/emergency detachment in location we were compelled to finally wind up the bridge club and return to our Regiment.

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs! Why not send us your story?

Nijmegen Marches 1965

By Junior Signalman A. J. Smith—
"Lion" Troop, Junior Leaders Regiment

FOR the sixth time in seven years the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Signals sent teams to compete in the four days' March at Nijmegen in Holland.

We departed from Denbury Camp at 08.30 hours Saturday, 24th July, in a somewhat ancient bus with Major Joyner and C.S.M.I. Carpenter in charge.

At 00.30 hours on Sunday morning, our ferry departed from Dover docks on the way to Ostend. For most of the four hours' journey across the English Channel we were asleep.

At Ostend we were the last off the ferry, but first through the Customs. A luxury coach was waiting for us outside, which took us to the Belgium-Holland border. Here we had our first cup of continental coffee. It was about 12.30 hours when the bus arrived at the Nijmegen camp. C.S.M.I. Carpenter soon found out which tent was to be our home for the week. After settling in, kit had to be done for the Flag Parade the next day, as we were all on it this year.

Unfortunate affair with a large puddle

At 16.30 hours a Dutch army truck took us to a football stadium. Twelve National Anthems were played by a Dutch band; as each country's National Anthem was played that country's flag was broken and we all stood up. After the flag ceremony the different military bands, including British and Canadian, gave a short performance during which time the representative contingents were formed up round the arena for the march past. Down in front of our stand was a lake-sized puddle. The contingents were formed up alphabetically and we were all wondering who was going to get the "puddle position." Of course, it had to be us, and Major Joyner halted us right in the middle. A burst of laughter came from the crowd as mud splashed all over our best uniforms and those of the adjacent teams.



Nijmegen marches 1965. Slim Squadron Team

Some "took the micky" out of us

At 03.00 hours Tuesday morning we were awakened by the C.S.M.I. standing over us in shorts. When we were ready we were marched to the truck which took us to the start of the first day's march. During the first day most of the other teams taking part laughed and took the micky out of us, because of our slow pace. Nevertheless we had no blisters, unlike most of those who had rushed past us earlier in the day. That night we slept soundly.

We meet up with the American Rangers

Wednesday we were awakened at 03.00 once again by the C.S.M.I. in his shorts and vest, and we set off from the start soon after 05.00 hours. Despite the early start there were many young people out to cheer us on. Some of the girls were particularly enthusiastic. We found that hardly any of the other teams made fun of our slow pace. Just after the first check point we caught up with the U.S.A. army team called The Rangers. We soon learnt some of their songs and put our own words to them. At the second check point one of the Rangers asked if we called our team leader "Baldy." We thought this amusing but it made C.S.M.I. Carpenter grab his walking stick and chase after one of the Welsh members of our team. We left the Rangers at the check point and finished the 40 km. march by 13.30 hours.

Raw bacon sandwiches and, of course, rain

The third day we were awakened in the usual manner at 05.30 hours. After collecting our breakfast and dinner, which consisted or raw bacon and cheese sandwiches and honey cakes, we boarded our transport and were driven to the start. Within the first hour of marching it began raining and never stopped until late that afternoon. Because of the rain we never stopped long at any rest place and the third day, usually a long tired one with several steep hills, proved even quicker than the first two. It was as pleasant as ever, despite our damp clothes, to be sprayed with scent by the Boldoot girls advertising this particular scent, and to receive a free handout of chewing gum.

First British team in

On Friday 03.00 hours we awoke to find that it was raining heavier than ever. We waited until it eased off before we started on our fourth and final day's march. Today we felt was our day, and we overtook our other Regimental team from Monty Squadron whilst they were drinking coffee outside a cafe. Today we were going to finish before them for a change. We quickened our pace until we reached the pontoon bridge at Cuujk where we were told that we were the second team to cross it and that the first team was no more than 200 yards in front. On the other side of the river we stopped at a cafe and celebrated. While celebrating three teams went past us. Just outside the cafe we gave a "sweaty" eyes right to an English Brigadier, and carried on marching. Later on we soon regained our place of second. At the changing place we were the first British team to check in on the 40 km. route. The Montgomery team arrived about 20 minutes after us. Here we changed for the march past and waited for over an hour for enough British teams to arrive so that there were enough to build up the British party for the final march into Nijmegen. Both of our Junior Leaders Regimental teams were to march in together.

11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Not to be outdone by 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment's report on the ranks of their visitors during mid-April to mid-May, we can now boast that in a five-day period the visitors to the Regiment included two Generals and a Major-General.

On 2nd July, the pass-off parade of Nos. 6 and 7 Troops was taken by the Adjutant-General, General Sir Reginald Hewitson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. At the prizegiving, after the parade, he addressed a large gathering of parents, in which he spoke in most glowing terms of the work of the Corps and, in particular, how impressed he had been with Signal Regiments during his recent tour in B.A.O.R. The mothers and fathers present were greatly reassured by his words. Before leaving, the Adjutant-General spent forty minutes in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The Corps Band—on tape

A new innovation in the Regiment is the new drill aid—a high quality tape recorder and loudspeakers, providing an "Instant Corps Band." Its value is already proved.

The Corps Band, which is normally present at all passing-off parades, was not available when Nos. 4 and 5 Troops passed off at the end of the month. One Squadron turned to the "Instant Corps Band" and we used taped music for the first time on a pass-off parade.

There were doubts, as the time drew near, about the tape recorder's reliability (there was talk of putting an officer in charge of the operating). On the day, after endless practice, Staff Sergeant Gilder was in charge his bags packed and car engine running.

The whole operation went smoothly and without a hitch. In fact, the Inspecting Officer spent most of the parade trying to find the band! There are thoughts—and only thoughts—of putting words of command on tape as well, so that the parade commander merely mimes the words. There are endless possibilities . . . .

Instructional Wing have just completed the first double Staff Sergeants' Course and feel (having finished the forty reports) that their block leave is well deserved.

Best Recruit—pass-off, 2nd July, 1965



Signalman W. D. Mackay

Signalman W. D. Mackay comes from a Service family—his father is in the R.A.F. He has travelled to Germany, the Middle and Far East. Sport takes up most of his spare time. He played water polo for the R.A.F. at Acklington and had a vacational job as lifeguard in Tripoli (he holds the R.L.S.S. bronze medallion for life-saving). On his return to U.K. he took up gliding and now has the A. & B. endorsements to the Gliding Certificate. He also takes an interest in judo and skin-diving.

Best Recruit — pass-off, 16th July, 1965.



Signalman P. V. H. Brinsden

Signalman P. V. Brinsden, who lives at West Malling, Kent, was the best recruit on the pass-out on 16th July, 1965.

He joined the Corps at Cambridge Recruiting Office on 10th May, 1965, in order to become a technician. His father is serving in the R.A.F. and Signalman Brinsden has already travelled abroad a great deal.

His main sports are swimming and athletics, and radio model construction is his favourite hobby.



THE PENNINE WALKERS

Main party arriving at Camp Site in Keld. (*Left to right*) Signalmen McIntyre, Sharp, Joyce, Corporal Davies, W.O.I Taylor

Ten Young Soldiers walk 160 miles along Penine Way

The suggestion that the Potential Officer Troop should attempt part of the Pennine Walk was put to the Commanding Officer early in April, and, with his enthusiastic agreement, plans were made for a ten-day exercise. The task was to reach as far northwards as possible in the time given, at the same time carrying out a detailed recce along the route, marking up a map, noting the walk's suitability for future expeditions and selecting camp sites, etc.

The load on their backs

The party, which consisted of one Warrant Officer and ten O.R.s 1, was entirely self-supporting, carrying its own food, cookers, fuel, bedding and tentage. The load for each man was 30 to 34lb. On the march, the party was split into two sections of five, each section taking it in turn to move off an hour earlier than the other and forging ahead to the selected area to recce the camp site. The other section making a slower journey, collecting information for the final report. Each day the section leader was changed to give everyone the experience of leading and map-reading in difficult country.

The date chosen for the start of the exercise was 1st June, and this day saw us camped at Edale, Derbyshire, testing our equipment and viewing with interest the slopes above us leading to Kinder Scout, our first objective.

Severe Country

We set off on 2nd June, and in the next three days covered some very severe country indeed, including as it did, not only Kinder Scout, but Bleaklow, Black Moss, White Moss, and many other peaks. The ground was peat bog laced with gullies, the track non-existent and compass a vital necessity. This stage of the walk ended at the reservoir near Keighley, covered over 50 miles and crossed four county boundaries.

The next two days saw, to our relief, some easier country and everyone took the opportunity on the journey to Malham Cove to nurse aching shoulders and feet. A disturbed night at the cove, due to the antics of some teenage campers, did nothing to improve our efficiency, or tempers, and it was with relief that we turned our backs on Malham the following morning and continued our journey.

Magnificent Panorama from the Great Shuner

The trek northwards from Malham was probably the most varied an enjoyable of the whole walk. Horton, Thwaite, Hawes and Keld, small towns nestling in the dales were reached by way of a series of great ridges and peaks. The weather was excellent, with the exception of a brief storm which overtook us high up on Dodd Fell and made everyone realise just how well it is to be prepared for this type of country. Brief the storm was, and we continued our journey in fine clear conditions. None of us will forget the magnificent panorama from Great Shuner or the climb down into the Swaledale.

The final stage, from Keld to Middleton-in-Teesdale, was in some ways an anti-climax, passing, as it did, through very rough and comparatively uninteresting country, so it was in high spirits that we descended the last hill to Middleton railway



THE PENNINE WALKERS

Starting the ascent to Stonesdale Moor. *Left to right:* Lance-Corporal Farey, Signalmen Baker, Smith, Caple, Halliburton, Haulan

station, to greet the smiling face of Corporal Smart, our driver, drink a long and welcome pint, and travel back to Catterick with the satisfaction of a task well done.

We had travelled an estimated 160 miles along the top of England's spine (not too many of those miles were due to faulty map-reading, I am happy to say). No one had dropped out or lagged, some of us probably came back with a new set of values. Certainly it was an experience none of us will forget and one which will stand us in good stead in the future.

Damp Camp at Settle

RECRUITS joining at Catterick are posted to a pre-training Squadron until they can be absorbed into the normal basic training. During this period a certain amount of adventure training takes place, and a popular item is a five-day camp at Settle.—Editor).

Sun A.W.O.L.

"How many now, Sergeant Atkins?"

"Two more arrived last night sir, making 15 so far, and seven more due this week. We are going to Settle next week. We are not going to start training until we have at least 35 men. Corporal Mills can stay behind to look after the new arrivals while we go and find some sun."

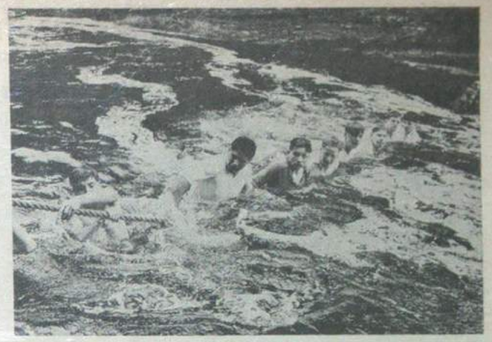
The only sun we found was on the trip out to the camping site. The eating of Lance-Corporal Marsh's first meal and the start of the rain coincided. This did not mar the spirit of the recruits, who were looking forward to a swim in the nearby peaceful river. This peace was somewhat disturbed during the first night, and the 6 30 a.m. dip that had been planned was quickly cancelled. The river had risen 4 feet, and the pool we had planned for the swim was now seething and foaming with nasty undercurrents.

The damp weather cut down our activities slightly, but games of rugby in swimming trunks and boots D.M.S., in the mud, kept most people occupied.

Plenty of excitement and interest

The third day brought milder weather and the two Gold Standard Life Savers, Staff Sergeant Gilder and Sergeant Atkins were more settled about the condition of the river. The torrent had abated as quickly as it had begun, and swimming canoeing and rope river crossing gave the young recruits plenty of excitement and interest.

Two parties were given the task of a "timed" hike. Starting on opposite banks, near the camp site, they were given an hour to move down river to a crossing point—this was a large sewer pipe over the river just below a weir, and to return along the opposite bank. The winning party finished the round trip of five miles in 50 minutes, but this was with the aid of a mobile cement mixer.



SETTLE CAMP

. . . And we only wanted to wash our feet

Nothing daunted—plenty of spirit and enthusiasm

The fourth day was bright, but overcast, and the morning was spent competitively playing rugby, soccer, a spot of archery, tug-of-war, and rounded off with a cross-country run. Nothing daunted, the Troop went on a hike in the afternoon to the Nature Reserve at Malham Tarn. This was thoroughly enjoyed by the recruits, all of whom successfully completed the journey. Only sore feet and a few blisters prevented them going for another hike in the evening! Everyone showed a preference for a social and "compo" hot-dogs in camp.

Rumour had it that the reason for the whole Troop volunteering for picquet duty on the 23.30 to 01.00 stag was, that some young ladies on a camping holiday had been known to take a late night swim. Although there were some red faces most mornings, it was never categorically proved by any of the cadre.

Considering these recruits were straight from civilian life and had done no training at all, they showed spirit and enthusiasm and learnt the first essential ingredient in Army life—the ability to get along with each other and work as a team.



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Down to the River in Ships with 3 Squadron, 14th Regiment



1. **The Nuffield Trust Cruiser, "Mercury I" starts yet another trip to the Thames after spending winter in dry dock.**
2. **Into the river she goes. Has anyone seen Corporal Barton?**
3. **Ah! There he is. "You were supposed to be pushing!!"**
4. **All's well that ends well! Corporal Barton, Signalman Cahill, W.O.II Roberts, W.O.I Evans, Lance-Corporal Fuoco, and Signalman Wright look on as Mr. Prince fits the outboard.**

14th REGIMENT, GLOUCESTER

"Things get quieter during the summer months," someone said. It is difficult to see in what way! The TRC is as always busy and during the past month has continued to receive its full share of visitors. Continuing our policy of selling the Regiment to the civil authorities we have entertained and shown Boddington to official parties representing the Gloucester City Council and the Cheltenham Town Council. We also were very pleased to receive Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., one time Director of Telecommunications, who, whilst he was in the chair, said the words, "Let there be STRAD at Boddington." He was thus able to see the results of that decision.

Escape and Evasion

Our minds are constantly seeking out ways and means to provide variety in the daily round and the latest venture was, in conjunction with No. 25 Army Youth Team, to organise an escape and evasion exercise for the local Youth Clubs. The location was the Forest of Dean and the exercise setting painted a picture of a revolt by the local miners who intelligence told us intended to abduct the youth of the area as hostages for their cause. It had been decided therefore that the local youths should be evacuated, and they were gathered together for briefing.

This presented a perfect target for the local miners to capture them. The "miners" were made up of Regimental personnel who went with transport to two local youth clubs. The youths were forced to board a bus to be transported to the mines. At the mine the freedom fighters had set up an ambush to release the captives. Amidst a flurry of thunderflashes and small arms fire the poor youths, by this time very bewildered, were set free. The start of the exercise, therefore, provided, an excellent atmosphere of what was to come.

The pipeline

The youths having been freed were sent out along the pipeline in groups of four. In the meantime, the freedom fighters changed once more into miners, and went out into the forest to lay ambush to try and recapture the escaping youths. For the next two hours there were sporadic bursts of fire showing that the youths had bumped into their enemy.

Meanwhile the Directing Staff (Captain S. Firth and Second-Lieutenant C. Witt) had got into their Land Rover and driven to the midway point to await the first arrivals. Here there was a cup of coffee and biscuits waiting for them, provided by some delighted young ladies of the Youth Club. During the stop there was a visit by the police, who were wondering what all the firing was about. This, in spite of the fact that the police had been notified, and a trip made to the local police in person by the O.C. of 25 A.Y.T.! Soon some of the captured youths were brought in for "interrogation." This was not rough, but must have been quite frightening for young lads of 15.

The last phase

At around 2 a.m. most of the youths had been through the halfway point, so it was decided that the enemy should withdraw and set up a cordon around the last objective. This was a brick and tile works near Cinderford. It was not long before the first youths started getting "home." To do this they had to get inside the cordon, and go to the caretaker's hut. By this time the standard of night movement was becoming quite good, and quite a number of youths managed it by going right past the brickworks, and then coming in by the back. We soon became wise to this, however, and blocked this means of entry. One group of unfortunates got to the main gate and said, "We have made it." But a voice out of the grass said, "Not quite." It is noteworthy that all the youths made it to the brick works by half past four and it is commendable that none of them gave up or got lost. After all the youths were in, it was just a matter of a declaration for ammunition, return to camp and cleaning of weapons, all in time for an early breakfast and so to bed.

The exercise was a tremendous success. One person in particular stood out, this was Corporal Arscott. He worked very hard—almost too hard! in that he did so well capturing people that he almost stopped the exercise!

The final comment was: "When is the next one?"

The first Regimental Regatta—21st July, 1965

After days of torrential rain we heaved a sigh of relief when Wednesday, 21st July, dawned bright and clear with a steady south-west wind. For that was the day selected for the first ever Regimental Regatta to be held at Upton Warren, near Droitwich.

Staff Sergeant Conway's detachment from 2 Squadron had worked hard to create an atmosphere worthy of the occasion. A smart new hut had been installed on flagstones overlooking the start/finish line, flanked by the Signalling yard arm complete with bright new 'minute balls' and a flagpole from which the Corps flag fluttered bravely. The gravel pit had been re-buoyed and the shallows marked. Bunting fluttered everywhere.

A large marquee housed the Cook Sergeant and his staff ready with morning coffees—lunch (tomato soup, quarter chicken and ham salad and trifle), tea and sandwiches, a well stocked bar and enough tables and chairs, occasional tables and easy chairs and carpets to render the sailing of secondary importance—to non-sailors, of course!

By 10.00 hours all was ready. The officers of the day, Major M. B. Page, R.A.O.C., ably assisted by Captain Simon Firth and Corporal Lambie of the Glosters (all experienced helmsmen) had tested their P.A. equipment and electric clock (run from Installation Troop's generator) and had practiced the starting procedure. The first race was scheduled for 10.30 hours, with the "10-minute warning gun" at 10.20 hours.

The programme called for a series of inter-Squadron events sailed in two legs, in GP14s and Fireflies, and two heats and a final for both the Novices and the Open Event.

At 10.15 hours O.C. 1 Squadron appeared with the shattering news that he could only man one boat (one helmsman and one crew) out of the three required. After much nail biting, two of the O.O.D.'s skippers were seconded to 1 Squadron, two extra crew—members were produced from 2 Squadron and loaned to 1 Squadron and the Regatta began only 10 minutes behind schedule.

As it happened that first race was decisive. 2 Squadron sailing on their own puddle, in Fireflies, against newcomers in GP14s should have skated it. In fact, the O.O.D. adjudged that Major McDevitt's Flying Start anticipated the gun and he had to return and start again to finish third, whilst his two supporting experts, W.O.II Barrett (who subsequently won the Open Event) and Mr. Holloway (who crewed his normal crew, Mr. Wensley, to victory in the Novices) both retired after touching buoys! What a "turn-up for the books." Nevertheless, every subsequent race was fought out to the bitter end.

R.H.Q. put up a magnificent show. They provided a complete team in lieu of 3 Squadron who have no sailors, and it was a splendid sight to see the C.O., Second-in-Command, Adjutant and P.R.I. (Major George Dawson of the Middlesex Regiment) battling it out with the rest to screams of "Starboard," "Mast abeam" and "What the ——!!!" etc.

The issue was in doubt right up to the last race (and for half an hour afterwards whilst protests were heard)—the Team Event going to 1 Squadron (83) by ½ point from 2 Squadron (82½) and you can't get much closer than that!

The Commanding Officer's wife, Mrs. D. B. Emley, presented the prizes and we all repaired to the Regency Bar of 2 Squadron's Tudor Hall, to sail every race in retrospect over glasses of 'Red Barrel,' when everyone agreed that the first-ever Regimental Regatta had been well worth doing—and doing again!

Departure of the W.R.A.C.

4 Squadron of the Regiment is now reduced to a handful of girls. These stay with us until the end of September. O.C. 4 Squadron during the winding up process has produced some strange statistics—for example, we have 20 ex-4 Squadron girls as regimental wives! Since 1963 there have been 179 arrivals and 236 departures to and from the Squadron. Now they have almost all gone and we must admit, that their absence makes the Barracks quite a dull place!

15th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 69

It's a way they have at the 15th



You know the sort of thing we want? Things like anecdotes about the Admin, about colourful cockroaches, Richmond write-up, Security scares, sundry snippets.

Of course I do, after all I have now been here for six days. So here goes . . . .

Administrative Inspection



R.Q.M.S. A. R. Hill and Staff Sergeant V. J. Gambell awaiting the arrival of Brigadier Hargroves to present them with their L.S. and G.C. medals

Sufficient to say that it is now over.

Brigadier R. L. Hargroves, C.B.E., Commander Aden Brigade, was the inspecting officer and the day started with the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct medals to R.Q.M.S. A. R. Hill and Staff Sergeant V. J. Gambell. Our congratulations to the two "old" men for standing so long in the heat of the day.

The morning passed quickly with the usual routine, but despite the prayers of 1 Squadron the grass seed scattered the day before had not grown; and was that S.S.M. Laing who tipped a load of garbage at the Brigadier's feet? The final event took the form of lunch in the Officers' Mess.

Colourful cockroaches

Activities in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess seem to have reached a peak recently with the "Aden Feline Handicap." Several members of the Mess were to be seen on hands and knees (even the R.S.M.?) trying to trap enough starters. The roaches were duly given their colours and numbers by S.S.M. Laing wielding a paintbrush and all was ready for the great day.

The main event of the meeting was the "Cat Scratch Handicap" with six runners. Favourite was "Meeow" by "Fifteen" out of "Two Five Four" and highly fancied was "Flap" by "Admin" out of "Control." The race was fiercely contested and, despite the nefarious use of Flysprays, all the runners completed the course.

Richmond

This is the name of the first Services automatic exchange in Aden State. The name was chosen for obvious reasons—because of the long association of the Corps with Catterick Camp!

The exchange was officially opened by Brigadier R. M. Bremner, O.B.E., Commander, 24 Infantry Brigade Group. It is the first step in the long awaited modernisation of the Services telephone network here. The 400 extension exchange has been installed by Ericsons of England assisted by technicians of the Regiment and of 30th Regiment. Now the exchange is in use all the maintenance is carried out by the Regiment, as it will be for all the new exchanges.



Brigadier R. M. Bremner, O.B.E. making the opening call on the new auto system

Naturally, before the official opening, the change-over from CB to Auto had to be made ready for this relatively simple operation. The CB exchange was to be disconnected by removing the heat coils and the Auto connected by releasing contacts held open by chocks. "*Heat coils out!—Chocks away!*

Then the CB exchange went wild with its board becoming fully engaged. There was a certain amount of confusion until it was realised that—

"*It's those b . . . heat coils!*"

Linemen came quickly to the rescue; it is obvious really, if you want to disconnect something, then cut the wires. There was much snipping of pliers and the problem was solved.

Security Scare

We are all very much aware of the "troubles" in Aden and the following story gives an indication of the risks involved and the keen sense of responsibility of the soldiers here.

A prowler patrol reported to the Camp Orderly Officer, Captain W. A. C. Griffiths, that he had found something that might be a mine on the football pitch. Captain Griffiths hurried to the scene and saw that the freshly turned mound did indeed look suspicious and alerted the Security Centre. In a short time there were mine detectors, searchlights and security patrols with all their lights highlighting the forbidding mound of earth.

Gently the mound was probed—"There's something in here." The mine detectors were brought forward but they produced a negative result.

"It must be plastic explosive."

An infanteer Major cleared the area and, lying prone began to scrape away the soil. His fingers probed slowly downwards until with a cry of horror he collected a handful of —?—?—? It was at this stage that he noticed a cat watching him intently as if to say "What are you doing in my hole?"

Sundry Snippets

On 31st July Corporal D. M. Wallace was married to Miss Elizabeth Hough in St. Martin's Church, Seederseer. The bride was given away by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner, Royal Signals, and the best man was Corporal Roberts of Comcan Troop. Our congratulations to them.

We must also extend best wishes to Signalman and Mrs. Powell and Signalman and Mrs. Rushton, who were recently married in U.K.

To add to the number of "Chiefs" in the Regiment we welcome the following new arrivals: Captain I. Graham, Second-Lieutenant O. M. Lewis and me, Captain T. A. Panther.

May we all have a successful tour.



"Good heavens—what's he doing down there!" Brigadier R. L. Hargroves, C.B.E., Commander Aden Brigade, bends over Signalman Moger of 15th Regiment to get a better look at the job he is doing in the Cable pit. Intense interest and concentration is registered by the other officers in the picture. (*left to right* Captain W. A. C. Griffiths, Major L. P. Clayton, Captain J. Pedler and Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner, C.O.

16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

Once again our hosts for the 1965 Inter-Unit Athletic Championships were the members of 7th Regiment, and again they earned our grateful thanks for their hospitality in accommodating those of us who had travelled some distance to compete.

Despite the foul weather several records were broken, and even the weather was unable to dampen the humour of the announcer, who, during the first afternoon when the rain was teeming down and water was lying inches deep on the track, called for competitors for the 50 metre breaststroke. The comments of the crowd were not recorded!

We come second to 7th—but make a promise

We managed to come second to our hosts and promise them a close fight next year, when we hope to reverse the result. Our team, incidentally, is a truly Regimental one since it includes members of A.P.T.C., R.A.O.C., R.E.M.E. and A.C.C.—our R.A.P.C. attached personnel are all keen cricketers and do not aspire to athletic greatness.

Cricket has suffered as a result of the bad weather we have been "enjoying" for the past month or so, and in consequence many of our fixtures have been washed out. Despite the many suggestions from our comedians, O.I.C. Cricket refuses to train the team for Water Polo!

Having won the Rhine Area Swimming Championships we qualified to compete in the B.A.O.R. Championships, but found the standard too high to achieve team honours, but nevertheless our congratulations to the team for their excellent efforts in reaching the finals, and to W.O.II Ient on coming second in the 400 metre free style individual event.

We bid farewell to Major R. C. K. Baron, T.D., and wish him well in his new post in FARELF, and welcome his relief, Major H. McD. Chapman, and also Lieutenant W. T. Lesson, both of whom have joined in the past few days.

19th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Operations Troop

This month we feature 2 Squadron which is responsible for Far Eastern Air Force telephone and landline facilities outside Singapore island and Hong Kong.

Last year "Operations Troop" participated in Exercise "Air Boon Choo" in Thailand. Towards the end of last year two detachments were despatched to Kuantan and Alor Star for the airfields re-established there.

This year, airfield activation at Sibu in Sarawak involved the deployment of another detachment, and O.C. 2 Squadron, Major P. D. Tidey, Royal Signals, took the whole troop to Gonk Kedak to help activate the airfield in the jungle. Sleep was disturbed by drumming in the Kampong. Enquiries disclosed the Bomoh (Witch Doctor) was appeasing the airfield Ghost (a certain Mr. Gho) who was subsequently blamed for cable faults. A tiger has also been seen in the area, a real one not the canned variety.

See articles about this on pages 314 and 315

Malaysia Troop

Having finally recovered from the recent Squadron Social Evening, the Troop are in the midst of detachment change-over in Borneo.

Corporal "Javelin" Hehir has now departed for Kuching with strict orders to add at least 20 feet to his best throw. Come to think of it, brandishing a javelin might at least dissuade

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the labourers from cutting more cables. For the past three months Sergeant Holder and company have competed daily with smiling, pick-wielding locals.

The relief detachments from Labuan and Tawau have been delayed. Has Sergeant Robinson got friends in Air Movements or are they hoping for that 'luxury' Singapore-Labuan cruise?

Staff Atan and his leave-hungry men are still up-country with the Australians at Butterworth. With the project almost complete the Foreman of Signals visit, motivated by the thought of steak breakfasts, will cease.

What of the rest? Well, Corporal Koh was despatched with all speed to Gan Island and back at Seletar Corporal Goss continues to work wonders with the athletes. The Malays now have a television set in their billets, no one would be at all surprised to find green, square-eyed soldiers on parade at some future date. Corporal Grubb and Corporal Archer have newly arrived and we wish them a successful and pleasant tour. One thing we guarantee is that they will see a large slice of the Far East.

Sportsman of the month

Corporal Goss, of No. 2 Squadron, has been elected "Sportsman of the Month" by R.A.F. Seletar Station newspaper, "The Voice." One of sports' unsung heroes he devotes a great deal of his spare time to training, playing and officiating at no less than six different sports. Recently in the Army (Singapore) Annual Athletics Meeting he figured prominently when he gave his team a flying start in both the 4 × 220 yards and 4 × 100 yards relays, both of which they won comfortably in very creditable times. He also finished third in the shot putt and was loudly vociferous in support of his team mates, whom he seemed to inspire with his own brand of determination and enthusiasm.

A qualified Army Amateur Athletic coach and official, he is responsible for the fitness of the personnel of No. 2 Squadron and this is a job he tackles with great resolve. Not content with just coaching he plays hockey and basketball for the Squadron. He is also a regular at full-back of the Regiment in Division II of the H.Q. Singapore Area League and plays volleyball for them in Division I of the local Inter-Section League. In the Inter-Wing Rugby Knock-out Cup last season he played for the Army Units who finished as close runners-up to Administration Wing.



SPORTSMAN OF THE MONTH

Corporal Goss receiving the Inter-Squadron Athletics Cup from Mrs. Maxfield, wife of the Commanding Officer

In his typical forthright manner he has made the challenging statement that 19th Regiment can and will beat R.A.F. Seletar in the forthcoming station athletics meet.

As can be seen he is a soldier who gives freely of his time to help others but who is also a formidable and determined opponent in any of the sports in which he participates. These attributes makes him a true sportsman and a worthy recipient of the "Voice of Sport" award.

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21st Regiment

B.F.P.O. 43

". . . the hard training built a team spirit which is rare in this sport . . ."

Their average age is 23 and they "saw off" most of their seniors



21st REGIMENT SHOOTING TEAM

Standing: Corporal T. J. A. Williams, Corporal J. A. Allen, Second Lieutenant B. H. Rowe, Signalman J. Herbert, Signalman D. G. Yeomens. *Seated:* Second Lieutenant R. C. F. Homewood, Lieutenant P. E. A. Chaddock, Captain D. H. Insall, Signalman C. G. Harris, Corporal Wilson

Hard training, team spirit and a will to win

DETAILED results of the Royal Signals and A.R.A. Meetings have already appeared in a previous issue. Captain David Insall and his team have had a bumper year and it looks as if the insurance premium for the silver they have brought back may well put the P.R.I. in debt. A 3 a.m. reveille during training seems to work wonders, but let Captain Insall tell his own story:—

"Those who unwittingly found themselves on the 'list' for the Regimental Bisley Team might well have thought they were bound for some S.A.S. operation. In a recent annexure to a G.R.O., table tennis and billiards take a proud place next to other manly sports authorised for the Army, but rifle shooting manages to find itself sandwiched between netball and rounders "authorised for W.R.A.C. only." Secrets should remain secrets, but our results were not obtained by more than a normal amount of open range practice. Any reader who has voluntarily done press-ups on the Kiwi's Eye before breakfast may understand our will to win. Training for shooting should be exactly the same as that for athletics, and no man should earn a place at Bulford or Bisley unless he has worked for it.

The hard training bred a team spirit, which is rare in this sport. When one man did well the others followed, but conversely on the morning after the celebration of our first 'pot' the team score was a sick headache to all! The team captain incessantly warned his men that usually more points are lost by stupid mistakes than by bad shooting. He set a glowing example throughout, until the very end when, with great accomplished skill he felled three 'plates' belonging to the opposing team in the R.U.R. Cup. It was little consolation that this team went on to finish third in the match. Our team adjutant, Second-Lieutenant Barry Rowe, made painstaking checks as each man waited his turn to fire. This saved us countless lost points, until one day a NAAFI van appeared on the scene. As usual the world blinked, and Corporal Williams went back to his shooting with someone else's rifle. It is believed that he fired a very tight group mostly to the left of the target!

Six of our nine reached the second stage of the Army Championship (the best 300) and four reached the Army Hundred and are thus awarded Corps Shooting Colours. This compares well with the Queen's Own Highlanders who had five out of twelve in the Hundred. The average age of our team was 23, so experience accounted for little. One statistic, not to be found elsewhere, is that the Champion Team Trophy holds nine pints, one for each member and a refill for the team adjutant!"

Athletics and tug-o'-war

In the Morrison Cup the opposition was again too strong for us, although the team worked well together and gained a number of successes in the Field events which in previous years have pushed us down the chart. A hard fought third place was the result and for next year we must wait and see.

The Tug-o'-War team added to their successes by winning the Major Units pull in the Morrison Cup. They end the season as winners in the heavyweight class in Rhine Area, R.A.F. (Germany), and runners-up in the B.A.O.R. final, which together with their win at Hereford add up to a lot of hard work. Well done. (Picture on page 334.)

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

Summer Camps

The first two weeks of the month of July saw elements of the Regiment taking part in Exercise "Safari" and the majority of 244 Squadron taking part in Exercise "Spread Eagle."

During the second half of the month most of the Regiment went away to summer camps for a fortnight. No. 1 Squadron went to Bad Segeberg, by the side of the Warder See; No. 2 Squadron to Kellinghausen on the Baltic; and 244 Squadron to Sahlenburg on the North Sea coast.

During the camps, emphasis was placed on military training as opposed to signalling. PE tests were completed by the majority for yet another year, and it is hoped that the standard of military knowledge, particularly map reading has been improved as a result of the camps.

Flooded Out

Whilst the campers were enjoying reasonably good weather during the first week of the camp, our "home town," Lippstadt, in common with most of the rest of Wesphalia, was suffering the most severe flooding disaster in living memory, causing the loss of eleven lives, and many millions of deutschmarks damage to crops and property. In Lippstadt itself, the water rose to four feet deep in the main shopping street; the cellars of both hospitals (and of many of our married quarters) were

filled with water, electricity and telephones failed, and many homes had to be evacuated.

Families of members of the Regiment living in the worst hit areas had sterilized water delivered to them by the Regiment, and a field canteen was temporarily set up in Akazien Strasse; midday meals were provided in the dining hall for families; and the Sunday joints were collected and cooked by the Regimental cookhouse.

The L.A.D. did sterling work in recovering vehicles which had become bogged down during operations to close a gap in the banks of the River Lippe, which had broken its banks for a distance of 20-25 yards some little way from the town. Unfortunately, while on its way to recover some German Army recovery vehicles which had themselves fallen upon evil times, our own Scammell attempted to drive over a recently filled-in cable trench and succumbed too. It took eight men nearly twelve hours' hard work (not counting a pause for sleep) to get it out, but it then completed its task; finishing by helping a Leyland to haul a very large German recovery tractor bodily across a waterlogged field.

The floods were a cause for rejoicing by one section of the community, namely the school children, who found, to their great delight, that the local BFES school had to be closed for health reasons (following the local German ruling) and that their summer holidays had been prolonged—poor parents!

We, who were at summer camps throughout all the flooding, were soon to get a taste of it ourselves, indeed in 244 Squadron location Second-Lieutenant Haysom (O.I.C. canoeing) was able to canoe through Zulu troop lines during his morning inspection.

24th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Summer suddenly arrives

On a warm sunny day, just a few weeks ago came the long-awaited indication that summer had officially arrived. The adjutant telephoned all Squadrons the message "Shirt sleeve order with effect for the following morning." As the directive percolated through the Regiment the years seemed to drop away from the older members and the young seemed younger. Perhaps the latter and no doubt the former were looking forward to seeing our W.R.A.C. dressed for summer.

Certainly the pleasure of anticipating a nice hot spell was with all of us—after all it was now officially summer in Catterick. But such hopes were short lived. A typical swift change in the weather—one of those low troughs or a deficiency in isobars or maybe it is simply to be expected—brought a cancellation and we are still waiting for our summer to arrive.

Farewell to Major Bill Adam

Those of you well up in history dates will appreciate the aptness of Major Bill Adam retiring from the Army on the 4th of July. He served the Corps extraordinarily well during his service and is now a R.O.III at the School of Signals. We are all sorry to see him leave. Many will recall his efforts on Corps Rugby and the fine achievement of the team in winning the Army cup twice during his time as secretary.

He served in India before, during and after the war and was at G.H.Q. Dehli during partition days. After a spell in the U.K. he went to the Gold Coast (Ghana) where he received his M.B.E. He tells a delightful, amusing and modest story about the award.

24th Regiment were very fortunate to have him for over five years—we wish him every success for the future.

. . . and to another Bill

Another Major Bill also left us last month. He is somewhat larger than Major Adam. Those students or trainees who didn't know his name would describe him as the big major with a big moustache. This was, of course, Major Bill Macdonald, who was our chief instructor for three years. He has moved on to Colchester District—his home happens to be there—a coincidence!

W.R.A.C. Band much appreciated

The integration of the W.R.A.C. into the Regiment has many beneficial side effects. The feminine touch enhances all messes and there seems to be a greater enthusiasm for those activities which can include the W.R.A.C.

A few days ago the Regiment was entertained by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band. Unfortunately, because of another engagement, the concert lasted just an hour, starting at 5.30. Experience of local weather dictates that the majority of efforts goes into a wet weather programme so it came as no surprise to find the gymnasium all prepared for the evening's entertainment. The open air venue—Gaza sports field—was completely water-logged.

The Band's repertoire was first class with a particularly good Post Horn solo of The Hunter. The dexterity of the Corporal on the percussion instruments had to be seen to be believed, and the applause challenged the cymbals in producing the greatest amount of noise.

Your writer attended more as a duty than with the intention of gaining pleasure, but came away hoping that another and longer concert would be arranged in the not too distant future.

Assisting schools—problems and bonhomie

The main role of the Regiment is to train basic and upgrading students in a number of trades. These are comcen, radio, staff and telegraph operators and clerks technical.

Frequently, however, we extend our influence and take on other tasks. A few weeks ago we agreed to assist in training Cranbrook and Judd Schools CCF on voice procedure, regimental signalling and the WS19. This would have been quite straightforward had it not been for the last item. Two problems arose. The first was getting hold of a 19 set and the second with finding someone who knew the set well enough to operate and instruct on it. Our Quartermaster, Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) G. Lynam, solved the first, in his own inimitable way, and Sergeant Scott, after suitable research and practice, went to Warcop with the sort of confidence that one would expect from a man who had operated the 19 set all his life, instead of a few hours.

We are also responsible for giving assistance to St. Bees School, Cumberland. A fairly high power team went to the school to test members of the Signal Platoon as regimental signallers. The party included the Commanding Officer, O.C. 2 Squadron, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Heaps and Sergeant Brownlie. Before getting on with its task the team were wined and dined either in the school or at the local hostelry (pub). Being honest men we did not allow the bonhomie resulting from our treatment to effect our judgment as examiners! We hope to visit again—soon!

Upgrading—a plea to all Units

At the moment we have about a hundred and fifty men on the various upgrading courses being run by the Regiment. They come from all parts of the globe at some expense to the taxpayer. It is a pity that so many are unable to get full value from the instruction owing to lack of knowledge in the so-called academic subjects, and lack of ability in skills. We appreciate that misemployment is inevitable in some trades but, generally speaking, surely it is not too much to ask that units give as much help, to nominees for a course, as is possible.

All the courses are designed, because of the time factor, to take a man up one grade assuming that he is up to the standard in his present grade. If a number of men are below standard at the start of the course this can only adversely affect the whole course. This results in a relatively small percentage of passes.

Obviously a refresher course for the man prior to his going on a course is not always possible. But it is possible for the man to be given the relevant pamphlet to study. We are convinced that the general standard of all trades in the Corps could be raised if only men could prepare for the course they are to attend.

Incidentally, there is a publication, "Courses of Instruction," which contains relevant information for units intendending to send men on upgrading courses. Pamphlet 9B (part of the publication) concerns the unit and the man. (Latest amendment is No. 3 of May, 1964). This is well worth reading and would, if acted upon correctly, save a great deal of inconvenience to the man, his Unit and this Regiment.

Finally a who's who of 24th Regiment:—

Commanding Officer	Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Sykes
Chief Instructor	Major A. J. Jackson
Assistant Chief Instructor ...	Major K. E. Griffiths, W.R.A.C.
Adjutant	Captain S. Wood
R.S.M.	W.O.I (R.S.M.) M. J. Molony
O.C. H.Q. Squadron ...	Major W. G. A. Cathcart
O.C. 1 Squadron	Major D. Shaw
O.C. 2 Squadron	Major B. A. Canham
O.C. 3 Squadron	Captain T. J. Moynan



THE SHOOTING TEAM

Back row: (*left to right*) Corporal Fergusson, Sergeant O'Donaghue, Lieutenant White, Corporal Davies, Signalman Horean

Front row: (*left to right*) Corporal Cheese, Staff-Sergeant Matthews, Corporal McManus



CLASS B SHOTS SHOW THE WAY

(*Prone*) Corporal Cheese, (*kneeling*) Corporal Fergusson, (*standing*) Corporal Davis

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Shooting

A regimental shooting team materialised one week-end to take part in the Royal Signals, Southern Command Meeting, the Royal Signals Meeting and some individuals went on to Bisley.

As a team we held our own, as individuals some good results were obtained. Individual results:—

(a) Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) F. W. Matthews won the Roberts Cup at the Southern Command Meeting, and an Army Hundred Medal at Bisley.

(b) Corporal A. J. C. Fergusson (Telegraph Technician), winner Class B award for the Whitehead, Roupell and Roberts Competition at the Royal Signals, Southern Command Meeting.

(c) Corporal P. J. C. Davies (Line Technician), winner Class B Methuen Cup at the Royal Signals Meeting.

(d) Corporal A. I. Cheese (Special Operator), winner Class B Henry Whitehead trophy at the Royal Signals Meeting.



Signalman Wilson, age 18 years, with his local swimming trophies

Swimming

One of our younger soldiers, Signalman James Wilson, of 4 Squadron, went "pot hunting" at the Blandford Forum Swimming Gala. He returned as winner of the "under 18, 100 yards' free style race" and as winner of the "Men's, 100 yards' free style race."

He took part, the week before, in the semi-finals of the Dorset County Swimming Championships, finishing first in the 200 yards' free style race.

He is now in training for the County finals and the County Trials, followed by the Pier Swim at Portsmouth, and on to Army Championships.

Awards

Long Service and Good Conduct medals were presented, during the month, to Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. G. Davies and Corporal A. D. Gee.

640 Troop

Sergeant Lee and his detachment returned from six months in Cyprus in support of 1 Loyals. Lance-Corporal Mills, whose father-in-law served in the Loyal Regiment for 23 years, has decided to renew the family attachment and has applied to transfer to them.

Sergeant Inglefield, after six months with the Gunners in Borneo, returned looking very worried, clutching his final Part II Order which stated that he had been embalmed at Kuching on the 19th of July. Preservation instructions have been applied for.

Detachments have been training at Sennybridge in aid of the Combined Cadet Force, at Hayling Island, in aid of the O.K. Dinghy Ward Championships, and at Chivenor in aid of G L.O.s. Detachment commanders seem loth to produce notes and pictures of these training events. Perhaps they are afraid of letting the cat out of the bag.

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JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT, BORNEO

From Basha to luxury flat

A very busy month started with a barrack room competition promoted in an effort to make the tin bashers a little more attractive. In addition there was also a prize for the soldier who produced the best bed space. The winning room has worked hard and had split the basha with hardboard and made cosy-looking cubicles. Corporal Cairns won the individual prize having fashioned himself something resembling a luxury flat lacking only in hot and cold running water.



The fun fair drew a crowd of locals

G.O.C. enjoys drink with off-duty personnel

Several weeks ago it was decided that 10th July would be Signals Day and it was planned to hold a six-a-side soccer competition and a driving competition supplemented by several side shows. The scope of the original idea was employed and the G.O.C. 17 Division was invited to inspect the Unit at work during the morning of 10th July. He enjoyed a very comprehensive tour and ended up in the Carousel Club having a drink with off-duty personnel.

Whilst the G.O.C. was inspecting a feverish activity was going on at the local Government School Sports Field getting side shows ready for the afternoon. This festive occasion turned out to be a complete success and enabled us to send donations to the three Services Benevolent Funds.

A big crowd turned out and for three hours there was not a moment's rest. If nothing else we hope to have made a lot of friends and some money towards the Unit ski boat.

Round the island by canoe

Lieutenant Tom Scarff left us in the middle of the month for 249 Squadron. Just before doing so, he astonished the Q.M. by accepting a wager of several bottles of champagne that he could canoe round the island in less than twelve hours. Escorted by Signalmen Laidlaw and Bardsley in a motor boat he accomplished his task in 8¾ hours having encountered some very rough weather and seas. By any standards this was an excellent performance. We wish him the very best of luck in his new Squadron.

Finally we say goodbye and thanks to the Second-in-Command, Captain J. N. Taylor, and wish him well at the Staff College.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

200 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 41

Idle? . . . nothing further from the truth . . .

The fact that we have not been seen in print since the Queen's Parade does not mean we have been idle—nothing could be further from the truth! As soon as the parade was over, preparations began in earnest for the 20th Brigade Inter-Unit Athletic Championships, on Friday, 11th June. This left little time for training, but we were able to turn out quite a strong team against our rivals—4th Armoured Worshop, 11th Company R.A.S.C. (now, we understand, 11 Squadron, R.C.T.), and 20th Ordnance Field Park.

. . . we win the Minor Units Championship Trophy . . .

Considering the merciless "summer" so far, we were lucky to have a fine day. We started the day well with our sprint team—Sergeant Rogers, Corporal Smith, Signalmen Bell and Peters—winning the 4 x 100 metres relay, followed by a close second place in the 4 x 200 metres relay. The 4 x 400 metres relay, although at first apparently doomed to failure, was saved by Signalmen Lambert and Hartley, who put up an excellent performance. In all three middle-distance track events we took first place, but in the field events we were not quite so successful, most of the honours going to 20th O.F.P. However, Corporal Derbyshire did well to come second in the pole vault and discus.

It was a great moment at the presentation of prizes to hear the Squadron team announced as winners of the Minor Unit Championships. The trophy is a magnificent cup guaranteed to hold three bottles of champagne plus half a bottle of brandy. This was proved during the victory celebrations in the "Blue Lagoon Club" shortly after the prize-giving!

. . . we take part in Exercise "Silver Spear II . . .

Saturday, 12th June, seemed an anti-climax, as we started off on Exercise "Silver Spear II" (12th-18th June), but it was not long before all thoughts of our athletic victory were expelled from our minds as the familiar cries of "cam up" and "are we through?" came hurtling from all corners of our first location. After our previous exercises it was a great relief to be in the field for a whole week almost entirely without "the Staff" (no offence meant). It proved an invaluable exercise and communication drills were much improved. On Thursday, 17th June, all officers attended a T.E.W.T. held by 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, and the Senior N.C.O.s took over command of the Squadron for the day. The officers returned after the T.E.W.T. to find the Squadron running very smoothly, having made one change of location, under the able command of the R.S.M., "Major" Hornby. Are officers really necessary?

The Rhine Army Summer Horse Show (24th-26th June) found us providing our, by now annual, standard network of lines and P.A. equipment, plus programme/ticket and Secretary's orderlies.

In order to put into practice our "Silver Spear" lessons, we moved out on Divisional CPX Exercise "Long Odds) (29th June - 1st July). This time the staff were out in full force, and we were kept busy and mobile for the whole three days.

. . . render assistance in the Paderborn flood area . . .

As usual, the Regiments of the Brigade have been training at Hohne so, not to be outdone, the Squadron and staff also decided to set up camp on the ranges. The plan was to move out on the morning of Saturday, 17th July, but things very nearly went astray when, on Friday evening, several of our radio and both our radio relay vehicles were deployed to provide control communications for military assistance in the Paderborn area. However, we were able to withdraw these links just in time and we set off for Hohne slightly later than originally planned and with a few sleepless crews! The first two days of camp were spent entirely on the classification range. Just over half the Squadron classified as Marksmen on the S.M.G. and the S.L.R., and L.M.G. results were most satisfactory. On the rocket launcher range, Major Spary (O.C. 1 Flight A.A.C.) gave some of the Squadron an interesting morning. At least those under instruction know how to go "tank-hunting" with a 3.5in. rocket launcher, even if all the rounds fired didn't quite find the target.

One of the more strenuous activities was training for and completing the infamous P.E. tests. However, everyone who started finished the course and, if nothing else, it is recommended to work up a good appetite before breakfast! We still have a few members of the Squadron for Sergeant Rogers to put through their "paces" in Detmold!

The remainder of the time was spent in a variety of ways, including map-reading, an introductoin to section tactics, watching Squadrons of the Royal Dragoons on their range battle-runs, a night radio exercise, a "potted" sports competition, a driving rally, a vehicle camouflage competition, a safe and skilled driving competition, and finally, the 20th Brigade Minor Units Swimming Competition.

. . . and put the Swimming Trophy on our sideboard

The swimming competition was held on Monday, 26th July, and a more miserable, wet day would be hard to imagine. However, it was an exciting match and, by the end of a hard afternoon's swimming, the Squadron was able to place the swimming trophy alongside the athletics trophy. We hope to improve on the butterfly team by next year! Incidentally, we also won the water polo without going into the water. No one would challenge us!

224 SQUADRON, LOUGHBOROUGH

B.E.M. for Staff Sergeant W. Todd



Staff Sergeant Todd receives the B.E.M. from the G.O.C.

On Tuesday, 13th June, 1965, the Squadron was on parade when the G.O.C. 49th W.R. and N.M. Division/District, Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., presented the B.E.M. to Staff Sergent W. Todd. Addressing the parade, the General, speaking in particular to the young soldiers present, said that the qualities stated in the citation such as "constant alertness, resourcefulness, skill and considerable strength of character" were just the things which went into the make-up of a really first - class soldier. The General also complimented the parade, commanded by Lieutenant W. Roper, on its drill and turnout.

Staff Sergeant Todd, who comes from Hanwell, London, W.7, joined the Army ten years ago. He is married and has four children. He joined 224 in early April on leaving 226 Squadron. We hope his stay here will be a happy and memorable one.

The Sergeants' Mess has been busy over the last couple of months. In mid-June we held a dinner to dine-out the Quartermaster, Major D. A. L. Murray. This was a most successful affair.

On 31st July we had our annual summer ball, and were very pleased to see many old friends, including W.O.II (Y. of S.) and Mrs. J. Francis and W.O.II and Mrs. "Wings" Overton.

We say farewell to Staff Sergeant Richardson and Sergeants Geere and Cooper, who leave us for pastures new, and congratulate Sergeants Widdowson, Cheyne, Parkinson and Harris on their promotions.

Sport

We have been fairly active in the sporting world, retaining the Northern Command Athletics Cup for the third year in succession and coming fifth in the Army Minor Units Championship. Also worthy of mention is Corporal Percival, who came sixth in the Army Individual Hammer Championship.

The cricket team has been playing well under the captaincy of the S.S.M. J. E. Orme, and are shortly due to meet C.O.D., Chilwell, in the final of the District Cricket Cup, having just beaten the Royal Army Veterinary Corps by ten wickets.

Royal Signals
Malta and Libya

Corps Week in Malta began in the last week of June and ended on 3rd July, with the hand-over from Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Clarke to Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Burrell, M.B.E., of the appointment of C.R. Signals Malta and Libya. Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke was dined-out by all Royal Signals officers in Malta and the Squadron Commanders of 219 and 245 Squadrons in Libya in 235 Squadron Mess. Those who are aware of Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke's passion for sailing, will not be surprised that he was towed away from the Mess in a mock-up sailing boat, made by 234 Squadron.

These events apart, the major Corps event was the entry of a boat in the long-established Malta Command Boat Race. (See article column 2 and page 329.)

219 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 51

1,600 miles into the desert

The Squadron has again had the very welcome opportunity to prove that the field radio troop can operate their C11/R210 stations and can move around the desert without getting lost. The first of the summer exercises consisted of a long run of 1,600 miles out and southwards into the desert with the FFR Land Rovers, accompanying a convoy from our local R.A.S.C. Company. The radio communications were satisfactory, despite the type of ground covered, and the crews gained varied and useful experience.

Involved in a real live search

Immediately following, the Squadron took part in the G.O.C.'s exercise, Trojan Horse. Crews and radio vehicles of Royal Signals were brought from the Squadrons at Benghazi and from Malta to take part and the communications for the Control H.Q. and the umpires worked well, despite a temperature of 125°F. Such an exercise proves that radio crews who are brought together from different squadrons which are hundreds of miles apart can, when organised and concentrated at very short notice, work most efficiently. The exercise had a most exciting finish, and one in which communications were vital. Unfortunately an umpire Land Rover from Malta with an officer and driver got lost and a full scale ground/air search was put into operation.



The R.A.F. desert rescue team, together with R.A.F. Shackletons from Malta and U.S.A.F. helicopters, were very quickly brought into operation. The radio communications for the rescue operation were provided by crews from 219 and 245 Squadrons, and despite the extremely long hours of operation and a steady day temperature of 120/125°F., were most successful. The Land Rover and crew were found after 48 hours, hopelessly sunk in very deep sand and with very little water left. Relationships between the R.A.F. desert rescue team and 219 Squadron are now of the highest order, and invitations for exchange rescue facilities have now been established and are of very considerable benefit to both parties. The Squadron has a new shoulder flash, but it is thought that the design shown above may not meet with the approval of the Dress Committee.

Plenty of sport

In the field of sport, our water polo team is holding second place in the area league, while our basketball players were only just beaten by the R.A.F. in the final of the competition. Our cricket team is at present in second position in the area league, but some imminent postings out are going to considerably reduce our chances. Those of the Squadron who are not regular and active players of the recognised games are encouraged to improve their swimming ability, and life-saving courses are a recognised occupation.

Two Potential Yeomen

As our disbandment approaches, our numbers are reducing and no new faces are, unfortunately, to appear. Sergeant Firth, our Orderly Room Sergeant, leaves us for Cyprus and Sergeant Hammonds leaves us in December (he hopes) for his Foreman's course in February. We have two qualified potential Yeomen who are anxiously awaiting the August Selection Board. They are Sergeant Thompson and Sergeant Neal, who have been with the Squadron for over two years and who will be sadly missed. Our S.S.M., W.O.II Oscroft, is off to the T.A. and sincerely hopes to reach it before it is disbanded. The remainder of us already have our new postings, thanks to the excellent services of Royal Signals Records, and we have very, very few dissatisfied. We cannot please everyone all the time!

235 SQUADRON (COMCAN), B.F.P.O. 51, MALTA

Corps Week

July started off in hectic style, as we were right in the middle of Corps Week. We had begun with a combined (with 234 Squadron) church parade at Tigne Barracks on Sunday, 27th June. After an interesting service, the many spectators saw a very smart parade, which was enhanced by the presence of 1 D.E.R.R. Band.

On the following evening all Corps Officers in Malta gave a cocktail party for almost 200 guests. This was a splendid occasion as, by judicious lighting, Captain (T.O.T.) Leslie Churchill and his stalwarts had turned the central courtyard of the old Royal Malta Artillery Mess into a glittering fairyland. Guests included His Excellency the Governor, the G.O.C. and Mrs. Frost, together with many other notables.

Every night was party night. Our Squadron contributions were a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess ball and an all ranks' dance. Both were very well attended and huge successes. We were particularly pleased to welcome many guests from H.Q., Royal Signals, 234 Squadron and other units. W.O.II (F. of S.) Hutley deserves a special word for giving up his leave in order to personally handle lighting and decoration.

Congratulations

To our popular pay N.C.O., Sergeant Jackson, R.A.P.C., on his award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Not up to the polish of Oxbridge but—what a try!

Anyone for Boating?

By Major J. T. Treglown

Rowing a six-oared gig over a nautical mile is tough work, but the Corps in Malta "have a bash" and acquit themselves well in their first attempt.

The experts thought we were mad

This is the story of the combined efforts of both Signal Squadrons in Malta in, for us, a new field of sporting endeavour. Though we were not entirely successful, we feel we by no means disgraced ourselves. For many years past, certainly dating back to before World War II, annual rowing races have been held by the Army in Malta. As far as is known to the writer, and certainly according to the local press, the Royal Corps of Signals have never entered a boat. This is really rather surprising, as at various times the strength of the Corps representation on the island has been far from insignificant. However, better late than never, and this year, without a crew or even worse, without a boat, we put ourselves forward as starters. Having assured the organisers we were serious, various



BEFORE . ..
Malta Command boat race



. . . AND AFTER

The Royal Signals Crew on the finishing line. (*Left to right*) Lance-Corporal Runza (cox), Lance-Corporal Clark, Signalman Haylok, Corporal Nichol, Corporal Douglas, Corporal Connor, Signalman Brown

"experts" then tendered advice, all of which added up to the growing assumption that not only were we out of our class—and probably mad—we were hardly likely to finish. The race was apparently strictly for "Gladiators." At this juncture it should be made clear that the races are held on or about the 20th July annually, over one nautical mile, most of it in the open sea, and the boat is a six-oared gig which must weigh five hundred pounds, less oars. The crew, of course, is extra! From our photograph you will see that the said gig bears no relationship to the well-known Oxbridge "eight."

Improvement, but not without blood and sweat

We tendered our entry in May (the aforesaid "Gladiators" had by this time already been in strict training for about two months), and shortly afterwards we found the boat or, strictly speaking, it was given to us by 11th Regiment Royal Malta Artillery. Not wishing to sound too ungrateful, it was clear the first time we set our boat upon the waters why 11th Regiment wanted it out of their boathouse—for as a boat it would have served rather better as a colander. The water poured in from every seam. The "experts" than said leave her where she is, the planks will swell—which they did. The good ship was raised and set once again on the water, the crew climbed in, drifted out to sea, and promptly sank "Sprung a plank," said the "experts"—and she had. Now, but for the perseverance of Lance-Corporal Runza, of 234 Squadron, most would have decided that the fates were not with us and abandoned the project. However, Lance-Corporal Runza was not to be defeated by a mere gig and, largely due to that N.C.O.'s efforts, in caulking, varnishing, painting and general carpentry, at last we had a boat that kept the water on the outside. At this point we had about a month left to put in what amounted to three months' hard rowing training. After a very short time we went firm on the crew, the cox and three from 234 Squadron and three from 235 Squadron. As none admitted to any real rowing experience before, the first efforts were pretty amusing, resulting in a broken oar or two, a lot of crabs being caught, and one or two duckings. The crew were fortunate in that the then C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Clarke, was now able to take a hand and dispense the benefit of his considerable rowing knowledge, and soon had the crew pulling together, but we had a long way to go. We were certainly nowhere near the bogey of 6min. 20sec. for the course. However, it soon become apparent that we were improving. The "Gladiators" had stopped tossing their ribald remarks at our equipage and had got their stop watches on these newcomers. This was recognition indeed. With sheer determination our times improved and the rowing became smoother—not quite Henley, but definitely together. All this was not achieved without shedding a considerable amount of blood and sweat.

Not disgraced and a display of guts

Eventually the great day arrived and our crew, Lance-Corporal Runza (cox), Lance-Corporal Clarke (stroke), Signalman Haylock, Corporal Nicholl, Corporal Douglas, Corporal Conner and Signalman Brown, neatly turned out in white shorts and blue vests, lifted *Jimmy*, as the gig was now christened into the water and, in best boat race style, paddled easily up to the start line. The opposition, the Royal Malta Artillery, The King's Own Malta Regiment, and the Fortress Squadron Royal Engineers, were all old hands, and even the crew from 1st Bn. The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment had had the benefit of the previous year's race, and were, in fact, quite favoured. The race takes place at 5 p.m., and even then the temperature is around 95°, and the excitement of watching our first entry matched the temperature. As the boats pulled into view it was clear the race was once again between the R.M.A. and the K.O.M.R., as expected, but the field was closely packed and quite clearly our crew were holding their own. In the event, we crossed the line fourth, well ahead of the D.E.R.R. team but only just beaten by the Sappers.

Why write about a race you lose? Well, those of us who watched the Royal Signals crew saw a display of guts that made up for all their lack of technique and practice. You have to start somewhere, so next year watch out R.M.A.! Anyway some people will do anything for a free crate of cold beer.

(THE WIRE *salutes the oarsmen of Malta. Anyone keen on rowing should now ask for a Malta posting!—Editor*).



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205 SQUADRON, TIDWORTH

This month we say goodbye to our Second-in-Command who, since he arrived last winter, seems to have done nothing but send people on courses or go on them himself. However, charity begins at home, and he is off to Shrivenham and Camberley for the Staff College Course. We wish both Captain and Mrs. Holland a pleasant stay in the country—see if you "escape and evade" from there! Captain Mike Andrews has moved into the Second-in-Command's chair, before leaving to fly, and Captain Stan Wood is joining us this month.

"Alpha" Troop, led by Lieutenant Payne and chased by Sergeant Trotter, represented the Squadron in the Brigade March and Shoot Competition. After five gruelling miles and 220 rounds, we were beaten into second place in the Minor Units Section. Signalman Simpson was protected from the sun by a highly-perfumed lotion, while Signalman Tetlow was protected from everything by the rocket launcher he had to carry. We were also runners-up in the Falling Plates Competition.

Improvisation !

Corporal Gadman and Lance-Corporal Powell, two of our technicians, assisted the Foreman in producing a commentary system for a "Company in the Attack," demonstration, given by 1 R.S. Improvisation was the keynote when, at short notice, the G.O.C. said he would like to address the spectators —from a totally different location.

The barracks resound to Staff Sergeant Stephens getting his own back, following a very successful Guards Drill Course. His practice in "bending the knee" should at least help him to get in and out of his Mini.

We congratulate Staff Sergeant Chiverton on his success in the 3rd Divisional Golf Championship.

Bouquet of the month must go to Signalman Benson who, during his leave, volunteered to drive the stores truck for the Canoe Club while they paddle their way round the English waterways for a week. We hope he enjoys his subsequent tour with the Federal Regular Army in Aden.

207 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 30

An outstanding athletics team

Now that the athletics season has been rounded off, it is a fitting time to honour our Squadron athletes. During the season they have had the following successes in minor unit matches:—

Winners of the annual Berlin meeting, 229 Squadron.
Winners of the 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment championships.
Winners of 7th Armoured Brigade championships.
Winners of 1st Division championship.
Winners B.A.O.R. Royal Signals championships.

These outstanding successes are due to the hard work that our team and reserves have put in during the past few months. The majority of the training was done after hours, and was always well supported. We should also like to thank Major E. J. Hellier, our Squadron Commander, and Major P. Ford, Cheshire Regiment, for the enthusiasm and help which they have shown to the team.

Although the achievements of last season were due to the combined efforts of all the team, we would like to record some of the best performances.

Lance-Corporal Wild	Long Jump	22 ft. 9 in.
	High Jump	5 ft. 7 in.
Lance-Corporal Harris	Long Jump	19 ft. 2 in.
Corporal Mate	Javelin	175 ft.
	Discus	124 ft. 11 in.
Sergeant Lynn	200 metres	23.5 sec.
Signalman Kelly	400 metres	51.4 sec.
Sergeant Lynn Lance-Corporal Harris Lance-Corporal Wild Signalman Kelly	4 × 100 metres relay	45.7 sec.

Visit of the Queen Mother

On the 14th and 15th July Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, visited the 11th Hussars in Hohne to present them with a guidon.

During Her visit the Queen Mother stayed with our Brigade Commander, Brigadier I. G. Gill, in Soltau. Our commitments



The Squadron Athletics team with the trophies which were won at the H.Q. 1st Division and Signal Regiment meeting

over this period ranged from baggage parties to line protection patrols. The hard work which all ranks contributed to the preparation of this visit was well rewarded by its great success. Many families had the opportunity of seeing the Queen Mother as she left Soltau on the 15th.

The Corporals' Mess held their annual Summer Ball on Saturday, 24th July, in our Gymnasium. A lively group from 7th Armoured Workshops provided the music, and the evening was a great success right from the beginning. An excellent buffet supper was again produced by our cooks. Everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously and the evening passed all too quickly.

At the beginning of August "A" Troop are taking their FV 432s down to Hameln to cross the River Weser. We have long been waiting for the opportunity for a few days floatation training, and this period should be valuable training for us.





Squadron MT Stables Parade, Kuching

248 (GURKHA) SQUADRON (BORNEO)

Hard work rewarded

Since we last appeared in print, two awards have been announced in the Fifth Borneo Operational List; W.O.I (Yeoman of Signals) G. I. D. Gubler, attached from the Joint Communication Unit (Borneo) and W.O.II (Foreman of Signals) R. Stather of 248 (Gurkha) Squadron both being Mentioned in Despatches. Both Warrant Officers are well known in Headquarters West Brigade, and by all the Units of the Brigade. Their unceasing hard work for long hours over a long period has been deservedly recognised and rewarded. We have also had our annual M.T. inspection, which received a very good grading, thanks to the untiring efforts of Captain Q. G. O. Balbahadur and the drivers, very ably helped by Lieutenant Tommy Jones, B.E.M., from 17th Gurkha Regiment.

Work and play

Our list of visitors grows daily and at the time of writing we have Major-General Hunt, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commander Land Forces Borneo and Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas visiting the Unit. The Squadron has continued its sporting activities; the Mercurian football team, under the able direction of W.O.I (Y. of S.) Gubler and the Squadron team under Lieutenant Max Young, with the hockey team under Major Davies, all giving a very good account of themselves in recent matches. Swimming, under Captain Mike Jennings, proceeds well with nearly 50 per cent. of the Squadron through the basic test and a number nearly there. Recreational swimming trips by the Signal Centre Troop to a large inland lake are still as popular as ever.

Traffic wise, the Joint Communication Centre is now nearer Divisional or Area Comcen size than that of a Brigade, and our commitments have grown considerably in the past few months. In particular, the Squadron has been heavily committed assisting the police in the Resettlement Operations in Sarawak, laying line and providing field radio link detachments, all of which have given our newly arrived tradesmen excellent field training experience.

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

Exercise "Final Fling"

This exercise filled the whole of our second week at annual camp, being the culmination of the previous year's training. The name was chosen as being a slight change from the often used "Swan Song" but still appropriate for the final regimental exercise for both CR Signals and our Training Officer.

The weather was reasonable, the food good, and the gods who watch over communications beneficient. We surprised even ourselves and gave our new Training Officer, Major J. G. Fleming, an introduction to the mysteries of T.A. life.

During this exercise we were very pleased to receive a visit from our C.S.O./T.A., Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, C.B.E., T.D., A.D.C. Unfortunately our General was prevented from visiting us due to bad flying weather.



[Photograph by kind permission of the Kent Messenger

C. R. Signals: Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D., Earl of Shannon, Mrs. Seys-Phillips, Countess of Shannon, Lady D'Avigdor Goldsmid, Colonel Sir Henry D'Avigdor Goldsmid, B.T., D.S.O., M.L., T.D., D.L., J.P., M.P., Major N. J. Bennallack-Hart, T.D.

Officers' Annual Dinner and Ball

This year the annual officers' dinner and ball was held at the Great Danes Hotel, Hollingbourne, on Saturday, 26th June. The move, nearer home at Maidstone, enabled many more officers to attend, and a most pleasant evening was enjoyed by over 150, which included many former officers of the Regiment.

The C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D., presided, and among those present were the Honorary Colonel, Sir Henry d'Avigdor Goldsmid, Bt., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., M.P., and Lady d'Avigdor Goldsmid, the Earl and Countess of Shannon, Sir Derek Greenaway, Bt., T.D., J.P., and Lady Greenaway, Brigadier and Mrs. Magan, and Lieutenant-Colonel J. O. Hunter, M.B.E., and Mrs. Hunter.

The Regimental Band, under the Bandmaster, W.O.II F. J. Pedler, played during dinner.

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61st (City of Edinburgh) Signal Regiment, T.A.

Farewell to a Great Personality

Sir Harold Mitchell Retires after 18 years as Honorary Colonel



[Courtesy Scottish Daily Mail

THE LAST SALUTE

Colonel Sir Harold P. Mitchell, Bart, J.P., D.L., Honorary Colonel 61st (City of Edinburgh) Signal Regiment, T.A. taking the salute of the Quarter Guard on the occasion of his farewell parade on Sunday 6th June, 1965

AN unusually full weekend preceded the Regiment's departure for annual camp at Blandford this year. The occasion was to mark the retirement of our Honorary Colonel, Sir Harold Mitchell, Bart., J.P., D.L., after a tenure of 18 years. At that time the Regiment had the name of 13AA (Mixed) Signal Regiment T.A. and the various changes in the Unit title since then only goes to prove the long and distinguished service Sir Harold has given us.

The proceedings opened on a gay note with Sir Harold giving a cocktail party for the Officers of the Regiment and a few of his personal friends. These parties have been an annual function for many years and have exemplified one of the many aspects of Sir Harold's generosity to the Regiment.

By coincidence the massed pipes and drums of the three Scottish Signal Regiments had the honour of Beating Retreat on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle on the evening of Saturday, 5th June. We were particularly proud to have Sir Harold with us so that he could hear the Regimental March, bearing his name, being played by the massed bands in this magnificent setting. It was a poignant moment for Sir Harold and all concerned as the bands withdrew over the drawbridge playing his and our tune.

Sunday, 6th, marked Harold's official farewell to the Regiment. At a simple ceremony at Brandon Terrace T.A.C., Sir Harold and Lady Mitchell were greeted by a Quarter Guard and the Pipes and drums. Pte. M. Gays, W.R.A.C., presented Lady Mitchell with a bouquet before the guests of honour were conducted into the Drill Hall by the Commanding Officer. The Regiment were formed in a hollow square round a dais on which were seated our popular T.A. C.S.O., Colonel T. S. B. McMain, M.B.E., and Colonels J. R. Sutcliffe, O.B.E., E.R.D., M.I.E.E., H. S. Scarborough, T.D., J. Lothian, E.R.D., T.D., T. D. Childs, M.B.E., T.D., all ex-C.O.s of the Regiment.

In his speech of appreciation to Sir Harold the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Beattie, aptly referred to the occasion as a "Greetin Meeting." He explained Sir Harold's orders that the Regiment were not to go to any expense in making him a presentation as he, Sir Harold, had already arranged for a suitably inscribed presentation drum, modified as a coffee table, to mark the occasion. However, as he had not made a specific ruling regarding Lady Mitchell, the Regiment and ex-members had contributed to a signals brooch in yellow and white gold with rose diamonds set in the crown and globe.

The C.O. recalled Sir Harold's many acts of service to the country as well as to the Regiment and paid tribute to his unstinted generosity generally, and in particular, to his assistance in the formation of the Pipe Band.

In his reply of thanks Sir Harold stressed his confidence in the continuance of Royal Signals T.A. Units and also expressed his pleasure at having been Honorary Colonel to two Regiments both bearing the names of great capital cities, the City of London Rifles and the City of Edinburgh Signal Regiment.

After the speeches Sir Harold and Lady Mitchell left the dais to three rousing cheers and were entertained in turn in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Ordinary Ranks' canteen and Officers' Mess.

It was indeed a sad moment when the Honorary Colonel was piped away from the Officers' Mess after a buffet lunch, largely prepared and served by the officers' wives and lady friends. Although we look forward to Sir Harold's successor, Colonel T. D. Childs, taking over on 17th July it was with sincere regret and many happy memories of Sir Harold's kindness that we saw him depart for the last time to the strains of "Will ye no come back again."

47th REGIMENT T.A.
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

The 500 Dollar Question!

How can you explain to your wife that you are going to Paris to do your annual training?

This was the problem facing the majority of the 185 members of the Regiment who set off by train and boat on 3rd July, bound for one of the world's best-known "pleasure spots." An advance party of twenty had gone ahead a week previous to prepare a tented camp. They were shown a completely empty field within the confines of a French Army Camp and told "there it is!"

First thoughts were, how on earth can we make a camp out of this, but four days and numerous blisters later, a miracle had happened, tents had mushroomed, flags were flying, lights were on in all tents and beds and bedding had been distributed, to say nothing of the fact that the beer had arrived.

Saturday evening was soon upon us, and a veritable hive of activity had sprung up at the Gare De Nord, where coaches and trucks eagerly awaited the arrival of the main body of the Regiment. The transition from train to truck was completed with a surprising minimum of chaos, and all were soon in camp for a hot meal (and a partial failure in the lighting system!).

Communications were established; the air was full of drill commands each morning; innumerable visits from high-ranking officers of many countries; and, needless to say, a full and bustling social life.

Some were for culture . . . others . . . ?

At the week-end, coaches were laid on for cultural (?) trips in and around Paris, and members of the Regiment could be seen at Notre Dame Cathedral, Eiffel Tower and the Arch de Triomphe. No mention is made of the members who were **not** seen at these places!

Amongst the many visitors to our "tented town" were: Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Sir William Pike, Lieutenant-General Graf Dan Baudmin; Major-General Henrici, Brigadier Price (C.S.O., Eastern Command), and Lieutenant-Colonel Pounds (C.S.O., London District).

Lafone—Presentation

On Saturday, 10th July, we were honoured by the visit of a Turkish General, who presented the Regiment with a Turkish Cavalry lance to commemorate the bravery of Major Lafone, a Yeoman, who won the Victoria Cross at Gallipoli against the Turks. The Regiment, in turn, presented the Turkish Army with a Cavalry sword. All this took place on the Regimental parade and was performed with precise ceremony.

It was our good fortune to be in France on Bastille Day, and a number of officers were invited, as guests, to see the French Army parade down the Champs de Elysees.

A certain amount of sport was organised against 228 Squadron, who having thrashed us at soccer, soon had the smiles wiped away on the cricket field and on the range.

66th REGIMENT (T.A.), BELFAST

"They act plays, too, these fellows," the Mole explained to the Rat. "Make them up all by themselves and act them afterwards. And very well they do it, too."

Kenneth Grahame
"The Wind in the Willows"

The summer, for a Territorial Regiment, means annual camp, and this, in turn, means the end of our year. The yearly miracle of transforming unrepentent civilians into an efficient force has taken place once again.

Our camp is just finishing at Blandford. Once again our main activities have been centred on a three-day exercise, this year christened "Brian Boru." Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Hamer, planned the exercise to extend us as fully as possible, and it is therefore with real pleasure we can report excellent results from all units, most especially the Line Troops.

Our senior official visitor was the Chief of Staff Northern Ireland Command, Brigadier P. W. P. Green, C.B.E., D.S.O., and we were also pleased to welcome the Chief Signal Officer Northern Ireland Command, Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Congdon, and the ADWRAC, Lieutenant-Colonel M. Jamieson, W.R.A.C.

In addition to military training we also use Annual Camp for regimental social functions and as they all had to take place in the first week it became increasingly difficult to remember which day it was. For usually sedentary "Terriers" it is all the more galling to have the Ulster Press refer to Annual Camp as a "holiday."



Captain Bill Douglas instructing on the D.11



IT IS . . . YES IT IS . . . ITS MILK!

The Padre, the Reverend Bob Stewart, during a NAAFI break with the pinta drinkers

With our future so very much in the balance it is difficult not to remember those characters who help give our Regiment vitality.

"Here," called the wag to a group of perspiring linemen, "Want a drink?"

"Yes," said the unsuspecting group.

So standing leaning into the vehicle so as not to be seen, they each had a drink while underneath the wag's mate who had been detailed to paint the vehicles, neatly applied a green cross to their highly polished toe-caps.

"Well, sir," said the R.Q.M.S. to the harassed M.T.O., "This is terrible. Usually when I need a vehicle I liberate it. But now when I do the thing legal-like and ask you, you won't give me one."

Ten minutes later the M.T.O., who didn't have a vehicle for himself, was offered a lift by the R.Q.M.S.

ROYAL SIGNALS SUB-UNIT, NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY O.T.C.

It is on a historical note that we begin this report. After a lapse of five years, the Royal Signals Sub-Unit of this O.T.C. was re-established in October, 1962, and our P.S.I., W.O.II B. E. Cracknell arrived in January, 1963.

The success of re-equipping technical stores and the process of periodic maintenance and renewal falls almost entirely on the shoulders of the P.S.I. To him we are most grateful for the unfailingly cheerful way he goes about the task.

Annual Camp—the best ever

Setting aside the adverse weather in our considerations of the verdict on this year's annual camp, we can say that it was the best ever. The first week was spent touring units of the Corps in Southern Command. The first visits, arranged by 14th Regiment, Gloucester, were to the Tape Relay Centre, Boddington, and the associated receiver and transmitter stations at Bampton and Droitwich respectively. For most members of the Sub-Unit, this was their first contact with COMCAN, and all were impressed by the complexity and efficiency of the system.

Another highlight was a one-day radio/radio relay exercise with 205 Squadron, Tidworth, on Salisbury Plain. This provided an introduction to C41 and terminal equipments, and application of C42 rebroadcast principles. At this time we discovered that not only were we in the same area as that of an A.P.C./Tank exercise, but were operating on almost the same VHF frequency. This brought out several points, and some of the comments are better left unwritten!

The first week's training was most suitably concluded by the C.O. and Second-in-Command of 30th Regiment, Blandford, who discussed the present state of communication equipments, and introduced the Bruin concept for the 1970s.

To all units and personalities involved in providing the excellent accommodation and training we owe a large debt of thanks.

The Cup of Success

The Sub-Unit shared the road from Blandford to Tavistock, Devon, with week-end holidaymakers on the journey to Plaster Down Camp. There we joined the other four sub-units for the rest of the camp period. After a range classification course and participation in a three-day exercise organised by Birmingham O.T.C., the unit got down to the business of preparation for the C.O.'s parade. In an extremely close contest with the other sub-units, we came away with the challenge cup for drill and administration, as well as the Honorary Colonel's Cup for the outstanding member of the O.T.C., which went to J.U.O. P. N. Henwood (also G3 RWF).

Amateurs Anonymous

High on the list of the multitude of jobs to be completed during the next few months is the consolidation of our amateur radio station. G3 RWF has almost completed the necessary modifications on a WS36. We are now embarking on setting-up a CFS station. We would be pleased to hear from other 'hams' who have successfully established this latter facility, especially about problems and technical know-how. Here we must express our thanks to the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society who, in no small way, have enabled us to start the club station at this O.T.C., which is about to celebrate its first anniversary.

Shooting

National Rifle Association Meeting, Bisley, 1965

The Captain of Corps Shooting reports:

As usual the Corps entered a team of four in the SR (a) Competitions and a team of eight in the SR (b) Competitions.

We did not win any team events but were well represented in Army, International and County teams and had many individual successes.

Our SR (a) team was placed 6th in the Hamilton Leigh, a competition over an obstacle course between 400 yards and 300 yards with a "Beat the Butts" shoot at 300 yards.

Our SR (b) team came 6th in the "Steward," being eight points behind the winners, and ninth in the "Ranelagh."

Representation in Army, International and County teams was as follows:—

Army teams

Army VIII: Captain D. H. Insall.

Army XX: Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Ward, Major B. H. Adams, Captain P. Carr, Captain D. H. Insall. Reserve: Major R. H. Gilbertson.

W.O.II H. Haw was also chosen as a reserve but had to drop out as he was shooting for his county.

Army XII: Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Major B. H. Adams, Captain P. Carr, Captain D. H. Insall.

Army Pistol VIII: Captain D. H. Insall.

International teams

Ireland: Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, "National," "MacKinnon," "Elcho."

Wales: Major R. H. Gilbertson, "National."

England: Captain D. H. Insall, reserve for "MacKinnon."

County teams

Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Major B. H. Adams, Captain D. H. Insall, W.O.II H. Haw all shot for their respective counties.

Individual successes

SR (a): Our team of four were all in a number of prize lists, but only Captain D. H. Insall maintained his excellent form of the A.R.A. Meeting. His principle successes were:—

Rapids Aggregate: 2nd (one point behind the winner).

Wantage: 2nd (equal score as the winner).

Stephens: 12th.

Service Rifle Championship: 14th. He was our outstanding shot of the year and maintained peak form from the Corps Meeting right through to the end of Bisley.

SR (b): Our most successful newcomer to SR (b) Shooting was Major B. H. Adams. In his first year at Bisley he was unruffled and shot with a skill and judgment of a seasoned competitor. He scored a possible 50/50 in his second competition, had a 48/50 at 900 yards and put up excellent scores in the Army XX, Army XII, County Short and County Long matches.

Three members of the Corps, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Captain D. H. Insall and Lieutenant D. G. D. Gray reached the final stage of the St. George's three stage shoot of 15 rounds at 300 yards, 15 rounds at 600 yards and 15 rounds at 900 yards.

Captain D. H. Insall was the only member of the Corps to reach the final stage of "The Queens." He had an excellent score of 274, ten points behind the winner and was placed 41st.

Highest Possible Scores: Major B. H. Adams scored 50/50 in the "Daily Telegraph" a 10-round shoot at 300 yards, and Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh scored 50/50 in the Daily Mail a 10-round shoot at 500 yards. Both received bronze medals. Captain D. H. Insall scored a 50/50 at 900 yards in the "Barlow" which he won, and Major R. H. Gilbertson scored a 35/35 at 300 yards in a daily side-show competition.

Captain P. Carr was placed 11th in the "Cambridge" with a score of 48/50 at 900 yards, and also came third in the Army SR (b) Club Championship. He won the Club's Donegal Badge. W.O.II Haw won four Class H Bronze Bars and a silver medal. Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher won five Class H Bronze Bars and a silver medal.

The Captain of Corps Shooting, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh has been elected Captain of the Irish team for the coming three years.

Corps Sports Results

Tennis:

The Corps beat the Royal Artillery by 7½ points to 1½.

Golf:

Corps 6½ v. R.E.M.E. 5½.

21st Regiment Tug-o-War Team
R.A.F. (Germany) and Rhine Area Finalists
Runners-up in B.A.O.R. Final



(Standing): Signalman Cleghorn, Signalman Rowlands, Staff-Sergeant Martin, Lance-Corporal Brown, Corporal Douglas *(Seated):* Signalman Wade, Lieutenant A. P. H. Marley, W.O.I (R.S.M.) W. A. Barnes, Corporal Dore, Signalman Bryar. *(Absent on Course)* Sergeant Nelson



L/Cpl. Baines finishing strongly in the 5,000 metre Meyer Unit



1500 metre race—lifebelts at the ready!

The Morrison Cup

7th, 16th and 21st Regiments in tight struggle

As with most other outdoor activities this summer, the Morrison Cup was not to escape the wrath of the elements. The meeting had been open 45 minutes when the heavens opened and we had half-an-hour's torrential rain.

The meeting started with the 100m. hurdles, whilst in the field the high jump and shot were taking place. After the first heat in the 100m. the rain started and thus washed out all other track events for the day except the 5,000m. which was run through two inches of water. This proved to be an excellent race closely fought out between 13th Regiment and 7th Regiment, Lance-Corporal Venus of 7th Regiment emerging the winner by some 100 yards.

The rest of the afternoon was restricted to field events only and results were reached in the high jump, long jump, shot and hammer.

At the close of the first day 21st Regiment was leading, followed by 7th Regiment.

The rain continued during the night, the 4 x 100m. was cancelled and 4 x 100m. hurdles was decided on the times in the heats. A substitute event was run for the 200m., each team entering two competitors, and a series of straight 200m. races were run, the results being determined on times.

The heats for the 4 x 400 and 4 x 800m. were run off in the morning and the finals took place in the afternoon. These races were followed by the 1500m. With a field of 30, the going was very hard for the first lap, but by this time the leaders were sorted out, and the first three crossed the line with only a yard between them (Lance-Corporal Baines, of 4th Regiment being the winner.)

The penultimate race of the meeting, the 4 x 800m. could decide the winners of the competition, with 7th Regiment, 16th Regiment and 21st Regiment all within striking distance. The result of this put 7th Regiment in the lead, and victory was confirmed when Signalman Drew cleared 11ft. 1in. in the Pole Vault.

The final event, the 4 x 400 was rather an anti-climax as it could make no difference to the final position. This event was won by 1st Regiment.

For the third consecutive year, 7th Regiment has won the Morrison Cup with 16th Regiment runners-up. In the minor units competition 207 Squadron emerged the winners with 217 Squadron runners-up.

A most enjoyable meeting ended by Mrs. M. S. Hancock presenting the prizes.

Corps Success in B.A.O.R. Canoe Race

This event took place on 26th and 27th July, and was a gruelling race in two phases—a sprint upstream and a 70 km. long distance race downstream.

The 2nd Regiment won the event out of a field of 62 entries, and 13th Regiment came in fourth and fifth. Altogether a very good showing by the Corps.

Incidentally, THE WIRE received this information from 13th Regiment who, in true sporting fashion, hoped we could find a small space to mention the 2nd Regiment's success as they (the 13th) would very much like to see it publicised.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during July, 1965:—

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	30	0	0
24th Regiment	33	6	10
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	3	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	6	2	0
H.Q. Mess	6	2	0
School of Signals	38	0	0
64th Regiment T.A.	4	12	10
3rd Regiment	19	0	0
14th Regiment (1 Squadron)	25	0	0
14th Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	7	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	4	10	0
30th Regiment (Married Families' Club)	25	0	0
205 Squadron	9	4	6
243 Squadron	2	3	6
628 Troop	1	17	6
Signal Wing, School of Artillery		13	6
Signal Training Wing, Royal Marines		7	0
57th Regiment T.A.	1	5	0
327 Squadron T.A.		3	0
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	2	11	0
47th Regiment T.A. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
Royal Signals attached 14 Field Regiment R.A.	3	15	0
222 Squadron	5	0	0
9th Regiment	73	6	6
234 Squadron	13	14	1
St. Martin's Garrison Church (Royal Signals 'At Home, 1965)	55	0	0
Various individual donations	10	15	9
Total Receipts	£379	0	0
Expenditure during July, 1965 (Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£561	18	10

Clothing Gifts

Since the beginning of May, gifts of clothing, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

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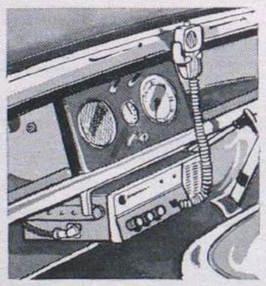
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THE WIRE

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Editorial

The Wire and You

Having built up our monthly circulation quite substantially since 1963 there has been, in recent months, a modest decline in these figures. This is due, in part, to reduced intakes at Catterick and to amalgamations or disbandments of certain smaller units. Any decline, however modest, in the sales of THE WIRE cannot be viewed with equanimity as it has a direct bearing on our revenue both from sales and advertisements and also on the quality of THE WIRE.

We feel now is the time to say something about our support from the Officers, Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s of the regular Corps. We look, with justification, to the serving Corps as the main source of our support and, in particular, to the regular Officers, Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s of whom there are some 3,700. Sales of THE WIRE to the serving Corps are in the order of 4,200 a month and it is not difficult to deduce from these figures that support from the "seniors" is nothing like 100%. We believe that ALL Officers, Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.'s should back up THE WIRE, irrespective of its merits, as an act of basic Corps loyalty. It is therefore to them that we address ourselves.

Do you take your own personal copy of THE WIRE or do you read the Mess copy or rely on someone else's? Is 1/6 a month or 18/- a year stretching your loyalty too far? Consult your conscience and if your answers to these questions do not altogether satisfy you then may we suggest you cut out and make use of one or the other of the two forms below. We believe you will feel better for doing this—so will we!

The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
Cheltenham Terrace,
Chelsea,
London, S.W.3.

Please arrange to send THE WIRE to me for twelve months commencing with the next issue. I enclose a cheque/Postal Order for 18/-.

My rank and name is .....

I wish THE WIRE to be sent to .....

.....

OR

The Accounts Officer or P.R.I.

..... Regt./Sqn./Tp.

Please reserve a personal copy of THE WIRE for me in the unit bulk order until further notice. I understand this will cost me 1/6 a month.

Name and rank .....

.....

FOOTNOTE :

Several large units only order 50 WIRES each month.
A certain Squadron takes 100 WIRES.
A Troop, only eight strong, takes eight WIRES and insists on them being sent Airmail at their own expense!

FUNNY ISN'T IT?

VALE



Presenting the baton of honour at the Hong Kong Police Graduation Day, 1965

Brigadier D. A. Pringle, O.B.E.

Douglas Alexander Pringle, son of Major A. Pringle, formerly of the Indian Army and the Egyptian Police, was born in 1912. He was educated at Dean Close and entered the R.M.A., Woolwich, in 1930. He showed himself a useful athlete, winning his colours for athletics, swimming and modern pentathlon. He won the Bruson Challenge Cup for swimming. On being commissioned into Royal Signals in 1932 he continued to enjoy these sports. In 1936 he took part in the British games at the White City and was travelling reserve for the British modern pentathlon team at the Olympic Games in Berlin. He also qualified on the advanced physical training course.

Later that year he was posted to India, to the 2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, where he became proficient in polo, pig-sticking and show jumping. He attended the equitation course at the Indian Cavalry School at Sangor, qualifying in the top grade. In 1940 he was appointed Adjutant of the 5th Indian Divisional Signals, seeing service in Eritrea and North Africa. He attended the Quetta Staff College and was then posted in 1942, at the age of 29, as a Lieutenant-Colonel to be the first Royal Signals instructor at the Middle East Staff College at Haifa. After a short period as G.S.O.1 (Ops.) at H.Q., British Troops Palestine and Trans Jordan, he was recalled to India in 1944 for parachute training and to raise and command the Indian Airborne Divisional Signals.

He was again on active service in 1946-48, when he commanded 6th Airborne Divisional Signals in Palestine, for which he was twice mentioned in despatches.

He was the first, and so far the only, Royal Signals Officer to be a College Commander at the R.M.A, Sandhurst, 1949-53, and was made a brevet Lieutenant-Colonel. This was followed by three years as A.Q.M.G., East Africa Command, where he was awarded the O.B.E. for his work during the Mau Mau operations.

In 1956, while serving with G.H.Q., U.K.L.F., he was engaged on the formative stage of Civil Defence planning in the nuclear age. At the end of that year he was promoted to Colonel and selected to be G.S.O.1 of Signals 5 at the War Office. In this appointment his work was of considerable importance, particularly in planning the structure of the Corps in the all Regular Army within the manpower allocation. He sowed the seeds of certain matters whose lasting benefit is seen today, including the establishment of Regimental Headquarters of the Corps and the covenanting of Corps subscriptions.

His first appointment as Brigadier was C.S.O., Middle East, in Cyprus, in 1958, when the rebellion was in its worst stage. From Cyprus he went to York as C.S.O. for the year 1962.

In 1963 he was appointed Commander of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Garrison, where his command included two British Infantry battalions and 25 other military units, involving all aspects of the corporate and individual life of 3,500 men with over 1,000 families.

One of his final duties, before handing over on retirement, was to command the Queen's Birthday Parade of all three Services in the Hong Kong Stadium. His choice of music for the Parade Commander's party during the march past was, appropriately, "The Happy Wanderer." This parade was seen by 40,000 spectators.

Douglas Pringle is, together with his brother, Major R. C. Pringle, Royal Signals, the third generation of Army Officers in his family. His eldest son is now an Officer Cadet at Sandhurst, to follow the same vocation. In 1940 he married Wendy, daughter of Colonel R. E. Gordon, M.C., late Royal Engineers. His wife has proved herself a charming and original hostess and a tireless worker for the well-being of her husband's officers and men.

Douglas is a man of strong personality, strong views and sincere convictions. He had no time for self-seekers or for those who did not pull their full weight. He always fought, without fear, for what he believed to be the rights of those who worked for him. He did not believe in eyewash as an end in itself, but he always insisted that a good soldier is a smart soldier; and that no technician was any the better for wearing long hair or a grubby hat.

His all-round experience was of great assistance when matters of more than Corps interest were being discussed. We shall miss him and his wife and we wish them the best of fortune for the future.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In the field of shooting, the Corps has recently ousted the Light Infantry and the Green Jackets; judging by appearances, it would seem that quite a few members are also trying to take over their privileges of dress as regards the wearing of caps, field service.

When this item of clothing was the only one in general issue, apart from the helmets, steel (apart from the R.T.R.) during the period 1939-43, and before the introduction of the Caps, G.S., the correct way of wearing the Caps, F.S., was "inclined to the right of the head, with the lower button centrally over the right eye, with the exception of Light Infantry and Rifle Regiments, when the Caps, F.S., will be worn centrally on the head with the lower button directly above and in line with the nose."

Would it not be better if the Corps remained *"Certa Cito"* and did not attempt to be *"Celer et Audax."*

W.O.II A. COPESTAKE, 222 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 69.

The correct way of wearing the Cap, F.S., as quoted, applied a number of years ago, when it was an official item of headdress. Now that it is an unofficial item, there is no hard and fast Army ruling as to how it should be worn. In the absence of a Corps directive on this subject, Commanding Officers have used their own discretion as to how the Cap, F.S. should be worn in their units.—Editor.

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

COMMENCING APRIL, 1966

L Tech	Class	II - I	12th April, 1966
R Tech (Lt)	Class	II - I	19th April, 1966
Lmn	Class	II - I	12th April, 1966
C Jntr	Class	II - I	19th April, 1966
Clerk Tech	Class	II - I	5th April, 1966
Comcen Op	Class	II - I	5th April, 1966
R Op	Class	II - I	* 5th April, 1966
E.D.	Class	II - I	19th April, 1966
Tg Op	Class	II - I	* 26th April, 1966
Dvr R Signals	Class	II - I	12th April, 1966
E Tech	Class	III-II	12th April, 1966
L Tech	Class	III-II	26th April, 1966
R Tech (Lt)	Class	III-II	5th April, 1966
Clerk R Signals	Class	III-II	5th April, 1966
Comcen Op	Class	III-II	5th April, 1966
R Op	Class	III-II	12th April, 1966
E.D.	Class	III-II	5th April, 1966
Dtmn	Class	III-II	26th April, 1966

* Two courses

The Facts About

The Special Air Service

This particularly concerns Telegraph Operators, Radio Operators, Radio Technicians, Cypher Operators and Clerk Technicians, but other trades can also serve with the S.A.S.

BECAUSE the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment is deployed world wide on operational tasks, often of a classified nature, it has not the time, or it is not allowed, to advertise its abilities or scotch wrong impressions about its work. This leads to misrepresentations, and a lot of signalmen, whatever their trade, write off any idea of volunteering for the S.A.S. through ignorance of its work, thereby missing an opportunity of a lifetime to serve in a particularly interesting unit.

The Fallacies

There are two main fallacies about signalling for the S.A.S. which tend to put people off volunteering. The first is that you have to be a physical superman to get in. This is not so, as will be shown later. The good signals tradesman is just as important to the Regiment as any other S.A.S. individual.

The second fallacy is that it is bad for your career to do a 'funny.' This is particularly felt by the ambitious Training Operator who has his eye on an early Yeoman's course and hence all the courses that lead up to it. Now that more and more Royal Signals tradesmen are volunteering it is now as easy to get on a course from 22 S.A.S. Regiment as from any other unit. The broad experience gained in the S.A.S. more than makes up for lack of practice in Royal Signals Units.

The Married Man

Another fallacy which applies to the married man. A high percentage of the Unit is married; 90 per cent. of the Unit including many married men re-volunteer at the end of their tour for several tours. There are no problems getting quarters in Hereford where the Regiment is based and many wives prefer their husbands to go off for a few weeks or months rather than lose them for a year or so, as can happen, on unaccompanied tours.

Two ways of enjoying the S.A.S.

The Royal Signals volunteer can either serve as a signaller or as an S.A.S. trooper. It is important that you appreciate the difference between the two because you may wish to volunteer for one rather than the other or for one with a view to the other when you know more about it.

The S.A.S. Signalman

What is wanted is good tradesmen—men who can work on their own without supervision and who enjoy signalling because this is what they are trained to do. Men who like variety in signalling—anything from a C.W. Station in the Far East to Voice in the Middle East to both anywhere in Europe. Men who enjoy working and learning new equipment and have a little initiative to cope with the unusual situation that was not covered in training. The signalman more often than not finds himself operating on his own without supervision. There is often no sergeant or corporal to lean on. This makes life more difficult, but it is these repeated opportunities to use his self-reliance and self-discipline which most people have, if given the chance, which often makes him loath to leave the Regiment when the times comes.

The Regiment is always on operations or exercises which means it continuously needs communications, which in turn means the Signal Troop never stops communicating and has no time for anything that is not directly concerned with the Regiment's communications—hence of necessity chores such as repeated cleaning, painting, formal inspections are almost non-existent, but when they do occur they are objective and not ends in themselves.

The system of promotion in the Signal Troop is the same as for any Royal Signals unit, that is, if you are qualified and recommended you will be promoted according to your roster position.

If you wish to earn parachute pay (at present 7s. 6d. a day) but not to become an S.A.S. trooper it is necessary to pass the normal S.A.S. Selection Course sufficiently well to qualify for a parachute course.

Christmas Appeal for Toys and Clothes

For several years the Corps has, at Christmas, provided some kind of gift for each member of the very poorest families known to the Association. If we are to do the same this year, we must have YOUR ASSISTANCE NOW. Gifts of toys, books, money and clothing from you will alone make this annual present from the Corps to its less fortunate members possible.

But to be effective we must have your support early. Unpacking, sorting, re-packing and posting before Christmas takes our staff quite some time.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY AND AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

If you decide during your tour as a signaller you would like a try at becoming an S.A.S. Trooper you can do so by passing the Selection Course at any time.

The S.A.S. Trooper

To be an S.A.S. Trooper you have to be both physically and mentally suitable—suitable being the operative word. There is a Selection Course three times a year. To pass it the average person has to prepare himself by training very hard. Many fail it but many have passed and once in very rarely do they want to leave. Ultimately there is now an S.A.S. permanent Cadre at which the successful S.A.S. trooper can aim if he decides it is the life he wants.

Apart from the initial effort of passing the Selection Course there are a dozen different skills the Trooper has available to him—the longer he stays with the Regiment the better his chance of covering a wide range of skills which include among them desert navigation, diving, rock climbing, medicine, close quarter battle techniques, special Land Rover handling, free fall parachuting, swimming, canoeing, foreign languages and demolitions.

On being accepted as an S.A.S. trooper he loses his original rank and has to gain promotion on his ability as an S.A.S. soldier, but he keeps his trade rating, viz AII which he held before transferring. If at any stage (not necessarily at the end of a 3-year tour) he decides he does not like the life he can transfer back to his parent arm—but this very rarely happens. The ex-Royal Signals trooper is particularly well placed because if he does not like S.A.S. work, but likes the Regiment and is suitable he can transfer from a S.A.S. Sabre Squadron to the Signal Troop.

To sum up, the Royal Signals tradesman is well placed and has often been successful in the past in being accepted by 22 S.A.S. Regiment. He can, if he comes and does not like it, leave at anytime. Because of his Signals background he is usually a successful S.A.S. Trooper so that whether he goes to Hereford to signal or to be a trooper, one thing he is guaranteed not to get—is a quiet time.

Although in the past few months quite a number have joined the S.A.S. Signal Troop there will always be room for more—particularly Telegraph Operators (or Radio Operators). If you are interested in joining the Troop or would like more information do not hesitate to write to the Adjutant or the Signal Officer: 22 Special Air Service Regiment, Bradbury Lines, Hereford, England.

If you want to volunteer now, the form of application is laid out in ACI 227/63 available in your Orderly Room or Squadron Office.

Telecommunications Personnel
Are You Due for Release this Year?

The Ministry of Defence offers you employment in the Whitehall area as a *Specialist Teleprinter Operator.*

Pay: £14 11s. 0d. p.w., if 25 and over, rising to £17 13s. 6d. p.w. (Earnings can be considerably increased by overtime and shift allowance. Hours: 42 gross, over a five-day week. Paid leave: Three weeks a year.

Generous sick leave arrangements and lump sum payments on retirement or resignation after more than five years' continuous service.

Written applications, stating trade proficiency, to: Mr. P. W. Hobden, Ministry of Defence, DS16, Room 0225, Main Building, London, S.W.1.



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Obituaries

MAJOR (T.O.T.) C. P. BOLTON, B.E.M.

A correspondent from the 21st Regiment writes :



Major (TOT) C. P. Bolton, B.E.M.

"All who knew him will be sad to hear of the tragic death of Major "Charles" Bolton.

"Cyril as he was christened, but Charles to all in the Army and Royal Air Force who knew him, enlisted in the Corps soon after the outbreak of World War II. Within two months he was on his way to India, where he did his initial training as an Instrument Mechanic. He then saw service in Iraq, returned to India in 1942, where he stayed until his repatriation to U.K. early in 1945.

"He then served in North-West Europe from December, 1945, and it was here in 1948 whilst serving with Air Formation Signals that he was awarded the B.E.M. for his services during the Berlin air lift.

"Commissioned from W.O.II (F. of S.) in 1952, he saw service in Cyprus with 2 Wireless Regiment as T.O.T., in U.K. with Eastern Command Squadron, and then as an Air Formation Specialist he served in B.A.O.R. and Aden, returning to 21st Regiment, B.A.O.R , in March, 1963.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to his mother and father in the loss of their only son, and to his fiancee, Miss Joan Stedman, whom he met in Cyprus in 1952."

MAJOR S. J. THOMPSON

As we go to press we were sorry to learn of the sudden death of Major S. J. Thompson, while playing golf in the Corps Autumn Meeting. "Tommy" was one of the old soldiers of the Corps, with both other rank and commissioned service. He served the Corps well and faithfully for many years and both he and his wife made very many friends in the course of their Service life.

His son, Roger, follows in his father's footsteps and is now a Captain in the Corps. He was recently married to Aureole Blaker, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs. E. C. R. Blaker.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Mrs. Thompson and Roger in their sad loss.

CAPTAIN R. J. B. BOLITHO

We regret to have to record the death, at his home in Jersey, on 7th September, 1965, of Captain R. J. B. Bolitho, at the age of 75. Originally a regular officer with The Devonshire Regiment, he became known in the R.E. Signal Service and Royal Flying Corps during the Great War. He was then for many years in the Royal Signals R.A.R.O. He was a most generous man, and when Vice-Commodore of the Royal Signals Sailing Association in 1939 he provided his yacht, a Plymouth hooker, named *Dayspring*, for the use of members of the Corps. She was re-named *Certa*. He also gave an annual prize for the best article on yachting in the Quarterly Journal.

[*A memoir will appear in the Royal Signals Journal*]

To Individual Subscribers

THE only way to be certain of receiving your WIRE correctly addressed is to be sure and let us know changes in your address, rank and such-like, as they occur. We try to operate a detective service, but it is fallible!

Movements—Officers

ADDITION TO JULY LIST

Lieutenant J. E. Barnes ... ... To 247 Gurkha Squadron

ADDITIONS TO AUGUST LIST

Lieutenant P. D. Jones ... ... ,, 246 Gurkha Squadron
Second-Lieutenant C. R. Urquhart ... ,, 1st Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Second-Lieutenant S. Cowan ... ... ,, 247 (Gurkha) Squadron

AMENDMENTS TO AUGUST LIST

Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. E. Howard, B.E.M. ... ... To 48th Regiment (T.A.)
Lieutenant V. H. Stephens ... ... ,, 4th Regiment

ADDITIONS TO SEPTEMBER LIST

Lieutenant-Colonel L. D. Line ... To M.o.D.
Major P. D. Parker ... ... ,, H.Q., NORTHAG
Second-Lieutenant D. G. J. Graham ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant S. Law ... ... ,, School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant P. C. Pearson ... ,, School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant J. P. Theodorson ,, School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant G. R. Vaughan ... ,, School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant J. F. Budd ... ,, 7th Armoured Bde. Gp. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Major C. Mitchell (T/Lt.-Col.) ... ,, S.H.A.P.E.
Major K. A. C. Wilson ... ... ,, Army Aviation Centre
Major J. L. Donne ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major J. B. Prince ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Captain J. B. J. Halford ... ... ,, R.M.C.S.
Captain M. Allan ... ... ,, 11th Inf. Bde. Gp. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Major I. Gram-Hansen ... ... ,, 8th Regiment

AMENDMENTS TO SEPTEMBER LIST

Lieutenant R. Dorrell ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Captain D. Lycett-Gregson ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Captain G. Wilkie-Snow ... ... ,, 48th Regiment (T.A.)

OCTOBER LIST

Captain C. R. C. Bunce ... ... ,, R.M.C.S. / Staff College Camberley
Captain D. S. Hopkins, M.B.E. ... ,, ,,
Captain W. J. M. Michie ... ... ,, ,,
Captain H. A. Morrison ... ... ,, ,,
Captain M. J. Pickard ... ... ,, ,,
Captain P. S. Reader ... ... ,, ,,
Captain P. J. Rowland ... ... ,, ,,
Captain J. N. Taylor ... ... ,, ,,
Captain H. S. Wilson ... ... ,, ,,
Captain R. Aggett ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Captain M. F. Andrews ... ... ,, Army Air Corps Centre
Lt. (T/Capt.) C. D. A. Blessington ... ,, Joint Communications Unit (266 Squadron)
Second-Lieutenant W. I. Buxton ... ,, Cambridge University O.T.C.
Major G. G. Campbell ... ... ,, Ministry of Aviation
Major G. Ferrier ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. D. Ferguson ,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. J. Ford ... ,, 13th Regiment
Captain F. R. Fletcher ... ... ,, Signal Trg. Wing, R. Marines
Lt. (T/Capt.) J. M. Gray ... ... ,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Captain N. C. Grayson ... ... ,, R.M.C.S.
Major J. R. Gibson ... ... ,, H.Q., 7 Armoured Bde. Gp.
Lt. (T/Capt.) S. G. McK. Gordon ... ,, 17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Lieutenant A. G. Ingham ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Captain B. P. Hughes ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) C. E. Hesketh ,, 28th Regiment
Captain J. K. Hedges ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Major (T/Lt.-Col.) S. P. Irwin ... ,, 50th (N) Regiment (T.A.)
Lieutenant D. H. Insall ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Major B. R. Jacob ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain D. J. Jolly ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant M. J. Lance ... ,, H.Q., British Gurkha L. of C.
Major (T.O.T.) E. J. Larner ... ... ,, Blandford Project Staff
Captain (T.O.T.) P. J. Mitchell ... ,, H.Q., COMCAN
Major D. C. Newman ... ... ,, 65th (City of London) Regt. T.A.
Captain J. M. Newman ... ... ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) G. Oakley ... ,, 240 Squadron
Lieutenant G. K. Rothwell ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Major (T/Lt.-Col.) M. D. Scott ... ,, H.Q., Middle East Air Force
Major (T/Lt.-Col.) E. O. Smith, M.B.E., D.C.M. ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant P. F. Soward ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major C. R. A. Sumner ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) R. L. J. Shove ... ... ,, H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals
Captain J. A. Tonnison ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant M. J. Vest ... ,, Cambridge University O.T.C.
Major K. G. White ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Major C. B. Ward ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain J. H. Williams ... ... ,, M.o.D.
Captain J. B. Walsh ... ... ,, 4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Captain M. J. H. Williams ... ... ,, 66th Regiment (T.A.)
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) N. A. V. Ribchester ... ... ,, 252 Squadron
Lieutenant D. W. Cook ... ... ,, 653 Troop

Movements—W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

OCTOBER, 1965

W.O.II F. Kirk ... ... To 11th Regiment
W.O.II S. J. Raynor ... ... ,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
W.O.II A. Coyne ... ... ,, Joint Communications Unit, Borneo
W.O.II J. Halliday ... ... ,, Army Works Study Group
W.O.II R. V. Purkis ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II A. J. Cowe ... ... ,, H.Q. 6 Inf. Bde. Gp. & Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II J. G. Turner ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
W.O.II A. Warren ... ... ,, 53rd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II R. A. Rankin ... ... ,, 66th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II T. E. Hall ... ... ,, 319 Squadron (T.A.)
W.O.II A. A. Hawke ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II D. K. Earnshaw ... ... ,, 42nd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II K. H. Randall ... ... ,, H.Q., Northern Command
A/W.O.II R. E. G. Brown ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
A/W.O.II G. Donovan ... ... ,, H.Q. London District
W.O.II (F. of S.) P. Harvey ... ... ,, 645 Troop
W.O.II (F. of S.) P. J. O'Brien ... ,, 645 Troop
W.O.II (F. of S.) F. Clarkson ... ,, 7th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) D. C. Ashton ... ,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
W.O.II J. R. Woodland ... ... ,, 14th Regiment

Staff Sergeant B. F. Chapman ... ,, 253 Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. J. Harvey ... ,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. F. Brackston ... ,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. R. Jones ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. L. C. Coleman ... ,, 640 Troop
Staff Sergeant R. N. Forster ... ,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Staff Sergeant D. J. Mortlock ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. M. Gittins ... ... ,, Birmingham O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant V. L. Haywood ... ,, 43rd Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. D. Knox ,, 217 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Gilmour ... ... ,, 58th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant L. Perrier ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant C. A. N. Woods ... ,, 30th Regiment

Sergeant J. M. May ... ... ,, 47th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant F. Jones ... ... ,, 20th L.C.T. Regiment, R.C.T.
Sergeant R. J. Davies ... ... ,, 260 Squadron
Sergeant M. A. C. Cosey ... ... ,, Army Air Corps Centre
Sergeant L. J. Courtel ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant A. M. H. Hamilton ... ... ,, 651 Troop
Sergeant T. E. Loud ... ... ,, 224 Squadron
A/Sergeant K. Halliwell ... ... ,, 205 Squadron
Sergeant J. Taylor ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Swann ... ... ,, 537 Troop
Sergeant D. G. James-Bailey ... ... ,, H.Q. A.F.N.E.
Sergeant L. J. H. Merry ... ... ,, 226 Squadron
Sergeant A. G. Evans ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant K. W. Griffiths ... ... ,, 205 Squadron
Sergeant C. Hay ... ... ,, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars Sig. Troop
Sergeant P. J. Fernie ... ... ,, 14 Fd. Regt. Sig. Troop
Sergeant R. Ridley ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant R. E. W. Growns ... ... ,, 63rd Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant F. Needham ... ... ,, Joint Communications Unit, Borneo
Sergeant J. C. Jackson ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant R. W. Townsend ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant W. O. Thomas ... ... ,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Sergeant C. F. G. Batten ... ... ,, 607 Troop
Sergeant B. D. Nicholls ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant G. A. Lewis ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant C. T. Coventry ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant B. J. Peters ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant F. G. Holmonroyd ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. McGregor ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant K. Kimberley ... ... ,, 261 Squadron
Sergeant C. A. E. Pylee ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant T. McCarthy ... ... ,, 205 Squadron

New Pattern Corps Ties

At a recent meeting, the Corps Committee approved modified versions of the Corps tie to meet a demand for a tie more in the modern trend.

These ties are as follows:

PATTERN D. — An open-ended tie with diagonal stripes and conventional cut but considerably narrower in width.

PATTERN E1. — A straight-cut tie of narrow width throughout its length with square cut ends and horizontal stripes.

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When ordering, it will be sufficient to refer to them as Pattern 'D' or Pattern 'E1.'

Promotions

JULY AND AUGUST

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
			REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER			
To W.O.II	22538634	A/W.O.II	Thomas, A. J.	3280	2010	
	22537002	A/W.O.II	Johnson, P. S. W.	3290	2100	
	22212207	A/W.O.II	Gill, P.	3300	2140	
To S Sgt.	21022117	Sgt.	Howie, G. A.	3590	6580	(Op)
	22212559	Sgt.	Shaw, J. H.	3600	1350	(Fd)
	2549588	Sgt.	Fenney, G.	3610	1380	(Fd)
	23204479	Sgt.	Gorman, D. H.	3620	6320	(Op)
			FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER			
To W.O.I	22762504	W.O.II	Boulter, R. C.	980	1120	
	22296112	W.O.II	Willis, G. D.	990	1130	
To W.O.II	2549782	S Sgt.	Godfrey, B. T.	1695	920	
	22562532	S Sgt.	Brookes, A. N.	1740	2220	
	2549611	S Sgt.	Walke, J. L. E.	1760	140	(Tec)
	23118499	S Sgt.	Lawrence, J. H.	1790	1510	
	23336293	S Sgt.	Hampson, R. F.	1800	1520	
			YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER			
To W.O.I	22212484	W.O.II	Hudson, A. A.	350	340	
	19056979	A/W.O.II	Gubler, G. I. D.	360	440	
	22314875	W.O.II	Pilkington, J. S. P.	370	414	
	2549264	W.O.II	Ewens, R. M.	380	430	
To W.O.II	22265932	S Sgt.	Heaps, C.	1120	384	
			CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER			
To W.O.I	22242734	A/W.O.I	Pearse, E. R. T.	330	560	
	22242112	A/W.O.I	Palmer, W. H.	340	645	
To S Sgt.	21074023	A/S Sgt.	Sloane, K.	1120	1820	(Ad)
	22797000	A/S Sgt.	O'Neill, B. P.	1140	1670	(Ad)
			TECHNICAL ROSTER			
To Sgt.	23251276	Cpl.	Francis, J. A.	4835	6480	
	23532364	Cpl.	Street, D.	5015	8523	
	23709955	Cpl.	Shone, C. J.	5105	9115	
	23458383	Cpl.	Hollins, M. J. W.	5117	7660	
	23706527	Cpl.	Leitch, J.	5145	9163	
	22815294	Cpl.	Cowell, N. C.	5148	12665	
	23685844	Cpl.	Hill, R. J.	5155	8447	
	23732363	Cpl.	Kelbie, R. B.	5160	11690	
	23640944	Cpl.	Eustace, K. E.	5165	9230	
	23473539	Cpl.	Miller, R. G.	5170	10756	
	23734709	Cpl.	Hall, G.	5200	10631	
	23487185	Cpl.	Edwards, W. J.	5150	8789	
	22265883	Cpl.	Edwards, R. B.	5157	690	
	23642972	Cpl.	Briggs, R. W.	5180	9280	
	23755734	Cpl.	Tomlinson, A.	5210	9363	
	23503232	Cpl.	Johnston, D.	5235	9410	
	23528430	Cpl.	Paton, R. A.	5245	9512	
			FIELD ROSTER			
To Sgt.	22776291	A/Sgt.	Gray, P. L.	4184	2274	
	23484596	Cpl.	Harwood, G.	4270	3390	
	22265333	Cpl.	Smith, D.	4280	1290	
	22523398	A/Sgt.	Chapman, J. F.	4310	2780	
	22795805	A/Sgt.	Swaine, R.	4320	2860	
	22541460	Cpl.	Harris, G.	4330	2890	
	22776699	A/Sgt.	Foster, M.	4340	3000	
			ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER			
To Sgt.	23241567	A/Sgt.	Perry, D. G.	2950	4000	
	23430356	A/Sgt.	Palmer, D. G.	2960	4020	
	22541389	A/Sgt.	Smith, D. B.	2970	4430	
	23211049	A/Sgt.	Oliver, D.	2980	4640	
	22515673	A/Sgt.	Unwin, E. W.	2990	1110	

INSERTIONS

			REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER			
To S Sgt.	5732385	W.O.II	Doonan, P. J.	524	1690	(R.D. W.O.II)
	14031003	S Sgt.	Rawlings, F. J.	924	880	(S.C.S. S Sgt.)
			FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER			
To W.O.II	22203531	W.O.II	Dunlevy, J. M. M.	1750	660	(Tec)
To S Sgt.	22289335	S Sgt.	Sharp, A.	2350	950	(Tec)
	22274155	Sgt.	Waudby, S. H.	2360	1210	(Tec)
	22246013	Sgt.	David, J.	2370	1860	(Tec)
	22771424	Sgt.	Phillips, J. A.	2380	2000	(Tec)
	22286089	Sgt.	Mannion, P.	2390	2330	(Tec)
	22526463	Sgt.	Truran, M. A.	2400	2370	(Tec)
	22845378	Sgt.	Potter, D. F.	2410	2540	(Tec)
	22569209	Sgt.	Nicholls, F.	2420	3340	(Tec)
	22526329	Sgt.	Doyle, R. V.	2430	3354	(Tec)
	22980822	Sgt.	Meachin, B. A.	2450	3527	(Tec)
	22918372	Sgt.	Carr, D.	2460	3529	(Tec)
	23479934	Sgt.	Harvey, D. K.	2470	3770	(Tec)
	23497585	Sgt.	Thornber, P. A.	2490	3840	(Tec)
	22983677	Sgt.	McNaughton, J.	2500	4210	(Tec)
	22296467	Sgt.	Paul, H. .	2510	1000	(Tec)
			FIELD ROSTER			
To Sgt.	22559831	S Sgt.	Farrell, P. G.	1210	3570	(R.D.)
			ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER			
To Sgt.	21035290	Sgt.	Church, S. R.	2102	8590	(Op)

DELETIONS

			REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER			
W.O.I	230	240	250	260	280	350
W.O.II	50	1000	1570			
S Sgt.	800	1430				
			YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER			
W.O.I	70	150	166			
			FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER			
W.O.I	630					
			CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER			
W.O.I	250					
			TECHNICAL ROSTER			
W.O.I	150					
W.O.II	660					
S Sgt	740	950	1170			
Sgt.	1210	1860	2000	2330	2370	2540
	3340	3354	3527	3529	3690	3770
	3840	3880	4050	4210	3630	3790
			ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER			
Sgt.	1630	2430				

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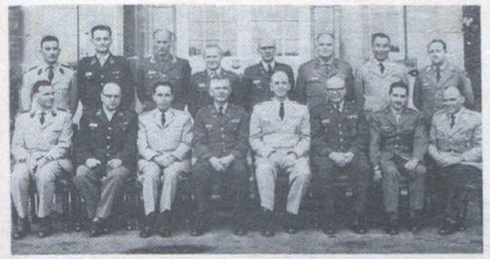
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No. 10 NATO COURSE

Back Row (Left to Right) Captain J. Defosser, Major K. Elgersma, Major K. R. Kvalberg, Major A. Qvistgaard, Major L. J. Rajchel, Major J. M. Wallaert, Major W. Richter, Major A. Pechmann

Front Row (Left to Right) Chef de Battalion F. R. Ruche, Lieutenant-Colonel I. Duque, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Sayiner, Colonel J. W. Heatwole, Colonel H. Dakin, Colonel D. R. Knight, Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Espagnet, Major H. Klauck

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

N.A.T.O. Comes to Catterick

Monday, the 19th July, 1965, saw the arrival at the School of Signals of students of the N.A.T.O. Signal Officers' course. This year the course was made up of 16 Officers from nine different member nations, namely, U.S.A., France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Turkey, Belgium, Norway and Denmark. No attempt has been made to follow protocol in this list, but as this was the tenth such course it is interesting to note that two nations feature in the attendance list for the first time—Turkey and Denmark. Indeed, a brief review of attendance on this and past courses reveals some interesting facts. All courses have had U.S.A. and West German representation. France, Norway and Belgium have been absent from only two, and Italy and Luxemburg have attended twice. The "once only's" include Turkey, Denmark and Great Britain. The latter is hard to explain when it is remembered that familiarisation with Royal Signals is the prime aim of the course. No doubt the Officer concerned, who must be nameless, had been out of touch for some time and sought the aid of N.A.T.O. membership to bring himself up to date with things in his own Corps!

Familiarisation is the Aim

The full aim of the course is officially given as follows: "To familiarise Signal Officers of N.A.T.O. with the organisation and methods of Royal Signals in the British Army so that they may be able to organise efficient inter-communication between their own and British formations, and to exchange information and communication experience among those Officers attending."

Whether this aim has been achieved in part or whole is not, perhaps, for us to say, but we can certainly claim success in that part of the aim which deals with the exchange of information and experiences. Indeed, the fact that this was the tenth course of its kind does indicate that we must be filling a recurring need and doing something useful in creating greater understanding in the field of military communications between the member nations of N.A.T.O.

Enjoyable and Exhilarating Exchange of Experiences

We always find these courses an enjoyable and exhilarating experience, and course No. 10 was no exception. The instructional periods were punctuated by lively and interesting discussions which were as valuable to us as we hope they were to the students.

We believe that it is here that the greatest value of such courses lies. The varied backgrounds and experiences of such a diverse audience might be expected to expose differences of opinion and areas of disagreement and discord, but these courses have proved the opposite to be the case. From the discussion periods, it is possible to distil a great measure of agreement and accord on the basic principles of communication and everyone learns that his own problems are by no means unique, but are shared by others. The programme gave ample opportunity to prove this point, but perhaps one example will suffice to illustrate it further.

Recent Lessons from Cyprus and Borneo

On one occasion Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. P. Sampson delivered a most interesting and at times highly amusing talk on his experiences as C.S.O. to the United Nations Force in Cyprus. This was immediately followed by Lieutenant-Colonel T. Cunningham-Burley relating the story of the early days of the development of Joint Communications in Borneo, where he was the first Commander Royal Signals. It would be difficult to find two more dissimilar operational situations, than Cyprus and Borneo. From almost every aspect, geographical, political, climatic and operational, these theatres are entirely different, yet it was possible to see many similarities in the communication requirements of each. The marked diversity between these theatres seemed to underline the cardinal principles of communication and their universal application to all situations. Techniques and requirements may indeed differ, but communication problems can only be solved by following the basic principles of reliability, flexibility and simplicity and the provision of alternative means and a reserve.

Doubtless our N.A.T.O. guests learned much more than this during the course, but if each student left us with only this lesson well and truly learnt, we would be satisfied that we had achieved an important part of the aim.

Not "All Work and No Play"

The course had its lighter side and in addition to the normal arrival cocktail party and mid-course guest night, two outside visits of general interest were included. The first took place on 25 July and was a visit to Hadrian's Wall. The students were joined by Cadre Officers and their families and a picnic luncheon, complete with bar facilities, was provided in the ancient and rugged surroundings by H.Q. Mess.

The second visit took the course by sea to Holy Island and the Farne Islands. The weather was not particularly kind to us on this occasion, and the sea was by no means calm, but this did not prevent anyone from enjoying a picnic luncheon with relish and the kind of appetite that comes only after a lot of fresh sea air!

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A further happy link was forged between members of the Salisbury branch of the Royal Signals Association and the 3rd Regiment, when the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel G. Proudman, M.B.E., received, on behalf of the Regiment a Royal Signals Plaque. From left to right in the picture: W.O.I. (RSM) G. Schofield, The C.O., Mr. R. G. Pearce, Mr. W. G. Collins, Mr. R. J. Baker, Mr. G. E. Strin, and Mr. W. Bent

3rd REGIMENT, BULFORD

A Quiet Month

August has been a very quiet month in the Regiment. Most of us have been enjoying three weeks' leave and have just returned; the remainder are now recovering from "carrying" the unit.

R.S.M. C. W. Johnson arrived while we were away and was well installed by the time we returned. We would like to welcome both him and Mrs. Johnson and hope that their stay with us will be a happy one.

Needless to say, if an R.S.M. comes an R.S.M. must go, two of a kind would be too much of a good thing. We would like to thank R.S.M. and Mrs. Schofield for all they have done and achieved for the Regiment and send them both our congratulations on Mr. Schofield's appointment to a combatant commission.

We would also like to say "Welcome" to Corporal Hamilton, Sergeant Carruthers, Signalman King, Lance-Corporal Longstaff, Signalman Shipen, Signalman Dobbs, Lance-Corporal Pond, Lance-Corporal Jones, Signalman Lindsay, Signalman Lomax, Signalman Brown, Corporal Hendry. Our good wishes go with Signalman Corrigan, Corporal George, Corporal White, Sergeant Fenney, Signalman Spalding, Signalman Chadwick, Signalman Dunkley, Sergeant Topliss, Lance-Corporal Sexton and Sergeant McCullock who have left us during the month.

Our rugby and soccer teams have each got off to a flying start—the rugby team beating Salisbury 14-0 and the soccer team beating Amesbury Town by 3 goals to 2. May this be the prelude of good things to come.

By the time this goes to print most of us will be up to our eyes in sand. I hope we will have more news for you next month.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

The horse dies hard!

The dashing cavalry Regiments of the Army still refer to their sub units at Sabre Squadrons. Rumour has it that Royal Signals element in Lippstadt is creating tradition for the Corps by introducing the stirring title of Antenna Squadrons. 7th Regiment rarely ignores such a challenge as this and various titles have been suggested for our own Squadrons: in one of them at least—that for 3 Squadron, not unconnected with the German teleprinters they operate—we feel that sex reared its ugly head and therefore do not intend to publish our new ORBAT.

Regimental Handbook

In the years 1960 and 1961, the first two editions of the 7th Regiment handbook were printed. The information in



Laconically the unit write the caption for this picture—3 Squadron camp—Organised sports!

the second edition was found to be largely out of date and, accordingly, a third edition has been published with two objects in view. Firstly, to give soldiers and their families posted to the Regiment an idea of the type of Regiment they are joining before they actually arrive. As far as possible, a copy will be sent to all ranks when their posting order is received in the Orderly Room. It is hoped that the book will answer a great many of their questions on topics like married quarters, banks, schools, entertainments, and so on. The second object is to provide a handy reference book for soldiers, whether in barracks or quarters, in which they may look up such things as telephone numbers, NAAFI opening times, early closing days, etc.

The production of the booklet was not without its lighter moments. Proof-reading, as many are undoubtedly aware already, is a far from straight-forward art. It is particularly difficult when dealing with German printers. Such marginal instructions as "7th Signal Regiment, a little larger, please" or "use the largest WORD that fits" are likely to be printed as part of the text! Mercifully, the final product does not embody any such howlers.

For those interested, the cost of production has been largely covered by selling advertising space. Anyone else thinking of such a venture might well, with suitable planning, make a profit on the deal.

Summer Camps

Under a shroud of secrecy, conferred by the title Exercise "Crab Apple," 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons set off in turn during August for summer camps in the neighbourhood of the Baltic port of Keil. They took with them representatives from other Squadrons; indeed these annual camps are so popular that there is considerable competition for places. Map-reading P.E. tests and canoeing were features of each Squadron's programme. In off-duty hours there were visits to Kiel, Eckenforder, and such other educational establishments as local breweries.

1 (Yagi) Squadron camped at a pleasant site in the grounds of a schloss at Neuer village, about 15 miles north of Kiel. Lieutenant Lenthall managed to shoot deer, but strongly denies rumours that he also bagged three Forstmeisters, seven Jaegers and a pure-bred Schleswig cow!

2 (Hairy) Squadron considered a 10-minute walk to the sea excessive and therefore moved when they arrived to a site just along the coast at Strande, which was at least 10 yards from the sea. The linemen revelled in the sunshine but failed to leave it behind for 3 (?) Squadron. Despite the dull weather, this Squadron achieved, under the leadership of Camp Comedian Lieutenant Ronnie Sampson, a great deal—just how much is yet to be learnt. It was he who established liaison with the German Navy by arranging a football match with one of their training ships. With Staff Sergeant Angell in control, they could do no wrong and achieved a comfortable victory by six goals to one. Afterwards the team and spectators were shown around the ship. Most of the photographs taken on this occasion unfortunately show little except the index finger of the photographer. What actually did go on at Kiel far out of the reach of the R.S.M.? Further anxiety has been caused

(*Continued on page* 345)

to the already harrassed staff of R.H.Q. by accounts brought back of collapsed bridges, typhoid outbreaks, dead sheep and aquatic sports in assault boats belonging to the Royal Engineers.

Arrivals and Departures

Surely it will not be long before the Editor of THE WIRE devotes a separate page to movements to and from 7th Regiment (*no comment!—Editor*). Major Akass has just left at short notice for the M.O.D., after commanding 3 Squadron for 16 months. We wish him and his wife well in the future. Major Garratt has filled the gap left by this departure. So swift was his move from 22nd Regiment that for a week he was simultaneously commanding 3 Squadron in Herford and H.Q. Squadron in Lippstadt. Lieutenant David Hunt, who has been just about as popular as his appointment of assistant adjutant would allow, has now left for the School of Signals on a T.E. course. He has played an important part in the life of the Regiment for over two years. We are very pleased to have with us Second-Lieutenants Bowen and Fitzgerald, both here for six weeks before they go to the School of Signals on their Q Course.

Other arrivals include W.O.II Craddock, W.O.I (Y. of S.) Longstaff, Sergeant Le Quesne, Sergeant Francis and Sergeant Kendall. Sergeant Hughes, R.E.M.E., is also welcomed.

W.O.II Joyce has left us to take up the appointment of R.Q.M.S. with 7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron.

Marriages.—Signalman Probart to Mary McDougall, on 24th July, 1965.

Births.—Sergeant and Mrs. Fisher, a son, Andrew John; Sergeant and Mrs. Kinrade, a son, Paul Alistair; Signalman and Mrs. Newman, a daughter, Teresa Mary; Signalman and Mrs. Johnston, a daughter, Sandra.

8th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

A Cricket Achievement

We regret that our appearances in print are all too rare, but on this occasion we felt we must not miss the chance of recording an achievement. Cricket may not be everybody's cup of tea, but at least the showing in the Regiment this year proves that the art and enjoyment of the game are not confined solely to a restricted society! Of 26 matches played, we won 17, drew 5, tied 1 and lost 3. We won the Northern Command Inter Unit Cricket Cup and the Yorkshire District Cup. No. 2 Squadron also won the Yorkshire District Minor Units Cup, beating our No. 3 Squadron in the final. Perhaps the most commendable success, however, was that of the 3 Squadron team of Lance-Corporal Watkins and Signalmen Grogan and Sharpe in winning the Yorkshire District Three-a-Side Cup against considerable opposition. Second-Lieutenant S. Coltman, Sergeant Hyde, Lance-Corporal Roberts, Signalman Kilvington and Signalman Brown all played for Royal Signals and Signalman Kilvington played for the Army on several occasions. Since we collected every possible cricket trophy in Northern Command and Yorkshire District we count this a better than average season for the Regiment, and offer Major W. J. Perry and his organisers and players our congratulations.

The Other Side of Things

Meanwhile, the other side of life has to go on. Since last we wrote, Major A. W. McL. McKinnon has left for S.R.D.E. after a very short stay in the Regiment, and Major M. A. T. Hartnett has moved up to the Brigade Major's chair after an even shorter stay. We welcome Major and Mrs. J. Handy to 1 Squadron and Major and Mrs. I. Gram-Hansen to 2 Squadron and wish them and those they replaced every success. We would also like to send best wishes to Major J. C. Moore (retired), Major F. T. C. Williams (retired), Captain S. G. McK. Gordon (Gurkhas), Captain C. H. D. Cross (flying), Captain A. H. Carling (flying), Captain E. P. Hughes (B.A.O.R.), Lieutenant R. E. Howard (T.A.) and Lieutenant G. W. Howard (T.E. Course), all of whom have left us recently. What an exodus!

In spite of these upheavals, we are pleased to record that the Officers managed to win the Regiment's Seven-a-side Rugby Football Competition at the end of August. Stories that the date was set deliberately when most of our Corps representative players (mostly Warrant Officers and Sergeants) were on leave, are quite untrue! The Hockey Six-a-Side Competition has also been held and won by a 1 Squadron team, which beat the Sergeants in the final.

The Hard Work Goes On

Finally, if it be thought that we do little else but play games, we would add that there are some 50 courses going on in the Regiment all the time. We know they are working hard, but we hope they enjoy themselves too.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

August has been a month of high activity in the sporting and extra mural fields. Cup successes at cricket and swimming; a highly successful summer show by the Mercury Players, and at the end of the month the Famagusta Sailing Club regatta.

Cricket. *9th Regiment* 186 *for* 7; *2nd Royal Anglian Regiment* 72 *all out.*

This was the result of the final of the Major Units Knock-out Competition. As can be gathered from the score the Regimental team encountered no great difficulty in walking off with the Cricket Cup. Top scorers for the Regiment were Barnham 45, Peyton 32 and Corporal Cooke 30. Signalman Herrick and Staff Sergeant Foster, bowling unchanged, returned 6 for 35 and 4 for 34 respectively.

Swimming. At Nicosia on 18th August the Major Units Swimming Competition took place. As holders of the cup for 1964 we had a reputation to defend. The other contenders were the Grenadier Guards, the 2nd Royal Anglians and the Ordnance Depot, Cyprus. After some excellent swimming, the Regimental team came away clear winners by a wide margin.

Water Polo. The swimming was followed by the final of the Major Units Water Polo, in which the Regiment was also represented. This provided a closely fought (!) battle with Ordnance Depot, Cyprus. At full time the score was 3-3. The first half of extra time merely raised this to 4-4. After a desperate struggle in the second half of extra time the Regimental team won 6-5. A highly entertaining game and a well deserved victory.

Life-Saving. At the presentation of prizes Staff Sergeant Foster, A.P.T.C., was presented with the Army Life-Saving Cup, for 1964. This was in recognition of the fact that the Regiment had trained 37 Life-savers during the year to R.L.S.S. Bronze medal standard, and above.

Mercury Theatre. Mercury Theatre Group entered the field of "revue" for the first time and staged "The Summer Show 1965" in the open air with a beer garden setting for the audience. The curtain went up on 19th August and the show played to full houses for the three-night run. The theme was "Western" the cast numbered over forty and all action centred on Big Dave's Saloon with Big Dave acting as host. Dances such as the "Can Can" and "Victim of the Squaws" were received with enthusiasm by the male members of the audience. Other acts included Curly Jones and his Guitar, The Singing Waiters, Red Manning and his Trio, The Merricks, a mime based on the poem "Dan McGrew," a silent cine sequence and sketches "Black Rod" and "TV and his Western Heroes."

The show was well received and a credit to the performers, back stage team and the production staff. The dresses for the dance routines were exceptionally good and all were designed and made by three ladies of the group.

The show took shape by kind permission of the living-in Officers, as rehearsals took place three nights a week on a patio about 50 yards from their living accommodation. All were capable of understudying for the three theme songs long before the first night!

Amongst those who saw the show were members of the staff of the British Forces Broadcasting Service, Cyprus. Curly Jones and The Singing Waiters have since been heard over the air from B.F.B.S.—such is fame!

Sailing. The Regiment took on the task of organising the Famagusta Regatta, which took place from 29th to 31st

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GERMANY

August. More than 60 boats took part in the racing, making for crowded starting lines and anxious work on the bridge.

Saturday was a day of variable winds with a great deal depending on quick reaction by helmsman and crew. In the evening a well attended dance was held at the Regimental Amenities Centre. A surprising amount of energy seemed to be left after the day's racing. On Sunday the wind freshened, quickly blowing away any cobwebs from the previous evening. The sky clouded over, making the scene reminiscent of sailing in the U.K. To enliven the scene for the spectators, there were a number of gybing capsizes caused by a gusty offshore breeze. The final race produced quieter conditions for the tiring helmsmen.

10th Regiment, Hounslow

R.H.Q.

This month the Regiment has been assisting the T.A. and School C.C.F.s at camp, conducting a recruiting drive, running outside courses, and giving signal assistance to the Brigade of Guards. September and October will be busy months with the running of M.P.C. Class II and I Courses, and a nine weeks' communication centre course.

During the School summer holidays the Regiment took the opportunity of running a special children's P.T. class for all members of the Hounslow Garrison. For three weeks these classes were held daily, and divided into age groups of 8 - 10 and 11 - 15. The course included indoor games, gymnastics, swimming, and boxing coaching. These classes were welcomed by all parents, and the Regiment has been asked to continue along the same lines during future school holidays.

1 Squadron

The main event in the past month has been our participation in Exercise "Druid Circle" with 1 Welsh Guards on Salisbury Plain. In this we were very ably and enthusiastically supported by the "Globetrotters" of 640 Troop. Bearing in mind that both parties were working in an unaccustomed role, the results were very satisfactory.

The Squadron has taken part in two local shows at Watford and Croydon in the last month. At the latter, the presence of the Corps Display Team resulted in considerable interest being taken in the Regimental Stand.

Cricket

Though the start of the season saw the Regiment in a disappointing position, mainly due to our poor fielding and lack of good bowlers, the end of the season has seen a complete reverse, and the Regiment has produced some very promising batsmen and bowlers in Lance-Corporal Weston, Corporal Hardman, Corporal Perry and Signalman Heslop.

A one-wicket knockout competition was arranged, and although the standard was not up to that as seen at Lords, an enjoyable afternoon was enjoyed by all who took part. A very exciting final resulted in Signalman Heslop (1 Squadron) emerging as winner of the competition.

We have accepted an invitation from H.Q., Eastern Command, to take part in a six-a-side competition, and we feel sure that the team will do well.

Hockey/Football

Trials for the hockey and football teams—the Regiment's major winter sports—are well under way. Major McQuade and Captain Farmery, our respective hockey and football coaches, have great hopes of the Regiment winning the London District Challenge Cups next year.

Personal

Marriages.—Signalman A. R. Watson, on 9th August, 1965, at the Register Office, St. Albans, to Blanch Mary Jones.

Births.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. J. Dunn, a son, Stephen, on 6th August, 1965, at 10, Denmark Road, Twickenham. To Corporal and Mrs. G. Hardman, a son, Barry, on 15th August, 1965, at West Middlesex Hospital.

They fly through the air with the greatest of ease . . .



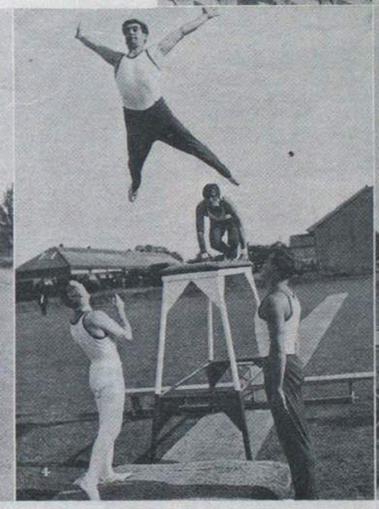
☆

Members of the Training Brigade Royal Signals Gymnastic Team show something of their daring and skill. Their successful display at the Corps Weekend has led to several other engagements

☆









1. Lance-Corporal Nutbrown executing a "Hollow back Lift". 2. Display team, front (left to right) Corporal Murray, Lance-Corporal Irwin, C.S.M.I Pearce (A.P.T.C.), S.S.I Edwards (A.P.T.C.), Corporal Overend. Rear: Corporal Wellings, Lance-Corporal Moore, Lance-Corporal Nutbrown, Corporal Kemp, Corporal Moxon, Corporal Nancarrow. 3. Corporal Murray going over Corporal Nancarrow in an "Astride Vault—One Man Up". 4. Lance-Corporal Moore in the middle of a Long Astride Vault hotly pursued by Lance-Corporal Nutbrown. 5. Look No Hands! Corporal Murray in a "Front Summersault"

Training Brigade Royal Signals Gymnastic Team 1965

For this year's "Corps Weekend" Q.M.S.I. Sankey and C.S.M.I. Pearce, of the A.P.T.C., were given the task of producing a Training Brigade gymnastics display team, on a different theme from those of recent years.

The task was made somewhat simpler by the purchase of trampolines by C.O.s within Training Brigade, to which were added three tubular steel vaulting boxes ranging from 6ft. to 8ft. in height. The thanks of the organisers and team go to 31 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., for their help in the provision of these boxes.

The team consisted of A/I.s P.T. from the three Regiments and were as follows:

Corporals Murray, Moxon, Wellings, Nancarrow, of 8th Regiment. Corporals Jones, McNally, Kemp, Lance-Corporals Boddy, Moore, Nutbrown, Irwin, of 11th Regiment. S.S.I. Edwards, A.P.T.C., Corporal Overend, of 24th Regiment. Corporal Buchanan, School of Signals.

The success of the Corps Weekend led to a number of other engagements, namely, Northern Command Recruiting Displays at Nottingham and Huddersfield, with a final booking of two days at the Northern Veteran Steam Traction Engine Rally, held at Masham, near Ripon.

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

August has been a very quiet month, there has been only one "pass off" parade due to the small numbers of recruits passing through. Gone are the days when a discussion in the Officers' Mess, all along the lines of "I have had 80 new recruits in this week." Now the figure is more likely to be 15.

Holding Troop has moved into Helles Barracks, much to the dismay of a certain N.C.O. who was heard to say, "but that means doing drill right outside the C.O.'s office!"

The Regiment played its first game of rugby this season against Yorkshire Copper Works and lost 15-6. We hope to do better in our future matches.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

The month of August was very quiet, which was probably the aftermath of Old Comrades' weekend. We managed to beat the Corporals' Mess by a short head in a cricket match (I think the Corporals are still disputing the result).

We said goodbye to W.O.II (Terry) Cushen and family en route to 18th Regiment, and wish him all the best in his new station.

Corporals' Club

The Club is really standing on its feet now. An open invitation has been given to all junior N.C.O.s and their families in Catterick Garrison to come along on our social evenings. There is always plenty to do—dancing, games or try their luck on our treasure trail. This is run along the lines of "take your pick" and increases by 10/- each week. It stands at £2.

The darts team is now a force to be reckoned with and is firm favourite for the garrison darts league, or so rumour has it.

The October monthly dance will be a dance with a difference; it will be combined with a talent contest. We are hoping to have a number of wives competing; who knows, there may be a budding "Sonny and Cher" in our midst.

Best Recruits

24055167 Signalman G. P. Wood

The Best Recruit of No. 3 Troop, which "Passed Off" on 13th August, was Signalman G. P. Wood (aged 17¾ years). His home address is 5, Taunton Drive, Betterne, Southampton. He was a keen member of his local A.C.F. and reached the rank of Corporal in the 2½ years he was with them.

He is a keen sportsman—his main sports being soccer and rugby. He has been selected for training as a Special Operator.

24055094 Signalman M. A. Isaacs

The Best Recruit of No. 4 Troop, which "Passed Off" on 30th July, 1965, was Signalman M. A. Isaacs, who lives at 38, Hartismere Road, Fulham, London, S.W.6.

He comes from a service family and has travelled to Cyprus and B.A.O.R. He is a keen sportsman—his main sports being basketball, boxing and football.

Stamp collecting and Scouting (he was an Assistant Scoutmaster), took up most of his leisure hours prior to enlistment.

He has been selected to train as a Special Operator and he hopes to gain a commission in due course.

14th REGIMENT, GLOUCESTER

Summer holidays are almost over, and the constant coming and going on leave is gradually subsiding. 3 Squadron, at Bampton, are now busy preparing for an adventure training project which is somewhat outside the normal run of pedalling, hiking or canoeing. The plan is to uproot their amateur radio station (G3LPC) from the "shack" and transport it to Lundy Island.

Exercise "Lundy Gannet" —An Expedition to Lundy Island

After some false starts, the exercise has been planned in detail, and in outline (a detailed post-exercise account will be published in the next issue of THE WIRE) consists of sending a team of eight enthusiasts, led by W.O.I R. C. Evans, to Bideford. There, a mound of stores will be loaded on to the one and only form of transport to the island (which lies well out in the Bristol Channel, the nearest point to land being Clovelly, 16 miles away)—the launch, *Lundy Gannet*. At the island, which has a total population of 22, the party will set up in a disused lighthouse and G3LQC will be "on the air." The party will be away from 18th to 25th September, and during that time will be completely dependant on what they take with them!

The kit they will be using has been loaned to the club by Messrs. Heathkit, Racal and Moseley.

INSTALLATION TROOP

At the time of writing these notes, the finishing touches are being made to what will undoubtedly be the last E10-type transmitter to be installed in a COMCAN Station. When next an E10 is moved it will be to the scrap dealer's yard.

Installation Records go by the Board

Most readers will recall that we recovered three E10s from Nairobi last year, refurbished them at Robinswood Barracks and then moved them to their final operational resting place at Droitwich a few weeks ago. Installation has gone ahead at an incredible pace, each transmitter taking only fifteen days to instal and test to specification. Fifteen years ago it took six months to instal the first E10 at the School of Signals, Catterick, and this was with the help of two Marconi engineers. By the time the first four E10s were installed at Droitwich, in 1951/52, the team was more experienced, and the time cut to four months per set. The O.C., who was then a Lieutenant with Installation Troop, when asked why the job took so long, explains that the Troop was under different management in those days.

Team Spirit is Vital

The most important factor responsible for cutting down the time to such small proportions in this and other projects we have undertaken is the team spirit which exists in Installation Troop, and which we consider to be second to none. Without exception, every man takes a pride in his job and displays a keen sense of duty, initiative and drive. Team spirit is vital to speed and efficiency and applies, of course, to both work and play. We are fully aware that our presence in a station is a nightmare to the station staff in that we clutter up the place with our stores, create dust and dirt—particularly when building work is involved—and generally upset the smooth routine which is so essential to the station efficiency.

Working 60 Hours a Week

Hence our policy to do the job as quickly as possible and get out, leaving the station staff free to get on with the prime task of providing communications unimpeded. To achieve this, we reckon to work on average sixty hours per week. This is no mean task, particularly in the early stages of a project of this nature, when components weighing up to 1½ tons each have to be manhandled into position.

The laying of several tons of lead-covered cable, mostly in confined spaces, can also be very exhausting.

Careful Planning Pays

We pay great attention, too, to project planning, and thus ensure that we have all the right tools necessary for the job, all components appear in the right order for assembly and, above all, that every man is thoroughly briefed on what he has to do and how it is to be done. Each man (this also includes officers) is given a number of tasks at each briefing in order that he can carry on from one to the next without wasting time waiting for further instructions. It is very rare for a man to run out of work, but when the occasion does arise, the man concerned is told to stand down until he is required for further duty. A man without a job is usually a hindrance to those who have, since he invariably stands watching someone else, and by so doing gets in the way or diverts the other man's attention by starting up a conversation—all of which is time wasting.

Lurking Danger — 10,000 Volts!

When at last the great day arrives to switch on the power, only the bare minimum of the most experienced members of the Troop are employed until such time as the transmitter is known to be safe. Although exhaustive tests are carried out beforehand to eliminate possible faults, one must always be fully aware of lurking danger. All too easily that missing 10,000 volts can appear in the most unlikely place, waiting to kill. We insist, for safety's sake, that personnel undertaking

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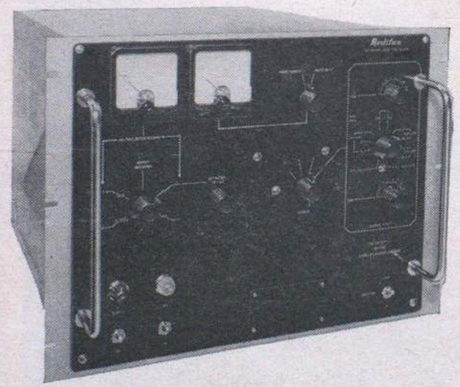
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Continued from page 348

these initial tests give their undivided attention. Once this has been done it can be great fun persuading these big sets to give of their best in order to meet the specification test figures.

Whilst the E10 project has been under way, we have completed two other projects, i.e., the coaxial aerial exchange at Droitwich and the installation of four E12-type transmitters in Cyprus.

The aerial exchange, in fact, was completed last year, and has since been waiting for a convenient time in which to transfer the aerials from the old to the new switching system. Until this was done, the final testing could not be completed. The exchange is now in operational use and, apart from greatly facilitating aerial switching, the system provides the station staff with a direct indication of the transmitter and aerial efficiency on each circuit.

* * *

Three Young Officers Attached from Mons O.C.S. Describe Their First Impressions of the 14th Regiment

For the next five weeks, 14th Regiment is host to three officers from O.C.S. Mons. This is not a technical introduction to the intricacies of COMCAN, but a swift look at the more mundane daily routine of a working Regiment. The short article below—drafted under duress—is a collection of the confused impression of the first three days. As each young officer has been attached to a different department, impressions varied from amazement to downright disbelief.

On Sunday, 5th September, the gates of Robinswood Barracks opened to admit three young officers newly released (an appropriate expression) from the rigours of Mons O.C.S., still feeling very wet behind the ears.

A Ghost Camp?

Our first impression on this soaking Sunday evening was one of an uninhabited ghost camp, with only the flowers lined up in military precision beside the road. We didn't expect a guard of honour, but apart from the R.P. on the gate—not a soul! The expression "in bed or out of barracks" took on some meaning. We were directed through lines of silent buildings to our home, the Officers' Mess: here at least we would find life. A quick calculation gave an officer strength of 30: an amazed look round the Mess gave one—and she was feminine (definitely).

Under the R.S.M.'s Wing

The next morning started with an argument. When a simplicity (can this be the correct collective noun?) of subalterns is saluted, how many return it? This is the first gap we find in our military education—and others were to follow rapidly, when we were firmly drilled by Mr. Evis on the correct method of address of senior ranks in the Corps.

Our interview with the Commanding Officer told us of the workings of the Regiment, and him of our varied chequered careers. This was followed by a lightning tour of the barracks at the swift heels of the R.S.M. To our relief, we found that there were other officers in the Regiment after all—they just lived somewhat remotely at a radius of up to 15 miles from the Mess.

More to it than just Signalling

Our impressions: Well, arriving straight from Mons, it seemed strange to see so vast a barracks square so void, to see so few soldiers, though learning the shift schedule has explained this. It was of interest, too, to find somewhat to our trepidation, just how much of an officer's time is taken on administration—family problems, debt queries, housing, in comparison to signalling. Grey hairs, it would appear, are a natural hazard of the job.

The first days are now over, and as the weeks go on we are promised a closer look at signalling as light (?) relief from administration.

There is little doubt between us that our education is far from complete and this visit is proving an excellent method of removing our Mons blinkers.



The Kat Club is being born

Our small—at time very small—band of do-it-yourselfers are continuing the good work of turning one of the many down-and-out buildings in our area of the world into the Regimental Club. Not unnaturally, in view of our emblem, this is to be known as the Kat Club. At present our two resident "chippies," Lance-Corporal G. B. Shone and Signalman B. Phillips, are performing sterling work with all sorts of unlikely materials to produce the latest up-to-date type of bar and patio. After much hard work by all who have helped, results are now becoming obvious, and we hope to be able to open shortly. This will be a red-letter day for our O.C. "H.Q." Squadron and P.R.I. Account holder, Captain R. A. Macheath, who has been the guiding light for the project. Once we have finished, ex-members of the unit will not recognise the old M.T. building.

The Regiment is stretched . . .

The present internal security situation in Aden is keeping the Regiment at full stretch, both in the provision of communication and security duties. When we recently had to provide two security platoons, much to the surprise of the R.S.M., sufficient genuine volunteers came forward to avoid the need for 'selected' volunteers. All those who were members of these platoons voted it a good experience, although they may well have changed their minds if such duties came round at the same frequency at which the Infantry battalions provide such patrols—nearly the whole battalion—nightly!

Our Line Squadron is still striving to complete all the necessary work to enable the remaining automatic exchanges to be opened. After the opening of the Richmond Exchange at Little Aden, the subscribers were like children with a new toy trying out the system, and it was fully loaded. The novelty has now worn off a little and the traffic load is dropping again.

A new try within the Regiment is the Citroen cars, with which we have been issued for use on a self-drive basis. So far the majority of comments by self-drivers, on completion of a journey, have been unprintable.

Within ten days of joining the Regiment from Mons O.C.S., Second-Lieutenant O. M. Lewis was sent off by his Squadron Commander to take charge of a detachment in the Hadraumat. On his return we hope to persuade him to write a few lines on his experience there. (*We would welcome it.—Editor*).

Personal Column

Marriages.—Corporal M. Wallace, of 15th Regiment, to Miss Elizabeth Hough at St. Martin's, Aden, on 31st July, 1965. Signalman D. R. Powell, 15th Regiment, to Miss Jane Kiddie, at Gravesend, on 10th July, 1965. Signalman F. J. Jensterle, of 15th Regiment, to Miss Christine Curtis, at Farham Common, Bucks., on 17th July, 1965. Lance-Corporal K. Crozier, 15th Regiment, to Miss Margaret Ellis, at Norton, Yorkshire, on 21st August, 1965.

Births.—To Staff Sergeant C. A. Buckland, of 30th Regiment, attached 15th Regiment, and Mrs. Buckland, a daughter, Lorraine Frances, at R.A.F. Hospital, Steamer Point, Aden, on 3rd July, 1965. To Craftsman A. Tracey, R.E.M.E., of 15th Regiment, and Mrs. A. Tracey, a son Nicholas John.

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16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

Personnel turnover — those we say "Goodbye" to . . .

The past month has produced a quick turnover of personnel in the Regiment and we said farewell to W.O.I Wood, W.O.II Adcock and W.O.II Bell, who are now on the Y. of S. Course, and to Staff Sergeant Underwood, who went to Royal Signals Records. Sergeant "Chippy" Woods of Cable Troop was given a lineman's farewell—a ride around the barracks on a drum barrow. He has gone to Bournemouth as a Special Recruiter, and it is hoped that he can help to swell the ranks of the Corps. Finally, Fr. J. Moran, R.A.Ch.D., left us for FARELF after some two and a half years with us.

. . . and those we say "Hello" to . . .

New arrivals to whom we extend a welcome have included Lieutenant W. T. Leeson, Second-Lieutenant L. Almonds, W.R.A.C., W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) J. Smith, W.O.II A. Humphries, W.R.A.C., and Fr. L. J. Cosgrove, R.A.Ch.D. There has also been an increase in the number of W.R.A.C. personnel in the Regiment so much so that O.C. 1 Squadron was heard to say that he had a "manpower" problem—it is not clear what is meant by this.

W.R.A.C. Join Forces and Cycle 170 Miles

Not to be outdone by all 2 Squadron exercises, Captain B. Neville, W.R.A.C., Corporal Ryder, W.R.A.C., Private Crew, W.R.A.C., and Private Callaghen, W.R.A.C., joined forces with the girls of 28th Regiment for a five-day cycling tour of the Eiffel. There were many long and arduous miles up hill and down dale between Aachen and Koblenz, 170 miles in all, but they returned fit and refreshed, having enjoyed the change of air, if not the hard saddles.

Exercise "Donald Duck" was a "Ducking Experience"

O.C. Radio Relay Troop devised a project which for want of a name was called Exercise "Donald Duck." The following account of the exercise was written by a member of the Troop.

"The first whisper of Exercise "Donald Duck" spread through the Troop like wildfire. At last something to break the boredom in barracks. When we were informed at an informal gathering of the Troop (in the Stores) that we were going sailing and canoeing, and what is more that the dress was 'civvies,' our enthusiasm was boundless.

"Monday finally arrived, the Troop paraded and loaded all the kit which was considered the minimum necessary (enough for about six weeks it seemed). We proceeded to De Witt See for three days and found a regular camp site with numerous gaily coloured tents already pitched. We off loaded our drab green 18olb. tents and began to set up camp collecting an audience from the other campers in the process.

"In the afternoon we had our first taste of sailing, and for some of us our first taste of the water, since one of the boats capsized. This set a trend which split the Troop into 'those who had been in' and 'those who hadn't.' The latter category dwindling as time passed! The use of Corporal Brett's K2 was instrumental in swelling the numbers of the 'had been in' group, especially when Second-Lieutenant Crane attempted to use it. The honour of providing the biggest laugh goes to Corporal Luscombe who in true slap-stick comedy style leaned out of the canoe to grasp the bank and allowed the canoe to float away without him. Yet another member for the 'had been in' group.

"A most enjoyable 'social evening' was held to mark the end of the exercise.

"Regrettably the exercise came to a close, and for all members of the Troop it will remain in our memory as the best scheme we have had."

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Gurkha Signals

17th REGIMENT, SEREMBAN, MALASIA

Visit of the S.O.-in-C.

26th August, 1965, saw the first visit of the S.O.-in-C. to Headquarters Gurkha Signals and 17th Gurkha Regiment. Prior to this he had seen on his FARELF tour all three of our Brigade Squadrons, but here in Seremban he had our complete organisation fully explained to him.

Two Hats for the C.O.

Perhaps all too few people realise that within Gurkha Signals there is a complete but miniature replica of Royal Signals Records and A.G. 11 whose task it is to administer, train, post and plan the careers of around 1.100 Gurkha officers and soldiers. This is done by H.Q. Gurkha Signals with the C.O. wearing his hat of Commander Gurkha Signals. His second hat is the Officer Commanding 17th Gurkha Regiment comprising four Squadrons — 1 (Depot) Squadron, 2 (Training) Squadron, 3 (L. of C.) Squadron and 4 (Field) Squadron.

Backing up and occupying vital posts within this organisation are a total of 60 British other ranks who wear our badge. Many of these are senior Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s and the S.O.-in-C. was able to discuss their conditions of service with these men and their Gurkha counterparts when he visited the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess during his visit. Ours is incidentally the only Mess of its kind in the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Also visited was our T.M. Troop manned almost entirely by Gurkha technicians. Here he was heard to remark. "I think I would be a technician myself with all this new test equipment." A point echoed by the C.O.

Old Faces Get a Welcome

On visits of this kind the sight of old familiar faces amongst the sea of new ones is always welcome. Sergeant J. F. Philips, who was once the S.O.-in-C.'s driver when he commanded 1st Corps Regiment, had ample opportunity to talk over old times.

Congratulations were the order of the day when our Gurkha Major entertained the S.O.-in-C. in the Queen's Gurkha Officers' Mess. Major (O.G.O.) Birbahadur Rawat was awarded the M.B.E. in the last Birthday Honours list. He was our first Q.G.O. to attend the Regimental Signal Officer course at Hythe and he has since served in Germany with 247 Gurkha Squadron and has been Gurkha Major for the past 15 months.

Getting the Most out of Service Life

Corporal E. G. Rooke writes below of three very full years with Gurkha Signals . . . "hard work, plenty of travel, alongside the best soldiers in the world."



Corporal E. G. Rooke, the Author of this Article

The idea of volunteering for Gurkha Signals came to me soon after I found myself posted to Kukri Troop, when it was raised in the Junior Leaders Regiment in 1959. Not that the word Gurkha meant very much to me at that time, it only seemed to stand for something different. I was selected for the trade of Line Technician on completing my boys service and registered as a volunteer for Gurkha Signals as soon as I arrived in Catterick.

Equipment Never Seen Before

It was not, however, until March 1963 that I joined Gurkha Signals having first served in BAOR and completed a Class II upgrading course. On arrival in Brunei in April 1963 I found not only strange surroundings and new faces but new work. Due to shortage of other trades I soon set to work in the cipher office, repairing equipments that I had never seen or been taught before. Knowledge came with experience and I was soon visiting the forward areas and also the length and breadth of North Borneo repairing equipment.

Virtually Allotted My Own Plane

At one stage during this period I had to travel to so many places in quick succession that I was to all intents and purposes allotted my own aircraft. The major problem was catching up with my dhobi (washing) and at times when things went astray I used to notice my fellow passengers edging up wind of me. It was a non-stop business but tremendous fun and as a result of so much time in the air I determined to try and become a pilot myself.

I Never Thought I Would Swim Across a Soccer Pitch

In November 1963 I thought the opportunity for further travel was about to arrive when I was posted to Dharan in East Nepal but just as I was about to set off my presence was required once again in Borneo. This time I went to Kuching where immediately on my arrival I was given the task of assisting the Foreman of Signals in rebuilding the Comcen. This took 33 hours' continuous work and much colourful language. Life in Kuching had its interesting moments; little did I think that at one time I would ever swim across a soccer pitch, out of my depth, to rescue a submerged D11 radio.

A T.1 Course and Flying Training

After another prolonged period of flying round the forward areas doing in-situ repairs, I got a welcome break in the form of a posting to Hong Kong for seven months with 246 Gurkha Squadron. This was too good to last and I am now back in Kuching where I will remain until R.H.E. My name is down for T1 course and flying training; I hope I shall do both. Whatever happens I will look back on three years packed with hard work, plenty of travel and service alongside the best soldiers in the world.

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19th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

This month we visit Tengah Troop which is serving with R.A.F., Tengah, Singapore.

Two Stalwarts Leave us

Since the last time we went to print, two stalwarts, in the form of W.O.II (F. of S.) Stock and Sergeant Dunmall have left. The Troop managed to float them away, back teeth suitably awash. We would all like to take the opportunity of congratulating Foreman Stock on his M.B.E. We were all delighted to see his name in the Honours List.

With the departure of one Foreman, we must, of course, welcome the new arrival, and would like to record that Foreman Gill was well and truly baptised by fire, when in his first few weeks in the Troop, civilian contractors working on the airfield caused eight major cable faults. It may have been hard work, but he now really knows the cable layout on the station.

On the football field the Troop did well to come second in the station league, only being beaten once by the odd goal by 'T' Battery, 22nd Regiment, R.A., who were the eventual winners. The Troop was also runner-up in the Regimental Inter-Troop Hockey League.

How to win three thousand dollars

Two months ago, Sergeant Baharom entered a "Spot the Ball" competition, sponsored by the *Malay Mail*. After fantastic contortions in the Troop office, an entry form was filled in and sent away. Nobody thought any more about it until suddenly he received a letter containing a cheque for $3,000. Needless to say, there is now a new car parked outside his quarter. For the benefit of those who would like to enter these "Spot the Ball" contests, Staff Sergeant Scott has an infallible method of spotting the ball. Apparently all you need to do is spread the picture on a piece of soft board and then gently prick it with a pin all over. When you hit the spot where the ball is, there will be a loud pop! You then just mark the picture accordingly and send off the entry.

The new S.O.-in-C. came to visit the Troop in July, but only had time to visit the detachment at the R.A.F. Radar Site. The great majority of the Troop were disappointed not to have met him, but appreciate he had a very busy programme.

A.O.C.'s Inspection

On 27th/28th July, this station suffered its annual A.O.C.'s inspection. The Troop received its share of attention from the inspecting officer. On the 27th he inspected the telephone exchange and office and stores. On entering the O.C.'s office, he took note, amongst other things, of a framed portrait of The Queen, a bag of golf clubs and a pin-up calendar. The A.O.C. was heard to say that the office represented all facets of Service life—loyalty, sport and entertainment. On the 29th it was the turn of the domestic accommodation to be inspected. Coffee was arranged for the A.O.C. and visiting dignatories in the L.E.P. sitting room. Several key civilian employees on the station were there to meet him and have coffee.

Following this inspection, the Troop received a letter from the Station Commander expressing his thanks for the high standard achieved by the Troop.

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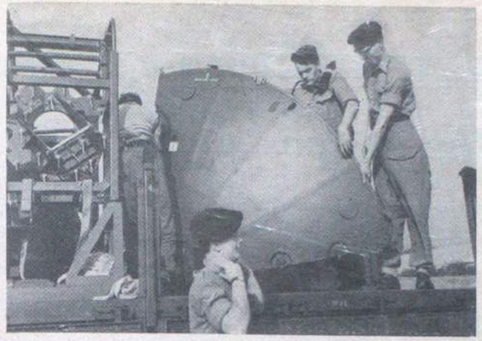


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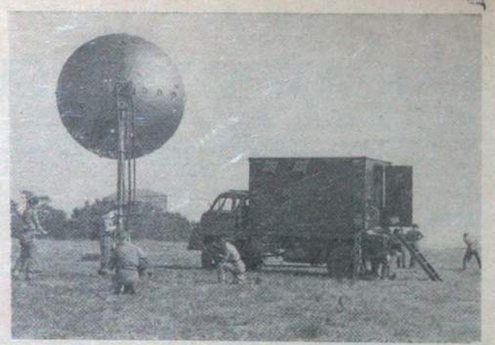
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Unloading the antenna sections. Lance-Corporals Brockhurst and Cawthra get on with the work whilst Lance-Corporal Viney makes a dress adjustment



The completed antenna. Final adjustments are made to the stays of the 15 foot high parabolic antenna

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

"We Plough the Fields and Scatter"

D.J.M. writes:

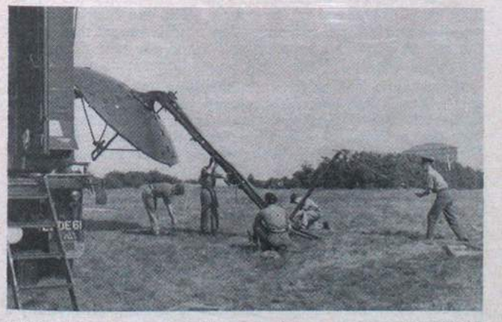
Conversation Piece

OC: Have you checked the horizon angle, Foreman?"
FOS: "Yes, Sir, but the trouble seems to lie more in the azimuth setting than in the elevation."
OC: How much above threshold is the signal anyway?"
FOS: "Not more than 40 on the AGC meter and the automatic phase combiner seems to be unlocked."
OC: "In that case check the parametrics and try to re-lock the APC circuit."

This typical conversation is *NOT* prior to the launch of a satellite or even a piece of science fiction. This is an example of the new jargon in use by the members of 4 Squadron, 30th Regiment, conducting a trial on Tropospheric Scatter Equipment.

The Advantages

In January, 1965, the Squadron was formed to evaluate the Tropospheric mode of communication. This system of communication is certainly attractive in that it can provide, over reasonable distances (in excess of 100 miles), a system over which it is possible to work multi-channel voice and telegraph equipment. The advantages over traditional radio relay are, of course, that NO isolated relay stations are used; there being only the two terminal stations to be sited.



Raising the antenna. A tricky part of the operation with W.O.II (F of S) Clarkson checking on the security of the mast before continuing

Siting is of critical importance for a Tropo terminal and the Squadron has had to learn new arts in this respect. Survey techniques using theodolites have had to be used to give the accuracy required for the direction of line of fire, and for the angle to the horizontal which the visual horizon makes.

The radio equipment operated by the Squadron is American, the associated line equipment being standard in-service equipment.

A Rumour Is Discounted

The Squadron has worked in the process of the trial about half-a-dozen links, and in doing so has managed to pick some pleasant "summer holiday" type locations. One of these in Devon had the administrative area about 20 yards from the beach, whilst the operating area was some distance away on a cliff edge overlooking the Channel. It was in this location that one of our cooks made a name for himself by providing freshly caught fish as a meal to supplement the almost inevitable "compo."

There is no truth, however, in the rumour current in the Squadron that the O.C. intends to work a link to his native Scotland in order to get some leave in.

The Trial will continue for a few months. There are still some mysteries as yet not completely understood, but in closing this short introductory article it is interesting to record that "informed opinion" is that we, in the British Army, are ahead of other armies in investigating the problems of the field use of Tropo.

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

Adventure Training Month

August has been Adventure Training month and so for the first three or four days Churchill Barracks was full of frenzied activity as the various parties prepared for the month ahead.

Six goups were planned this year and all were different although as usual Norway was the common denominator of Exercises "Sky High II" (mountaineering); "High Fjord" (fell walking); and "Langlauf II" (glacier climbing). The remaining three being "Rhinethrust" (canoeing from Basel to Rotterdam); "Westward Ho" (sailing in *Petasus* on the Baltic); and "Pedalthrust" (touring the Moselle valley on bicycles).

All got away to a good start and returned looking very fit and suntanned. The only casualty being a certain Lance-Corporal who found out the hard way (on a mountain!) that his safety rope would support him, escaping with only cuts and bruises. However, apart from this the Norway contingents especially have been surprisingly reticent about what went on. No doubt saving it all up for an article in a future edition of THE WIRE. (*We look forward with great interest to receiving this.—Editor*).

Now everyone is back, frenzied activity is once more the order for the day as the Regiment gets back into the swing for an exercise—crammed September.

FAR AWAY PLACES–UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

When Stomach Butterflies Feel Like Vultures

Sky Diving in BAOR

By Corporal G. F. Devine, 22nd Regiment



Corporal G. F. Devine, the author of this article, all kitted-up and ready to go

MY movement order said simply that I should report to No. 1 Wing, Army Air Corps at Detmold as I had been selected to attend R.A.P.A. Free Fall Parachute Course 2/65. Since I had applied for the course I knew that R.A.P.A. was the Rhine Army Parachute Association, and so I left Lippstadt with such encouraging remarks as, "You are a nut case," and "We can now strike you off strength."

In Detmold I joined up with the other 25 students and discovered two other Royal Signals personnel — Corporal Pete Bender, late of 216 Parachute Squadron, now attached to 14 Field Regiment, R.A., and Lance-Corporal Waugh, attached to 11 Engineer Brigade.

The aim of the course was to train novices up to category four jumpers and although some of us had done military parachuting before, we were all novices in Free Fall. Our chief instructor was Staff Sergeant Mick Turner, of the Royal Engineers, who has been runner-up in the British Parachute Championships for the past two years. He was ably assisted by Staff Sergeant Barry, Intelligence Corps, Sergeant Reeves, 22 S.A.S, and Corporal Stephenson, Royal Engineers.

So you see, we were in good hands!

Preparation Requires Hard Training, But . . .

Our ground training began with landing rolls on the mat in the gymnasium and muscles unaccustomed to work soon began to ache. Headaches soon taught us the hard way that our head was to be kept down and off the mat. We then learned how to pack our parachutes, and when I saw the mess of rigging lines I had, I decided never to jump with a parachute that I had packed. However, after a few attempts we soon became quite proficient and had no qualms about jumping with parachutes packed by ourselves.

Canopy handling in flight was next on the programme and how to use and combat the wind. There was some inattention in this class if the number of students who landed in the adjoining woods and corn fields is anything to go by! The theory of the body position in Free Fall was then explained. The tummy becomes the lowest point, the legs are back and straight, the arms are outstretched in line with the shoulders and the head is well back. Variations of this position produce all the different manoeuvres, but we students were only trying to achieve stable Free Fall, so we had to stick rigidly to the basic position. Our final ground training was the exit from the aircraft, which on this course was a De Haviland Rapide. This plane was donated to the Army Parachute Association by Rothmans of Pall Mall, and it was named Rhinegold. Of course, the students immediately renamed it, "Ringo."

The technique for the exit was to climb out on the wing facing forward and holding on to a diagonal strut. When in position, a nod from the jumpmaster sent us leaping back in the spread-eagle Free Fall position. At least, that was the theory!

. . . Soon the Great Day Arrives —

The day came for our first jump, so off we went to the dropping zone at Bad Lippspringe. This will be familiar to those in B.A.O.R., for it was the parade ground for the recent parade in honour of Her Majesty The Queen when she visited Germany. Our first few jumps were on a static line with dummy ripcord pulls. When we showed that we were "switched on," leaving the aircraft and the flight and pull were being carried out correctly, we were turned loose for our first Free Fall. I sat in the plane as it took off with the butterflies working overtime in my tummy. Did I say butterflies? They felt more like vultures. The jumpmaster beckoned the first two up and we turned in on the jump run. The engines cut and I was out on the wing trying to remember all I had been taught. I looked in and there was the nod and off I leapt backwards, with my mouth making a large hole as I screamed my jump count—one thousand . . . two thousand . . . three thousand . . . look down to the right to the ripcord handle—both hands come in simultaneously and the right hand grasps and pulls. Then the next jump count as the parachute comes out of the pack and develops. There is a jerk and for a moment I dance on the end of the rigging lines like an out-of-control marionette. Then came the feeling of near ecstasy when I knew I had made a good jump and I felt like throwing the ripcord up in the air with joy. However, being Scottish, I remembered in time that they cost about £2 each, so I carefully stowed it away in my pocket as I watched the next jumpers dropping. The opening height was 2,000 feet, so I had plenty of time to look around as I came down. That parade ground does not seem so big from up here—I must stay away from that quarry over there—it is about time I thought of landing—head down—elbows in—shoulders round—feet and knees together—the ground rushes up—NOW—a roll to the left and back on to my feet.

And afterwards I feel like a Million Dollars

The canopy has collapsed and I feel like a million dollars. Then comes the walk back to the packing area with the nonchalant "Not bad" to the enquiring looks. Now is the time to hurry with repacking to get back up to jump again. This is interrupted by the de-brief, where faults are noted and explained. Any breach of rules while jumping gets the dreaded "Back to the static line."

Three-and-a-half weeks and 18 jumps behind us we regretfully came to the end of the course. Kit was handed in and we dispersed to our respective Units. However, that is not the end of Free Fall parachuting for me, for now I have the Free Fall bug and I am going to continue jumping.

If anyone is looking for an exhilarating, out of the ordinary sport, then I can thoroughly recommend parachuting. Perhaps if, like the Royal Engineers, we can get a team formed, we may see a Royal Signals team from B.A.O.R. in the Army Parachute Championships in the not too distant future.

Do Yourself a Favour!

If you are serving and have a standing order for "The Wire," please keep us informed well in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders, and your "Wire" will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

Marching One Hundred Miles

To Nijmegen with NATO

By Major T. W. E. Fortescue-Hitchins

When I said that I was going to train an H.Q., NORTHAG, team for the Nijmegen Marches, there was, I remember, a minor barrage of incredulity. "What on earth do you want to march 100 miles for?" they asked. I said I liked walking. "But aren't you a bit old for that sort of thing?" I replied modestly that I hoped not.

An R.S.M.'s Nightmare

We started training at the end of April; we had some Dutch, we had some Belgians, Germans, British and one American. An interesting exercise in international co-operation, somebody said; an R.S.M.'s nightmare, thought someone else. It must be admitted that although we were convinced we were a fine body of men, we did not always look it. For one thing, we found it nearly impossible to march in step, and people tended to measure our efficiency by this. The Germans took a longer step than the rest and it took weeks to find a generally acceptable pace. Singing, of course, helped, but what to sing? The Belgians could not sing the German songs nor the Germans the Belgian. The British sang neither. The Dutch had one song, of which every verse seemed to end in the word "Amsterdam," which nobody else seemed to care for. The American hummed gently to himself. Eventually we standardised on "Alouette" and a few verses of "She'll be coming round the mountain." Everybody seemed to contribute something to this and the chorus is the same in any language.

The training was fun. Once a week we marched through the villages of North Rhine Westphalia. We found pubs for lunch and we found pubs for tea, and we took beer in both. Gradually we worked up to our 40 kms. a day. We began to look more martial; we learned to march in step.

A Quiet Half-Hour With One's Blisters

Twenty-five of us went to Nijmegen on Sunday, 26th July. Every Dutchman in Holland appeared to be there and a great many other people beside. Being N.A.T.O., we had the privilege of living in a school and not in tents like the British teams. This was not luxurious, but we had a roof over our heads, which was an advantage, since it rained most of the week. Also it was in the town, near the shops, near the bars, near the girls. When we have finished our daily walk, we can, said the younger ones, enjoy ourselves. (In fact, most people found their evening's entertainment in a quiet half-hour with the blisters). Before the Marches started we had a drill period. Problems. "But we don't have 'Halt' on the left foot," said a Belgian. "No," I replied, with sad determination, "but for this week you will; after that you can forget all about it."

"Left . . . left . . . links, zwo, drei, fier, gauche, droit, un, deux."

Half the World was There

There were 13,000 marching this year and they all seemed to be on the road just in front of us. We had started at 05.30 and we lunched at about 11.00. It had been raining for a month and Holland is, as everybody knows, flat. We paddled about morosely eating cheese sandwiches and drinking milk. The second day was as cold as the first, but wetter. On the road and in the rest places we saw half the world; Dutch, of course, but also British, Canadians, Swiss and detachments from half-a-dozen other Armies; also W.R.A.C., Netherlands sailors, London police, R.A.F., an Israeli detachment from three Services and both sexes; a small party of British paratroops, who seemed to prefer to run most of the way; and civilians, of course, of all shapes and ages.

We had been warned that the third day was the hardest. It was a hilly route, but we were marching well by this time. We could all sing "Alouette," all of it, every perishing word, and as we swung through the villages we got some admiring glances, some applause. Small girls trotted along with us, clutching our hands; larger girls sprayed us with Eau de Cologne.

Go Next Year? — Certainly!

The last day was not as easy as we had been led to believe. Perhaps we were getting a little tired. But at about midday the sun came out, as did apparently the entire popoulation of every village on the route. More eau de Cologne; packets of chewing gum were thrust on us, oranges, cups of soup; we accepted them all with enthusiasm. We felt better. "Alouette' burst out with increasing verve and frequency. At about 14.00 hours we stopped to clean our boots before entering Nijmegen for the last time. Then, together with detachments from 28th Signal Regiment and the Dutch Signal Squadron serving H.Q., NORTHAG, we joined the long column marching to the saluting base. Four days' hard marching had worked wonders, so did the sun, the band and the cheerful crowds. No longer were we an R.S.M.'s nightmare—at the least, an interesting exercise in international co-operation. Anyway, we gave a very reasonable "Eyes right."

We collected our medals and took our boots off. Would anybody have another go next year, I asked. "Ja . . . Oui . . . Yes, sir!"

Mission to Cyprus

IN the following article, W.O.II (F. of S.) P. J. Swabey describes one of the more unusual jobs that the Corps takes in its stride—the installation of high power radio transmitters for use by COMCAN. What to the uninitiated may seem to be a routine matter of technical engineering can, in fact, be an absorbing, almost exciting challenge, as W.O.II Swabey's descriptive writing brings out so well. This type of installation work calls for expert tradesmen, good team work, willingness to work long hours and even exposure to danger from high voltages and R.F. burns. The final stage, after construction, of slowly 'working-up' powerful radio equipment has a fascination all of its own that many may not have appreciated until they read this article.

In my previous notes, written at the end of January and published in the May-June issue of THE WIRE, I described how the task of installing a number of high power radio transmitters (Type E12) in Cyprus fell to my lot and how the early phases were carried out. I will now describe, briefly, the final stages of this project, which will have long been completed by the time these notes appear in print—so perhaps I am entitled to say, "In less time than it takes to tell."

Time Was Against Us

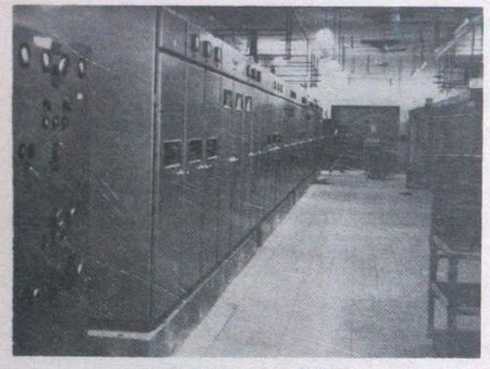
By the end of January most of the pre-assembly work was behind us. We could do no more without the building that was to house the transmitters and this was far from completion. In the ordinary way, the contractor would have finished the building work completely before we appeared on the scene, but this time the urgency of the project and our other commitments demanded that we work simultaneously with the contractor, and frequently ahead of him.

A Major Problem Overcome

One of our biggest problems at this time was the laying of an 80ft. long plinth on to which the equipment was to be built. Building contractors—perhaps more particularly so in Cyprus—rarely comprehend the close tolerances essential to this type of work, being more accustomed to work to the nearest half-inch or so, and consequently when faced with a demand for a plinth that must be level within one-sixteenth of an inch over the entire 80ft. length, they scratch their heads, think about it, shrug expressively and go away to do something else. In the end, the answer was for us to do it ourselves, and with generous applications of elbow grease and smoothing plane, the working surface ceased to look like a roller-coaster and became level within the specified tolerances.

Visible Results of Our Efforts Grow Day by Day

Now came the task of transferring on to the plinth the units which we had pre-assembled during the past weeks, and this is where our sturdy fork-lift truck came into its own. No other member of the team could pick up a half-ton sub unit, carry it from the pre-assembly area and deposit it gently in its final location. At last the bare bones of the transmitters stood tall on the plinth. This is one of the most en-



TRANSMITTER HALL CYPRUS

On the left extending almost the full length of the hall, can be seen the new E 12 installation recently completed. Opposite are two of the older type E 10 type transmitters and left foreground can be seen a SWBIIE of bygone days

Mission to Cyprus *(continued)*

couraging phases of the job, when the equipment grows visibly day by day. Next came the somewhat tedious job of cabling and the connecting of more than eight thousand cables to the various components of the sets, some of which are deep down inside and never see the light of day. This completed, every wire is then painstakingly "tapped out" wtih a buzzer to ensure none are crossed or left unconnected.

Working 24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

Our attention at this stage turned back to the building contractor busily labouring away at the outbuildings which house the HT transformers, voltage regulators, air cooling plant, etc. Time was running out and the bulk of my team were booked on an aircraft thirty days hence, bound for another project. The contractors' men and my own were all over each other, each trying to do his job under, over or around the other. Barely was a wall pronounced dry than trunking and other fittings would be secured to it, and as the last screw was turned in that particular section, the painters would start to decorate the walls. Life was hectic and fun—full of organised chaos—yet all done without a cross word or frayed temper. By mid-April the end was in sight. Then came a phone call to say the flight dates of my men had been brought forward a week, with no alternative date for some considerable time. It was going to be a close thing, but the job could be completed in time. The team went into top gear, working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in twelve-hour shifts. We made it just in time, and it was a case of down tools, up clearance chits and away to the U.K.

Coaxing the Equipment into Life

The construction phase completed, most of the men gone, it was now my task to coax the equipment into life and meet the specification figures. This is a long, slow job which would take me at least two months. Out came the handbooks, in went fuses, and on came lights—so far, so good. Switch by switch, relay by relay, up through the starting sequences, the power supplies appearing one by one as I went. Check interlocks, check stopping sequence, check temperatures, motorheads, gate circuits, overload protection circuits, trip out levels, filament voltages, bias and HT—check, check and recheck. Finally, all systems go on manual control—then switch to automatic and start all over again .

At this stage we do not concern ourselves with whether the set will transmit, for, as with all high power transmitters, the complexity lies in the control circuitry, not in the radio frequency function of the set. The old principle of "simple to use, hard to maintain" is evident here. At last all the control circuitry was proved satisfactory and a start could be made on the radio side.

Watching it Grow until 40 Kilowatts is being Swallowed up

Take a crystal oscillator frequency, double it, amplify it, add—or subtract -3.1 Mc/s, extract the radiated frequency component, amplify it, amplify it again, and again, polish it up a little, push it into an aerial—that's all there is to it. But there are a few conditions attached. The signal must be big enough in terms of power, clean in terms of distortion, stable enough in freqency. Those of you who are hi-fi enthusiasts will know how hard it is to get rid of that last touch of distortion in a ten-watt amplifier—try it at thirty or forty thousand watts sometime! Tuning the signal through stage after stage, watching it grow, until at last the dummy load fills the hall with bright orange glow; retuning slightly here and there to extract the maximum power. At this point forty kilowatts of DC power is being swallowed up by the final power valve, which is quietly converting it into radio frequency energy to link this station to the world.

Now to test the automatic tuning. Off set the tuning right through, switch to auto and after a few seconds of whirring and clicking, the dummy load relights, but not as bright as it should be. Trouble in the high Q stage 6.

A Monumental Standing Wave is Apparent

A minor adjustment is made and this time the auto tune drops the stage spot on frequency. 4 M/cs, 10 Mc/s go by in a mass of tuning data, then the fun starts at 27 Mc/s. At this frequency the dummy load becomes reactive and radiates furiously. A monumental standing wave is apparent as the outer load lamps glow white hot. A nearby fluorescent lamp in the ceiling begins to smoke as it is cooked by the RF energy picked up in the lamp tube. Switch off—remove the lamp tube—switch on. No more smoke now, but the tube, lying on a table nearby, glows brightly. Everything around it "live" to touch as the RF energy picked up by the body is earthed through the fingers. Small RF burns become common. This, of course, does not happen when the transmitter is connected to an aerial.

At Last the Handover

Happy day at last—the trials are completed and the installation is within specification. Now only two things left to do —train the station staff in the use of the new equipment and secondly to hand it all over to them. A familiarisation course broke the ice between men and machines and then the specification testing began all over again to prove to the recipients that the equipment did really work properly.

It's Here We Go Again

It seems odd now to finish work at lunch-time like everyone else on this hot little island, instead of working twelve or more hours a day for so many months. I shall remain here a few more weeks to clear any teething faults that may occur. then its "out with the MFO boxes and here we go again." Where to next, I wonder? One thing I know is coming up, and that is a T.O.T.s' and F. of S.s' refresher course at Catterick in the near future. I wonder if they will teach me anything about the new E12 transmitter?

WAVELL ADVENTURE TRAVEL AWARD

This award is made annually by Lady Wavell to the Army Apprentice, Junior Leader or Junior Tradesman, under 17½ years of age, who submits the best proposal for an adventure scheme. The award is in memory of her son, the second Earl Wavell, who was killed in Kenya during the Mau Mau operations. The award this year has been won by Peter Carnell of the Apprentices School, Harrogate, who, along with three other companions from the School will carry out his proposed scheme. This involves a 5,000-mile trip, to be completed in 28 days, to the North Cape in Norway—well within the Arctic Circle. The boys have received a grant of £40 to help towards expenses; the rest of the money they must raise themselves by writing articles for local newspapers. They will travel through Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark and Sweden to reach the North Cape. We look forward to publishing an account of it in THE WIRE when they have completed their arduous expedition.

MIDNIGHT ON KILIMANJARO

"The Wire" reproduces below, for the benefit of the many who could not read it, Captain P. D. Alexander's prize essay, which appeared in the Royal Signals Journal. Here, perhaps, is one of the most remarkable examples of "Faraway places—unusual jobs."

Officers and soldiers of the Corps find themselves on top of Africa's highest mountain—nearly 20,000 feet high—cast in the role of producers and stagehands responsible for a ceremony to mark the independence of an African colony.

Read below of the planning, the tough physical endeavour, the solving of unusual communication problems that culminated in "Midnight on Kilimanjaro."

ON 9th December, 1961, the territory of Tanganyika, in East Africa, achieved independence. Celebrations were nation-wide, but two aspects achieved international news status. One aspect was the independence ceremony in the National Stadium in Dar-es-Salaam, the capital. This was attended by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, and took the form of a tattoo, lasting until midnight on the night of 8th/9th, followed by a symbolic ceremony to mark the moment of independence. The second aspect was the ceremony which took place hundreds of miles away to the north, on the summit of Kilimanjaro. At the summit, a flag-raising ceremony and pyrotechnic display took place, and a broadcast was made to Dar-es-Salaam, where the voice of a member of the summit party was re-broadcast over the national radio service and in the National Stadium as part of the ceremony there.

The start of the idea

The idea of the ceremony on Kilimanjaro, with which this essay is concerned, stemmed from a speech by the Prime Minister of Tanganyika, Mr. Julius K. Nyerere, in 1959. He said that the people of Tanganyika would like to light a candle on the top of Kilimanjaro so that the example of Tanganyika should shine out over Africa. When the date for Tanganyika's independence was fixed, the speech was remembered, and the Independence Celebrations Committee examined the possibility of some ceremony taking place on Kilimajaro. It was thought that a broadcast from the summit was an essential feature and accordingly the problem was referred to the Regional Director, East Africa Posts and Telecommunications Administration. He visited Headquarters, East Africa Command, in Nairobi, to see what military assistance could be given. Being an ex-Royal Signals officer, he naturally came to Signals with his problem. The upshot was that 1 Signal Squadron, The King's African Rifles, was detailed to help. By this time mid-October had been reached. D-Day was 9th December, so there was no time for delay.

Africa's highest mountain

Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest mountain. Although near the Equator, it is perpetually covered in snow. It is almost 20,000 feet high, and the temperature at the summit is 20 degrees below freezing. The main peak, Kibo, is a volcano of doubtful extinction, the summit being on the crater rim. The smaller peak is Mawensi, which is not volcanic, and there is a saddle some five miles long between the peaks. The guide-book says that the Geological Department in Dar-es-Salaam welcomes reports from parties descending into the crater on signs of volcanic activity. It is felt that such parties must be extremely rare. These has been no sign of real volcanic activity for some years.

The mountain lies to the north of Tanganyika, on the Kenya border. It was originally part of Kenya, but was given by Queen Victoria to Kaiser Wilhelm II as a birthday present. Tanganyika was at that time German East Africa. The mountain is a tourist attraction, and there are well-organised trips to the summit. Normally, such safaris take five days and, in the right season, are no more than a very strenuous walk. December is right in the middle of the rainy season, which is the worst time to make the trip. Amongst other things, the path is very bad in the wet season and the snowline is much lower.

Conferences and planning

The size of the problem was quickly appreciated by all concerned. A conference at the foot of the mountain took place in mid-October between military and civilian parties. It was agreed that the ceremony at the summit should be threefold: firstly, a broadcast and personal telephone call to the Prime Minister at midnight on the 8th/9th; secondly, a flag-raising ceremony on receipt of a synchronising signal from Dar-es-Salaam at midnight; and thirdly, a pyrotechnic display. The original idea had been to have a beacon which would burn for some days, but the difficulties of burning ordinary materials such as wood in the rarified atmosphere at the summit, and the impossibility of carrying sufficient quantities of petrol to the summit, forced the ruling-out of the project.

At the preliminary conference, the commitments of the various parties were settled. It was agreed that they would operate in the form of a joint military and civil expedition. It was arranged that the Officer Commanding 1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R., should be the expedition leader, with full operational control over all members, and that the deputy leader should be another officer from the same Squadron. 1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R., were to arrange administration of all members of the expedition, including food, accommodation, transport and winter clothing. They were also to provide administrative communications with the mountain area, and a link to Nairobi, some 250 miles away. The pyrotechnic display was also given to the Squadron to arrange.

The East African Posts and Telecommunications Administration agreed to provide V.H.F. radio for the broadcast from the summit, as well as radio-telephone H.F. sets at the various camps, and facilities for delivery and despatch of mail at each camp. It was arranged that the expedition should have its own postal and telegraphic address, and also its own postmark —"Expedition Kilimanjaro." First-day covers stamped with the expedition postmark are worth at least twice as much as their more mundane counterparts.

Clearly, it was necessary for such an ambitious ceremony, in conditions of extreme cold to be rehearsed, and the plan was made on the basis of the summit party's movements. Working back from 9th December, it was estimated that three days were required for the final rehearsal and, before that, at least two days' rest would be required by the summit party. If the rehearsal was to take approximately five days to carry out, this meant that it had to start on 1st December by the very latest. By that date all camps and communications would have to be established. It was estimated that a fortnight was required for this, and this turned out to be a slightly optimistic estimate. This took the starting date of the expedition back to 18th November, and meant that a start would have to be made on establishing a base camp and dumping stores there at least a week before that. Eventually, it was decided that the Prime Minister would visit the expedition on 16th November. This fixed the latest date for the main party to arrive at the mountain as 10th November, a month before Independence Day.

Given a very high degree of priority

From the point of view of 1 Signal Squadron, the initial problem was to obtain some assistance from various experts as quickly as possible. It will be recalled that the plan was not made until mid-October, and the expedition was to start



[*By courtesy of the Tanganyika Information Services*

After the ceremony at the summit had been successfully completed, three members of the expedition returned by air to Dar-es-Salaam and were presented at a garden party to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. H.R.H. is here seen talking to 2/Lieutenant A. G. Nyirenda, now of the Tanganyika Rifles, who was attached to 1 Signal Squadron for the expedition. On the left is Major P. J. W. Stephens, Royal Signals, the expedition leader

on 10th November. The expedition was given a very high degree of priority by Headquarters, East Africa Command, and help flowed in from all quarters. A Sapper officer was attached to the Squadron to organise the pyrotechnics. A medical officer and seven medical orderlies were produced, as were a P.R.O. and photographer, an Animal Transport Officer, 15 ponies and 18 men from the Animal Transport Troop, K.A.R. An African second-lieutenant was attached to the Squadron from one of the Tanganyika battalions of the K.A.R. He was the first Tanganyikan to be commissioned from Sandhurst, and had been selected to perform the flag-raising ceremony and also to make the broadcast.

There was a considerable requirement for additional stores. Vast quantities of camp equipment were drawn up, as also were sets of winter clothing. Some of the clothing had to be flown out from England, since cold-weather clothing is a somewhat abnormal requirement for the tropics. The Sapper officer arranged for some obsolescent airfield rockets to be supplied and also some cordite. The rockets were rated at anything up to a million candle-power and were fired from small mortar-type projectors. They also had to be flown out from England.

By the beginning of November the composition of the party was settled. Two officers and 40 men came from 1 Signal Squadron. In addition to those whose function was purely communicating, this number included drivers, cooks, a large "Q" staff and general-duty men. One officer and 17 men came with the ponies. The E.A. P. and T. party consisted of two engineers and five postal officials, and the whole expedition amounted to about 70 men; the remainder being made up by medical orderlies, P.R. representatives and R.A.S.C. drivers.

Getting established

On 10th November, the main party of 17 vehicles left Nairobi for the mountain. The vehicles were heavily laden, ponies, rations and all the tentage being included in the first lift. The 250 miles of road between Nairobi and the mountain is only partly tarmac, the first 100 miles being a virtual dirt-track. On this first occasion the convoy got through safely. Many times in the month that followed vehicles did not get through due to severe flooding, or to the road being washed away.

The base camp was established on a farm at the foot of the mountain, at 3,000 feet. The two peaks appeared very near from the base camp. In fact, Kibo peak was 34 miles distant, though every mile up the mountain was equal to five miles along the plains.

Already existing on the mountain were three huts, each about 10 miles apart, and with the asset of water at the first two. It was decided that camps would be established at each of the huts. A Land Rover could get to approximately two miles from the first hut, the distance achieved by it being dependent on the amount of rain and resulting mud. On two occasions during the expedition Land Rovers got all the way to the hut after rare dry spells. For the remainder of the time, ponies had to be used.

The day after the main party arrived at the base, the first camp was set up at Bismarck Hut, which is the lowest, at about 9,000 feet. The work of establishing camps at the huts was extremely complex, since pony loads had to be calculated with great accuracy. The ponies had to take their fodder as part of their load, and no party could go forward without personal kit, petrol for cooking, rations stores, cooking gear, tentage, radio equipment and a host of other things. The adage about never being parted from one's personal kit and bedding became especially true here, and it became a rule never to move between camps without first seeing one's personal kit loaded on a pony, and watching the pony leave camp in the right direction. To arrive at a camp and find no bedding could have disastrous consequences.

The radio layout

The rear link back to Nairobi was provided with a C11/R210. From the first day it produced reliable voice communication, and a great deal of traffic was passed over this link.

The main communications system on the mountain was provided by the S.R. B44, a V.H.F. set originally designed for anti-aircraft use, but now in use in East Africa. This set has separate send and receive sides, using two frequencies. The net was laid out so that Control was a two-set re-broadcast station. The outstations spoke to Control on the two send and receive frequencies and all signals passed through Control. When an outstation spoke to another outstation, the signal passed through the Control station and was automatically re-broadcast. Normally, the B44 operates as a broadcast system where outstations cannot hear each other but can only speak to and hear Control. With the modification outlined here, all stations could hear each other and the system worked extremely well. The sets performed well in conditions where one station might be operating in extreme frost, with icing of the aerial, while the station it was working to might be in humid tropical situation with the temperature up to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. All concerned in the expedition learnt a lot about V.H.F. When the net had been fully set out and engineered, it included four stations, one at each of the camps, with a maximum distance from control of over 30 miles.

At each B44 station there was also a H.F. radio-call set, crystal-controlled and working into the Post Office telephone system through a radio-call control. These sets were not as reliable as the Army sets, and usually objected to the harsh treatment meted out by the ponies in transit. However, they were used frequently and often calls were successfully put through to Dar-es-Salaam, over a 50-mile radio path and 500 miles of landline.

The set used for the broadcast from the summit was a Pye "Handi Ranger," an extremely light and modern V.H.F. set. Two sets were in fact used to provide a four-wire circuit. The sets worked from the summit on a line-of-sight path to the centre of Moshi, the nearest large town, where the circuits were switched to provide either broadcast or telephone facilities, both over the landline system. After the broadcasts had taken place on the night of the 8th/9th, various members of the expedition were able to put through telephone calls from the summit to relatives in East Africa.

Two other radio sets were used on the expedition and more than proved themselves. One was a small V.H F. transistor set of civilian manufacture, consisting of a transmitter and separate receiver. The transmitter was taken to the summit and was used to broadcast progress reports to the party waiting at the last hut. Both the tansmitter and receiver were small enough to be held in the palm of the hand, and the construction and performance of this set were quite remarkable.

Finally, the now ubiquitous A40 was used. Since there were line-of-sight paths from the base-camp to the lower two huts, it was a simple matter to provide communication between the two, over a distance of 15-20 miles in one case. This demonstration of the set served to disprove the objections to the A40 which were being made by a company commander of an infantry battalion training nearby.

It will be seen that the expedition was well provided with communications. Additionally, a D10 line was laid six miles from the base camp to the nearest civil exchange and an extension was provided. The Posts and Telecommunications Administration also provided small post offices at each camp. On Independence Eve, a post box was even set up on the summit. Mail was carried between camps by runners, and was carried from the base camp to Moshi by Land Rover. This must have been a unique arrangement, and no other instance is known of official civilian mailbags being carried by Signals Land Rover.

The Prime Minister visits

From the first day weather conditions were extremely mixed, varying between hot sunshine and torrential downpours which made the base camp area into a quagmire. However, work progressed smoothly, which was just as well, for on 16th November we were visited at the base camp by the Prime Minister, Mr. Julius K. Nyerere. He inspected a parade of members of the expedition and then presented to the Tanganyikan officer, Second-Lieutenant Nyirenda, a new Tanganyika flag, a symbolic torch and a plaque. The torch and flag were used in the ceremony at the summit on Independence Eve, and the plaque has now been fixed in a cairn at the point on the crater-rim where the ceremony took place. It commemorates the ceremony and contains a quotation from Mr. Nyerere's speech of 1959, which was the germ of the whole idea.

After the parade and presentation, Mr. Nyerere toured the lines and was entertained to lunch by members of the expedition. The visit attracted a great deal of attention, not only from the local populace. In addition to the Prime Minister, officers of the Provincial Administration, police officers, representatives of the local Tribal Council and senior Army officers were all entertained to lunch.

The Press were present in large numbers and included a television cameraman, a rare thing in East Africa. In general, the Press looked after the expedition extremely well, and we received some excellent publicity, not only in East Africa. A small Press party accompanied the summit party on the night of the ceremony, and a Press release was telephoned from the summit after the broadcast had taken place. It must be recorded, however, that the photograph of the flag-raising ceremony at midnight on Independence Day was taken by the Army P.R. photographer, and this achieved international publication. Even in the province of Public Relations the Corps was represented—the P.R.O. of the Posts and Telecommunications Administration turned out to be a Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.), Royal Signals.

After the visit of the Prime Minister, the expedition got down to work in real earnest. The second camp was established at Peter's Hut, at 12,000 feet, and finally the last camp was established at Kibo Hut at 15,000 feet. This last hut was almost on the snow-line, and frequently those living there found snow all round when they got up in the morning. There was no water and ponies could not stay there overnight. At this altitude the round trip from Peter's Hut to Kibo Hut and back in one day was quite an effort. The ponies and handlers were magnificent, and covered 20 or 30 miles a day every day. There was only one casualty, a pony which broke a leg just above the lowest hut. It unfortunately had to be destroyed, and the job was most professionally done by a Sergeant of Royal Signals, proving that Signals turn their hand to anything.

Acclimatisation Problems

A great deal of emphasis was placed on acclimatisation, and members of the summit party spent a lot of time at the top two huts. Although normal tourist parties do not spend any time acclimatising, it was very necessary for expedition members, since they were not only required to get to the top, but also to stay there for some hours, and work at their various tasks of communicating, setting off pyrotechnics and flag-raising. The use of oxygen was contemplated, and many enquiries were made to try and get equipment, including tentative enquiries made with industrial oxygen-users, the fire brigade, skin-diving firms at the Kenya coast, the Royal Air Force and medical authorities. Unfortunately, the search was fruitless and we had to manage without. As it turned out, oxygen was not vital.

Since oxygen could not be obtained, the medical advisers said that long acclimatisation was necessary, and in consequence, the summit party spent many days of enforced idleness at the higher camps. They relieved the boredom by practising their rock-climbing, an unneccesary skill on this expedition, but one that kept them fit.

At lower levels there was no boredom. The staff at base camp worked long hours wrestling with supply problems and calculating pony-loads. There were some anxious moments for them when road communications with Nairobi were cut and rations were held up. Apart from this, the work of supplying the large numbers of people at the various camps on the mountain with food, petrol and clothing went smoothly.

The expedition was lucky to get a great deal of support from the Army Air Corps who, besides lifting members of the expedition to and from Nairobi, carried out a very successful air-drop of winter clothing and food from a Beaver aircraft to the camp at Peter's Hut at 12,000 feet. The winter clothing had been specially flown from England to Nairobi, and it completed its journey from the Ordnance Depot to the user entirely by air.

Dress rehearsal

On 1st December the dress rehearsal started and the first stage was an experiment with the pyrotechnics. Two rockets and a quantity of cordite were ignited from Peter's Hut, and were clearly seen from many miles away. The experiment attracted a great deal of attention from the local inhabitants, but its success augured well for the actual ceremony.

After this the summit party left for the rehearsal of the ascent. Again, this went extremely well, despite adverse conditions of heavy snow, and a full dress rehearsal of the ceremony took place. The party then withdrew, tired but pleased, to the camp at Kibo Hut. Climbing at that height was a considerable effort, but acclimatisation made things much easier. Parties coming to the hut for the first time found the last few yards an almost insuperable barrier, and it was not uncommon for climbers to have to pause only a few yards from the hut door to gain enough breath to cover the last steps. Most climbers at this last camp lived on soup and easily assimilated food such as chocolate.

Midnight Performance

The date of 9th December approached rapidly, and arrangements were finalised. At mid-day on the 8th the summit party left the last camp for their final assault. All the pyrotechnic material had been dumped at the crater-rim by civilian porters, who had made the ascent from the last hut to the top every day for the previous week. At 5 p.m. the party arrived at the crater-rim and began preparations. The flag-pole was set up and the firing equipment for the rockets was prepared. Communications on the V.H.F. set with Moshi were established and the party settled down to wait. At 11.30 p.m. Second-Lieutenant Nyirenda made the first broadcast, and this was successfully heard by members at the lower camps on the re-broadcast from Dar-es-Salaam. At exactly midnight the first rockets were fired and 60lb. of cordite were ignited. From midnight to 25 minutes past, rockets were fired in waves of four, and at the same time the V.H.F. circuit was in full use, the main user being Second-Lieutenant Nyirenda, who reported by telephone to the Prime Minister that the flag-raising ceremony had been successfully completed. Then, when the rockets had finished, a second lot of cordite was set off and the display was at an end. It was seen for many miles, thought not, unfortunately, in Nairobi, where it was raining.

The summit party then rested just below the crater-rim until dawn, when they began an epic march which took them right from the summit to the base camp, a distance of 34 miles and a descent of 17,000 feet. They finally arrived at the base camp in a state of exhaustion in the late afternoon of the 9th.

On the morning of the 10th, three members of the expedi-

tion flew to Dar-es-Salaam, having had the rare privilege of an aircraft specially chartered for them. In the afternoon of the 10th they were presented to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

After the glamour of the publicity and presentations came the problem of getting all the men and stores back down the mountain. This was achieved very quickly, but the road to Nairobi had been blocked in the meantime by heavy rain, and the main party were forced to wait patiently for the road to open. At one time there was speculation about being home for Christmas, but all was well, and everyone was back to work as normal by 20th December.

In retrospect

All concerned in the expedition agreed that they had enjoyed it but would not care to do it again. Apart from congratulatory signals and telegrams, there was little tangible to show for a month's work, but in experience much was gained. In the Signal Squadron a high standard of training was achieved. By the end of the expedition, every driver, cook, lineman, clerk and general duty man had been taught the rudiments of voice procedure and could operate a set. Indeed, for some days control of the V.H.F. net was exercised by a sergeant lineman, whose Irish brogue and masterly control were soon respected by all concerned. Additionally, all the drivers had plenty of experience of driving under difficult conditions in four-wheel drive or low ratio. Lastly, of course, everyone got extremely fit.

Much incidental experience with equipment was gained, and besides being able to study the effects of climatic extremes on the various equipments, there was plenty of opportunity for the study of the problems connected with engineering radio and line circuits, both with V.H.F. and H.F.

Finally, it must be said that all concerned in the expedition realised the uniqueness of the occasion, the birth of a new independent nation, and were grateful for the opportunity of taking part in the expedition, which was certainly the most unusual example of signalling ever experienced by the writer.

Impressions of Cyprus Today

It has a very great deal to offer . . . but you must put something into it first

NOW that restrictions are ended and the atmosphere relaxed the Isle of Cyprus has a lot to offer the serviceman—but to get something out of it you have—like in so many other things—to put something into it. That is the conclusion of Corporal J. Evans, of 261 Squadron, who is employed as N.C.O. i/c Systems at R.A.F. Arkotiri, and who has written for "The Wire" this short but excellent article of his impressions of the Island at the present time.

* * *

It is now a little over a year since I arrived in Cyprus and in this time curfews and restrictions applying to British servicemen have been lifted and more recently the Republican authorities have withdrawn all road blocks in the south of the Island.

First Impressions a Little Misleading . . .

Due to these things and the more relaxed atmosphere in Cyprus many men and their families are beginning to travel more and generally find out more about the island they live in. Many are finding that their first impressions were perhaps a little misleading and all that Cyprus had to offer was its climate, all-year swimming and a guaranteed sun tan. Cyprus does offer all these things but if you are prepared to walk a little away from the usual haunts of the serviceman it will be found most rewarding.

In Limassol, the second largest town in Cyprus where most service families live, one can see the making of giant six-foot orange candles for later use in the many ornate Greek Orthodox churches in the island.

Across the road from the candle makers is a small shop selling locally produced paintings of the island and its peoples. Although it costs nothing to look at them, they are invariably too expensive for the average service family. A little along the same street is a goldsmith's shop that specialises in the production of panels of precious metals, again, I would imagine, for use in the Orthodox churches. A tour of Cyprus will bring the soldier in touch with a very different way of life than he may have been used to, but once this is realised he will find life far more enjoyable than if he made no attempt to see for himself. I have found the vast majority of Cypriots I have met both very courteous and helpful, ready to advise on the best place to buy fresh vegetables, or the best route from A to B, although as in the U.K. the latter point is apt to cause some very volatile discussion.

Its Links with Great Civilisations of the Past

Cyprus is very conscious of its links with great civilisations of the past, namely Rome and Ancient Greece. Nowhere is one in Cyprus far away from reminders of this past. The foundations of a Roman villa have been found adjoining the married quarters of the Akrotiri airfied, home of one of 261 Squadron's Troops. The cultural background of Cyprus is often reflected in special issue postage stamps. One of them, depicting a natural amphitheatre called "Curium," sited on the top of towering cliffs overlooking the sea and within the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area, won a major European award in the philatelist world.

A short journey from Episkopi will take you to the Troodos range of mountains. Along the winding road to the summit, one can see the narrow valleys terraced to make use of every available scrap of valuable soil to grow the famous Cypriot vines. Surprisingly here and there one can see small waterfalls pouring into narrow gorges, a very marked change from the parched coastal plains.

The Best Way to Die of Boredom

In short, no one posted to Cyprus, particularly to Episkopi or Akrotiri, need fear that it may be just another three years, but to get something out of it, like so many things, you must put something in. The best way to die of boredom in Cyprus is to go no further than from the billet to the NAAFI. In Cyprus even a little effort is well rewarded.

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs! Why not send us your story?

DO YOU KNOW?

That there is a branch of the National Association for Employment of Regular sailors, Soldiers and Airmen operating in the locality of your home?

It is only waiting for a personal call from you, or a ring on the telephone or a postcard, to get busy with your employment problem.

You can always get the address of your Area Jobfinder from your local Post Office or from your Regimental Association.

Do Yourself a Favour

If you are serving and have a standing order for "The Wire," please keep us informed well in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders, and your "Wire" will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

Miscellaneous Items

Two of the following articles have been on the Editor's desk for some time. The B.A.O.R. Sports record needed publication to place them in print for future amendment. "The Ten Tors," albeit last Whitsun, reflects much credit on the Junior Leaders Regiment.

Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Athletics 1965

PRIZE LIST

Tug of War		
	Major Units Winners	21st Regiment
	Minor Units Winners	229 Squadron
Long Jump		
	Major Units Winners	16th Regiment
	Minor Units Winners	207 Squadron
	Best Individual	Sgt. Howitt, 16th Regiment
High Jump		
	Major Units Winners	13th Regiment
	Minor Units Winners	207 Squadron
	Best Individual	Sig. Oxley, 13th Regiment
Pole Vault		
	Major Units Winners	7th Regiment
	Best Individual	Sig. Drew, 7th Regiment
Discus		
	Major Units Winners	16th Regiment
	Minor Units Winners	212 Squadron
	Best Individual	C.S.M.I. Andrews, 16th Regiment
Hammer		
	Major Units Winners	1st Regiment
	Best Individual	S.S.I. Barnes, 1st Regiment
Weight (Shot)		
	Major Units Winners	16th Regiment
	Minor Units Winners	217 Squadron
	Best Individual	Sig. Kirk, 1st Regiment
Javelin		
	Major Units Winners	16th Regiment
	Minor Units Winners	207 Squadron
	Best Individual	L/Cpl. Cooper, 16th Regiment
4 × 100m Hurdles		
	Major Units Winners	16th Regiment
200m		
	Minor Units Winners	217 Squadron
4 × 200m		
	Joint Major Units Winners	16th Regiment 21st Regiment
400m		
	Minor Units Winners	211 Squadron
4 × 400m		
	Major Units Winners	1st Regiment
800m		
	Minor Units Winners	211 Squadron
4 × 800m		
	Major Units Winners	4th Regiment
1,500m		
	Major Units Winners	7th Regiment
	Minor Units Winners	217 Squadron
	Best Individual	Cpl. Baynes, 4th Regiment
5000m		
	Major Units Winners	7th Regiment
	Best Individual	L/Cpl. Venus, 7th Regiment
Runners-up, Minor Units		
	with 35 points	217 Squadron
Winners, Minor Units		
	with 45 points	207 Squadron
Runners-up, Major Units		
	with 91 points	16th Regiment
Winners, Major Units		
	with 100½ points	7th Regiment

A Ten Tors Diary

By Junior Signalman Tom Burgess (Iron Troop)

AFTER practising for many weekends for the great event, the troop Ten Tors team was finally chosen. It was Junior R.S.M. Steve Watson (the patrol leader), Junior Lance-Corporal Whyman, Junior Signalmen Phil Rumsey, Johnny Keohane, Pete Sherwin and myself. We were ready and well prepared for the journey many days beforehand and were also were confident of finishing. How could we fail; we were Iron Troop!

Both the Camp and competitors were colourful

Friday, 5th June, arrived at last, and that evening found us camped with the rest of the male competitors in the sports field behind the cinema. What a camp that was. Tents of every type and colour were to be seen. They ranged from army camouflage tents and bivvies to bright orange tents in circular shapes complete with fly sheets and decorative borders. If the tents were colourful, then the characters occupying them were right out of this world. Their dress ranged from amazingly brief shorts and white sand shoes to Dick Turpin-style hats and kilts. Some had moustaches large enough to qualify them for membership of the Handlebar Club, while others had beards, the length of which were bound to add to the hazards in their walk on the Moor. We should have settled early that night because of the early start the next morning and, indeed, our team was in bed at nine o'clock, but the camp did not go quiet until midnight. The main trouble was the group of singers who performed loudly and long into the middle of the night.

Saturday morning came and we rose with the sun. By half-past five we had breakfasted, packed up and were waiting to go. At a quarter-to-seven we arrived at Haytor and twenty minutes later, after a prayer, the National Anthem and a short speech, we were ready to go.

After Steve Watson had collected our map and route card, we booked in at the route entry point and we were off. Keeping mainly to the roads, but occasionally crossing a few hundred yards of moor, we made record time to Princetown, a distance of thirteen miles, and booked in at Moor Entry Point H. The time was twenty past ten. It was now a mere half-mile to the first check point, South Hessary Tor, ably commanded by Staff Dart and Corporal O'Sullivan of the P.T. department.

33 miles in just under 12 hours!

The next stage of our journey took us an hour and forty minutes over five miles of rather rough terrain to Hen Tor, where we stopped and ate some lunch and had a few sips of water. This rest seemed to be for only a few seconds, but in fact it was for twenty-five minutes. By now our weary bones were slowing down the pace, but we stuck to the Iron Troop principle of never faltering. Black Tor we passed at twenty-five to three, and so now we were only twenty-eight miles from the finish. Another four miles took us past the halfway mark and as far as Pew Tor.

Two miles further along we surprised Sergeant Bumby, who wasn't expecting us until Sunday, and also Major Joyner who probably was. We allowed the Squadron Commander exclusive film right of the Troop team, complete with pennants flying and my own Scottish pennant was well to the fore. After a short rest we were off again at a good pace over what proved to be the stiffest part of the trip so far. The first hill was not too bad, but then came a number of fiendish ridges and then a murderous climb to the tip of Lynch Tor, where Lieutenant Hood was waiting for us. It was ten to seven when he stamped our card and we had done thirty-three miles. We were shattered, but being Iron Troop, undaunted, we set out on our last leg of the day, one and a half miles of devastating moorland to Conie's Down. We made it at twenty minutes to eight, booked in, and set up camp in the little gulley just below the tor. We had no tent, only sleeping bags and a huge black polythene bag, for which we were extremely grateful when the Dartmoor rain came down later that night. We had a superb meal of coffee, soup, biscuits, butter and cheese, and then sat around the fire—a solid fuel burner—talking and joking.

At nine o'clock we went to bed and at what must surely have been a minute past nine, I was sound asleep. The next thing I remember is our patrol leader trying to wake us to get ready to go again. Then there was another first-class meal.

Second day and really tough going

Sittaford we passed at half-past seven, Oke Tor at nine o'clock, Yes Tor at ten, and then it was straight to the finish We decided to take no risks and so we set the compass for Kitty

(*Continued on page 364*)

Tor. And this part of the journey proved to be the hardest bit of all. We came upon the steepest valley in England, or so it seemed. Not only was it steep, but it was boulder strewn and thick with gorse and trees. At the bottom we rested by a very beautiful stream before we summoned the strength to ascend. It took us well over half-an-hour to climb the brow of the hill, but then the land flatttened out to Kitty Tor. Here we rested, a bit demoralised, wondering whether we should ever reach the end, but the moment we started off again the finish came in view and our morale soared.

A fine finish

I have never before seen such a change come over people. From drooping heads, bent shoulders and dragging feet our team became a machine, streamlined and swift. In just over half-an-hour we were at our destination, Utopia, or the banner which read, "Ten Tors Finish." We were piped in and made the effort to march in at the end with perfect dressing.

YACHTING

Royal Signals Yacht Club, Poole Harbour

All ranks interested in yachting should note that after prolonged negotiations, the affiliation arrangements between the Royal Signals Yacht Club and the Lilliput Sailing Club, Poole Harbour, Dorset, have been put on a firm and satisfactory basis. In return for an interest-free loan from the Corps, all members of the Royal Signals Yacht Club are entitled to make full use of the facilities of the Lilliput Club. The Lilliput Club are using the money borrowed from the Corps to build a club house with changing rooms, store rooms, bar and snack bar. There is space for parking a limited number of Corps dinghies with washdown facilities. Moorings for larger boats can also be made available in Poole Harbour by arrangement.

Work has begun on the construction of the club house, and it is hoped that it will be in full commission by the start of the 1966 sailing season. In order to comply with the licensing laws, anyone using the club house must be a registered member of the Royal Signals Yacht Club. Membership, at the moment, is free, and is not confined to those who wish to sail regularly. Any member of the Corps, past or present, who would like to make use of the club should write to The Secretary, Royal Signals Yacht Club (U.K.), c/o H.Q., A.E.R. Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

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Mounted on black plastic (each)

4/9 4/-

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Woollen		8/6
Terylene		11/-
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Cravats—Terylene		21/-
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Blazer Buttons—Large (each)		2/3
Small (each)		1/8
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours		15/-
Corps Plaques		32/6 plus postage

PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.



ARMY MALTA WATER POLO TEAM

Standing: Corporal Wilson (234 Signal Squadron) Private Thompson (D.E.R.R.), Sapper Farrugia (R.E.), Junior-Leader Vella (R.M.A.). *Front:* Signalman Grixti, Lance-Corporal Xuereb, Signalman Farrugia (all 243 Signal Squadron)

Royal Signals Malta and Libya

August is the month when anyone with any sense in Malta takes to the water, be it sailing or water skiing over it, or skin diving under it, or like the majority taking to a lilo and floating on it; it's just about the only thing to do.

234 Squadron

There are those, of course, who enjoy their water in a really active and competitive way and in this respect 234 Squadron is well supplied with enthusiasts. An entry into any competition is a must and this month we had a go at five. Any list of successes may sound rather smug but we will take that risk. The season opened with the Army Individual Championships and we netted the following:

The 110 yards breast-stroke, a 1st for Corporal Wilson; the 220 yards free-style, the 110 yards free-style and 55 yards butterfly, all won by Signalman Grixti; and the 55 yards free-style, won by Signalman Farrugia.

It is worthy of note that of all our swimmers who entered, none came worse in their particular event than third, and Grixti in the 55 yards butterfly broke his own Malta Army record by 1.3 seconds. As a result of this the Squadron provided the lion's share of the Army Malta Team in the Inter-Services Competition. The Army promptly won handsomely and Grixti again pulled off a 1st in the 440 yards and 220 yards free-style, and Farrugia came 3rd in the 55 yards free-style. Other members of the Corps in the Army Team included Corporal Wilson, 234 Squadron, and Signalman Phillips, of 235 Squadron.

Lastly, in the swimming events, a combined 234 and 235 Squadron Team entered the Army Inter-Unit Championships for major units. We were just pipped into second place by 1 D.E.R.R., but we succeeded in winning five of nine events. In between all this activity our reputation at water polo has had to be defended. This in Malta is a game that excites great emotion and must be taken seriously—well fairly seriously anyway. The two major events of the season are: A Knockout Competition and a League, both run on an Inter-Service basis and no distinction is made between major and minor units. In the Cup we reached the finals, only to be beaten by 11th Regiment, R.M.A., by three to two after a splendidly exciting game. It was, in fact, one of the best games of water polo played in Malta this season. In the League we achieved second place by playing six and winning four games. Not too bad a performance for a minor unit! Next year who knows, but just now more mundane things are pressing. Somebody has been unkind enough to mention the fact that the Administrative Inspection is just fourteen days away, and even worse, an exercise is looming over the horizon. Out of the water everybody, back to business!

Desert Survival and Navigation in Libya follows on page 365

A Five Day Course— and we lose eight pounds in weight

By Corporal J. A. Taylor, 235 Squadron (Comcan)

On Monday, 2nd August, four volunteers, i.e. Corporals Harrison, Holberry, Taylor and Signalman Haylock, left by Medair for N. Africa from Malta. We were bound for El Adem, and a five-day course on Desert Survival and Navigation, organised by the R.A.F. Desert Rescue Service. We were met at El Adem by Flight-Lieutenant A. R. Carter, R.A.F., who was running the course.

On Wednesday morning the course assembled at the Education Centre, at 07.30 hours, for a day of lectures and films. Apart from the 235 contingent, there were nine R.A.F. Regiment personnel from Cyprus, and Sergeant Hall, a Line Technician from 261 Squadron (Air Formation).

At 110° F. Our Thirsts were Beginning to be Something

During the day we were taught how to survive in the desert with the minimum of equipment, food and water. At the end of the lectures, our desert survival kit was issued to us. It wasn't very heartening to realise that we had to exist for the next two-and-a-half days equipped with four pints of water, a parachute, poncho, machete, compass, clasp knife, a tin of sweets and a day/night flare.

Nevertheless, undaunted, we set off bright and early on Thursday morning, in pairs, to march 15 miles to the survival area. Eventually, after five hours, all of us arrived, despite our thirst, which had been partially slaked by melons sold to us en route by some friendly Arabs. We made tents from the parachutes and spent the rest of the afternoon in the shade to conserve our energy. Temperatures were well over 100° F. by this time. By 16.00 hours Corporal Taylor was feeling the effects of the march and partial dehydration had taken place, which was not very pleasant. This was soon cured by a liberal intake of his water ration—which left him with 1½ pints for the next 1½ days.

We Bribe the Arabs

However, this shortage was overcome by a two-mile trek to a nearby Arab camp where, with bribes of cigarettes and chewing gum, the residents were induced to part with a reasonable amount of precious fluid, antibodies and all. This might be called cheating, but survival is included in the course heading. Surprisingly, nobody was hungry, as all our thoughts were devoted to quenching thirst. After having supper, consisting of one boiled sweet, we all retired for the night.

Friday began at 04.00 hours with everyone rushing around madly trying to catch the condensation from his parachute. This provided an extra half pint of water, which tasted suspiciously like parachutes. It is a distinctive flavour which lingers on one's taste buds far too long.

The rest of the day was spent in our two-man tents until the sun had gone down. We then emerged and prepared signal fires ready for rescue operation in the morning.

Royal Signals Come Into Their Own

At 08.00 hours Saturday we let off flares and started signal fires in an attempt to signal a helicopter sent from El Adem to find us. This was successful and we were ferried back to the air base. There it was found that, on an average, everybody had lost 8lb. in weight. The next part of the course began on Sunday night and consisted of desert navigation. The teams were dropped 40 miles from the base and given a map reference to march to. This is where Royal Signals came into their own. The team of Corporals Harrison and Holberry, starting 10 minutes behind the leaders, finished 15 minutes before any R.A.F. team was in sight. This was excusable really, since most of them were suffering from severe blistering of the feet. The R.A.F. don't seem to do as much walking as the Army does. We were then required to make a stretcher, out of a few poles and rope, to carry a casualty to our waiting transport, which was five miles away. At 04.00 hours a tired, but happy course, we were driven back to a welcome breakfast, and our beds at R.A.F. El Adem.



DESERT SURVIVAL—ON BOILED SWEETS

Left to Right: Corporal Taylor, Corporal Harrison, Signalman Haylock deciding the menu: raspberry, strawberry or lime (boiled sweets!)

War Cemeteries at Tobruk —Impressive and Beautiful

The next day we visited the impressive war cemeteries at Tobruk. They are beautifully kept and are a credit to the War Graves Commission, who maintain them. On Tuesday we left North Africa for Malta and all of us agreed that the course had impressed upon us the importance of desert survival training in the military curriculum.

Lastly, our thanks go to Flight-Lieutenant A. R. Carter, R.A.F., and his instructors for making the course such a very interesting and memorable one. We have since put back our eight pounds in weight. Perhaps the reason for the original loss was a distinct lack of pubs or bars, in the survival area.

An Application for Merrage!

From the Records of the Demobilisation Centre, Indian Signal Corps

To: The Command.
Subject: For Merrage.

Most respected your honour Sir.

We beg to submit that we are serving as a Compatant soldiers in the war-zone.

During the present world was evinciling my loyalty to his majesty Emperer.

Your most honour Sir, We heard one of the order that is who wish to merrage with W.A.C.(i)* or I.N.S.‡ they can do apply. Therefore we are applaying.

So we humbly pray that your honour will be graciously please to arrange of our wedding.

We will never forget your kindness in our life.

We beg to remin Sir

Your Most Obedient Servents.

* Women's Auxiliary Corps (India)
‡ Indian Nursing Service.

★ ★ ★

When it was pointed out that this application had been submitted through incorrect channels, the following reply was received:

Your Most honour Sir

We have requesting of your execuse.

We have sent this application by post and we haven got any chance to give by properchannel. Because if we give by properchannel, curttenly we can get too shame or trouble from other person. So that please execuse us if it is any mistaks.

Awaiting your kindness favoer Sir

Your Most Obedient Servents.



Signal Centre Kuching

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT, BORNEO KUCHING DETACHMENT

Situated some 400 miles south-west of Labuan, the Kuching Detachment run the Joint Communications Centre which serves five battalions, the Royal Air Force Station, Royal Naval ships in the area, and the many individual units scattered in and around Kuching.

The Detachment has a current strength of 55 men of all three Services, with W.O.I (Y. of S.) Gubler at the helm. Our D.S.O.s (D.S.M.s to R.A.F.) are Sergeants Brindle, Collis and Evans, with Sergeant Donnithorne as the welcome stand-in from Labuan during brief periods of rest and recuperation (which is the Borneo version of leave).

A Happy Family — Truly Joint

We work as one big happy family with 248 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron, who look after us in every way, and with the inclusion of an Australian Sergeant, we are truly joint. Although the British ranks do have some difficulty in pronouncing such names as Indra, Prasad, Gurung, etc., this is overcome by alloting such nicknames as "Ringo," "Tex," "Flash," etc., all of which is taken in the right spirit and makes life easier.

We have a joint football team which is well-known in Kuching, both by the civilian population and other Service teams. The team has been named "Mercurians," after our patron saint, and at the time of writing are placed second in the Kuching League. Some of the stalwarts of this fabulous team are Signalman McNaught, W.O.II Dobbs, Lance-Corporal "Jock" Brown and Signalman "Jock" Smith, all ably assisted by Corporal Ryan with the refreshments and magic sponge.

350 per cent Traffic Increase

On the work side, traffic has risen some 350 per cent over the last 18 months, and the number of tape relay circuits by 500 per cent. A slightly sad establishments team from M.o.D., visiting the COMCEN recently, recommended an increase of 13 operators. We are looking forward to seeing these new faces in the near future (probably some more footballers).

Kuching has many amenities to offer, such as a swimming pool, a racecourse, football pitches, six cinemas and numerous cosy bars, all of which have done a brisk trade since the arrival of the services.

Although the COMCEN does make use of the civilian power supply, we have at instant readiness, two 27½ KVA generators, and four smaller generators. These are maintained and tested by Lance-Corporal Pilkington and Signalman Elliott our electrician drivers.

Of the 30 Army ranks in Kuching, ten of them have volunteered to complete their full overseas tour on active service in Borneo, rather than return to the dazzling lights of Singapore. Although the local girls are very attractive and the beer always ice cold, we still like to think they have volunteered because of the full-time signalling job they are doing, serving the many troops alerted along the Sarawak/Indonesian border.



EX WEBBED FOOT

The fate of the first AFV432 to take to the water. Crew: Captain David Randel, Sergeant Bill Smith, Signalman Tufton is attempting to secure the hawser from the Scammel onto the vehicle

207 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 30

Exercise "Webbed Foot"

Exercise "Webbed Foot" was an exercise designed to train commanders and drivers in the art of "floating" the A.F.V. 432.

The exercise lasted three days and took place on the River Weser near Hameln. Sergeant Smith was the only person present who had had any experience in "floating" the 432, so everybody was rather apprehensive as the first vehicle took to the water! The crossing to the opposite bank went very smoothly, but when the vehicle tried to return, the fast current swept it downstream. It made two more unsuccessful attempts to land and finally disappeared round a bend in the river, hotly pursued by a rescue launch and Stalwart. The crew beached it and the vehicle had to be recovered using a Scammel. Despite this unfortunate first attempt the exercise was a success and proved very valuable to all who took part.

Helicopter Training

Members of the Squadron spent one day training with a Wessex helicopter provided by the R.A.F. The programme was split into two halves; in the morning the instructors explained the tricky business of entering and leaving a helicopter with its rotors turning, and the afternoon was spent preparing loads for pickup. Everybody was given valuable flying experience.

Exercise "Brain Drain"

The Squadron provided communications for the control element of Exercise "Brain Drain." The exercise was an escape and evasion exercise and a team of escapers from the Squadron took part. The penalty for capture was a period

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HELICOPTER TRAINING
A 'stick' boarding the Wessex

in an interrogation centre—very good reason to stay at large! In fact all of our team except Lance-Corporal Raybould were caught.

222 SQUADRON B.F.P.O. 69

Squadron H.Q. and Technical Troops

We are pleased to report that Squadron H.Q. and its surrounds are at last getting a face-lift (old Squadron members won't recognise the place if this keeps up!). The Cable Yard by the Power House is in the process of being concreted where the cable drums stand, and the remainder, less the area leading to the vehicle ramps is to be tarmacademed. The "Q" Stores area, plus the garages, are being redecorated. No, it's not special work for Administrative Inspection—this has been on the cards for ages.

The Squadron Aviary has now nearly a hundred occupants. It is with regret that I must report that the "222" strain of yellow and green budgerigars are gradually dying out. At the moment, due to cross breeding, a variety of colours can be seen, but the predominant colours seem to be light green breast with light yellow/mottled brown wings.

Welcomes and . . .

We extend a warm welcome to our new S.S.M., W.O.II Copestake—did we say "warm"? Sorry, the S.Q.M.S.'s welcome was positively red hot; the lost brother act. Maybe we can now get normal service from the stores! Kidding apart, we hope the S.S.M. will enjoy his stay here, and may it be pleasant and profitable. Don't forget the bills for the Customs Officer on that camera, etc., Sergeant Major.

Farewells

Sergeant Bellamy-Wood, our Chief Clerk, has left for the cooler climates of the U.K. and B.A.O.R. May we wish him the best of luck on his course at Catterick and pleasant posting to his new Unit.

Births.—To Sergeant Bellamy-Wood and Mrs. W. Bellamy-Wood, at Steamer Point Hospital, Aden, on 26th June, 1965, a son, Rodney. To Signalman W. Helliwell and Mrs. J. Helliwell, at Steamer Point Hospital, Aden, on 11th July, 1965, a son, Mark.

"B" Troop, Muharraq (Bahrain)

Summer again. The inevitable problems of sweat dripping into one's porridge at breakfast and the other problems of living in the tropics. The Persian Gulf is infamous for its high humidity and the Met Office have really gone to town this year.

The Troop is committed at Muharraq to unravel a knitted cable area in preparation for the installation of our new auto exchange. We have come to hate those far-off Americans who have been blamed, correctly or not, for the oddities that have been discovered. In its place we are leaving a well ordered

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(we hope) system, complete with ducts which are under the water table at high tide.

The Station Commander has administered our selection of small arms for some time and recently rules that the Troop should assist with Security Guards. Regrettably, we find that we have to use the R.A.F.'s No. 4 rifle. This led to the discovery that 90% of the Troop didn't know how to use one. However, a short period of instruction from Sergeant Joe Morris, our new Troop Sergeant, ensured that this situation didn't last long.

The Sharjah detachment have been peacefully working on, when, to their horror, an out-of-season storm blew up, removing most of the Comcen roof. They were relieved to find that the exchange had not been carried away, and although looking bad, not much damage had been done.

All is quiet at Masirah, except on the beaches, where the annual turtle "egg lay" is going on. All the staff from Squadron H.Q. who have been to visit this phenomenon have departed suitably enlightened as to the sexual life of the turtle!

"K" Airfield Troop, Khormaksar

Pulling 14 pair cable across the main runway at R.A.F. Khormaksar can be quite an illuminating experience, particularly with landings/take offs averaging one every four minutes. "K" Troop has had to deny the rumour that Signalman Pete Jackson was seen having a 14 pair tug-o-war with an R.A.F. Shackleton!

The ever changing face of Khormaksar provides the Troop with varied problems, not the least of which has been—where, in an "Asian Boy" can you fit a Hadley Teletalk? Does anyone know of a toilet roll fitting designed to contain such an equipment?

Major Pritchard (Projects Liaison Officer) has been sowing those G.P.O. Cabinet seeds again. They are springing up everywhere!

"K" Troop Basketball Team produced a result worthy of note. In a match against H.M.S. *Bulwark* they lost, in extra time, by *one point*, Corporal John Chillery, Lance-Corporals Jim Harlow and Sid Evans doing sterling work. It would probably be considered polite not to ask what Sergeant Tony McMullen was doing with his head between his knees half way through the match!

O.C. "K" is grieving the loss of his fishing rod and reel snatched from the boat by, what he swears, was a monster fish! The suggestion that he should tie it to himself next time can be taken in two ways!

Departures and . . .

We are sorry to say goodbye to our Troop Sergeant and his wife, Sergeant and Mrs. Kingman, after only a short stay with us. We thank them and wish them well in the U.K. Other souls departed from Khormaksar were :

Corporal Hambidge, Signalman Morrin, Signalman Dickinson and Signalman Friday. Again, we wish them well in their new postings.

Arrivals

We welcome to "K" Troop Staff Sergeant Nicholls, Signalman Williamson, Signalman Dunn and their respective wives, Corporal Perkins, Lance-Corporal Vickers, Signalman Crabbe and Signalman McCarthy. We hope that they enjoy their stay at "K" Troop.

One final note to our brothers in 15th Regiment down the road. We don't wear spiked running shoes whilst jumping on their joints—honestly!

633 TROOP (BRITISH HONDURAS)

Exercise B.H. Jimmy

The most interesting activity this month for the Troop was our exercise. The aims were to practise comms, to compare comms using a variety of antennae and to familiarise the troop with local roads and terrain. Good voice communications were maintained over a distance of 65 miles as the crow flies, using the C11/R210 with a 12ft. rod end and a dipole the other end.

We borrowed the G2's L/R and so for one weekend, we had two vehicles and a trailer. Comfort stores included plenty of ice and soft drinks. It wasn't all work, we visited the Maya Ruins and managed an early morning swim in the Pine Ridge mountain creeks. A good time was had by all.

Future Plans

There are high hopes here for the replacement of our 53 sets. No date has yet been given but it is thought that it will not be too long before we get the D13/R231. In the more immediate future, the Infantry Company is to get the C42. With this thought in mind, the troop reconnoitred the country, made a study of local topography and submitted a report to the staff on the prospects of future communications. In retrospect, this was perhaps a daring thing to do without equipment on the ground but the staff here are particularly understanding. The arrival of the new equipment will give the troop another excuse to get out and about.

Soldiering

We soldier too and in the second week in July, the Troop formed part of the standby platoon. Apart from being confined to camp for a week and the fact that we were on a 15 minute by day and 30 minute by night standby, the whole thing had its advantages. For the first time ever, the In, Out and Pending Trays were empty. It was also a good opportunity for getting some initial battery charging done.

Social News

Corporal Cadman judged his leave exactly right. He started at 12.00 hrs. Saturday, 24th July, and at 20.00 hrs. his second daughter was born. Both mother and baby are doing well and the Troop are delighted.

Company Changeover

"C" Company of the 1st K.S.L.I. were relieved this month by "D" Company of the 1st Staffords. This has precipitated a short course on the C11/R120 for the new signallers. It is gratifying to find that they are as keen as mustard. The Company Signal Sergeant, Sergeant Green, fully understands the implications of the word liaison and it is a pleasure to work with him.

Already plans are in hand for us to get out on exercise together—but more of this next month.

Troop Activities

Although this is a place where nothing happens, the problem with THE WIRE notes is, how much to leave out. This month we have been called upon to provide P.A. equipment and an announcer for a local sports meeting, to recce the garrison boats and report on the feasibility of providing a skywave antenna, and to spend several days with K.S.L.I., assisting them with their revue. In addition to this, the Troop Driver Training Programme has continued, and by the end of this week it is hoped that seven, out of a total strength of nine, will be qualified to drive. Unfortunately, the qualification applies locally only, and a battle now rages to obtain pink slips for the Troop.

Footnote

Signalman Wood and Signalman Knott are preparing for their AII TG Course on RHE early next year. Signalman Forbes passed his ACE II this month and starts a part-time course for his ACE I today. Corporal Wilmot and Signalman Dryland are very busy preparing for a three-week leave, which is to be taken in Mexico City.

CORPS CRICKET TOUR

A Win Against The Sappers

We set out for Chatham in pouring rain on Tuesday, 13th July, but we drove out of it and arrived in beautiful sunshine.

Wednesday dawned to pleasant if watery sunshine. The Sappers won the toss and decided to bat. They lost two wickets quickly for 17, however, the third wicket took the score to 69. Wickets then fell at regular intervals until they were all out for 148. Signalman Kilvington finishing up with 6 - 50 in 23.5 overs; Signalman Worrell 3 - 49.

We went out to bat and lost Second-Lieutenant Coltman with the score at 16. Lance-Corporal Mayes and Major S. G. de Clive-Lowe took the score to 133, when Lance-Corporal Mayes was out for 41. Crichlow soon followed and Hamilton and Major de Clive-Lowe took the score to 148 to the close of the first day.

The second day was rather dull. Hamilton soon went and

Major de Clive-Lowe reached a splendid century. Lieutenant-Colonel Evans was then out and soon after Major de Clive-Lowe was out for 100 with the score at 171. Worrell went with the score 197. The score was then taken to 246-7 by 12.05 hours, when we declared. Captain Potts 41 not out, Signalman Kilvington 15 not out.

The Sappers batted again and lost five wickets in taking the lead. Second-Lieutenant Brooks secoring 40. Sergeant Herriot scored a very useful 36. Major Proctor 31. They were eventually all out for 183, leaving us 86 to win.

We lost three wickets for 17 and 4 for 37, but Major de Clive-Lowe 22 not out and Lance-Corporal Mayes 49 not out, knocked off the runs by 18.00 hours.

R.A.O.C. Easily Overcome

We moved off to Blackdown, to play the R.A.O.C., that evening arriving rather late. We were met in splendid fashion, with a hot meal, nothing being too much trouble.

Friday morning was very sunny but cold. The wicket was very brown and had very little grass on it. It was also soft and drying out fast, which provoked a lot of discussion as to what we should do if we won the toss.

We did win and Major de Clive-Lowe put the R.A.O.C. in to bat. This decision at first appeared to be wrong due to the slowness of the wicket. However, Kilvington was a little too fast through the air for them and they were soon in trouble, being all out just after lunch for 87, of which Captain Cook and Corporal Forde scored 29 and 20 respectively. Signalman Kilvington finished with 6 for 16.

We scored runs freely to start with, but lost Captain Potts with the score at 18. Major de Clive-Lowe and Lance-Corporal Mayes took the score to 54, when wickets fell regularly until the score reached 171, of which Lance-Corporal Mayes scored 39 and Signalman Worrell 39 not out. The R.A.O.C. still had 40 minutes batting before stumps, during which time we got three wickets. We got them all out very quickly for 64 the following morning, Capt. Hammond scoring 25 being the only real resistance. Kilvington had 7 for 25.

Thus we won by an innings and 21 runs.

The tour was very successful and we avenged our defeat by the Sappers of two years ago. The R.A.O.C. regrettably did not prove to be much opposition but this was over-shadowed by the splendid way we were looked after at Blackdown.

Royal Signals Golfing Society

AUTUMN MEETING

The Society members were blessed with good weather for their Autumn Meeting held on Woking Golf Course on 14th and 15th September and although the numbers present were small, a most friendly atmosphere prevailed.

Unfortunately the standard of golf was not as high as one would expect from a Corps of our size and it was a pity that some of our more experienced golfers could not attend.

It is interesting to note that of the twenty-two officers present only two were below field rank and thirteen were retired officers. This sad state of affairs is reflected in our record against other Corps this year. Of the eight matches played so far we have won one, and in most other cases we have been well and truly trounced.

Commanding Officers are urged to give this a little thought, and to encourage their young golfers to turn out and support both the spring and autumn meetings. It should be noted that these meetings are now open to all ranks as long as they have an established club handicap of 18 or below.

The following were the prizewinners:

Foursome Challenge Cup (Stableford)
Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh
Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Lyske

Individual Handicap Challenge Cup (Stableford)
Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E.

Royal Signals Veterans Trophy
Major N. E. Padwick

Royal Signals Regular Officers Challenge Cup
Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh

Royal Signals Challenge Cup (36 Holes (Handicap)
Major A. B. Roderick

Royal Signals Open Championship 1965
Lieutenant-Colonel S. Schofield

18th Regiment Win Far East Soccer Cup

A Notable Corps Success



Back row: Staff-Sergeant Peake, B.E.M., Corporal G. Nelson, Corporal M. Nelson, Lance-Corporal Butler, Captain C. A. Brown, Signalman Burgess, Sergeant McLoughlin, Signalman Duff (Baggage Master). *Sitting:* Signalman Husni, Corporal Elcox, Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Millo, Sergeant Noon (Captain), Lance-Corporal McGibbon. *In front:* Lance-Corporal Noor Yaya, Corporal Othman. Not in photograph: Corporal Forrester

Cups: Robinson Cup (Singapore Army Soccer Cup); Caldbeck Cup (Far East Soccer Cup)

FOR the first time a Royal Signals team has won the Caldbeck Cup, which is the Far East Soccer Championship trophy. Before winning the Caldbeck Cup the team first had to win the Robinson Cup, which is the Singapore Army Soccer Cup. This final was played in May and resulted in a 6-0 win against 221 B.V.D., who were the surprise finalists. Our Combined Services player, Corporal Young, skippered the team well to this convincing win but unfortunately returned to Catterick before the Far East final.

The Caldbeck Cup was played on a two leg final against the 1st Battalion Scots Guards, who are part of the Commonwealth Brigade at Malacca on the West Coast of Malaya. The first leg was played at Malacca and after an exciting match we came away 2-1 up. Lance-Corporal McGibbon scored from a penalty in the first half and then with a fine shot a few minutes from the end of the match.

The following week the Scots Guards came to Singapore and in perfect conditions and with a very large crowd we took the field a goal up. The first 15 minutes saw some first-class soccer, with the Guards pinned hard into their own half and with three crashing shots coming back into play from the uprights. Lance-Corporal McGibbon opened the scoring and then scored again just before half-time. The final result on aggregate being 4-1.

Sergeant Noon received the trophy from Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Jolly, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

The whole team has played and trained hard, and the desired results came our way.

Corps Sports Results

Cricket

Royal Signals 245 for 9 (dec.) v. R.A.C. 97 for 6 (dec.) and 100. Corps won by an innings and 38 runs.

Golf

Royal Signals 3 v. R.A.O.C. 9.

Army Golfing Society Autumn Meeting

The Inter-Regimental Foursome Stableford Competition was won at Sunningdale by Royal Signals. The winning team were: Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Lyske and Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc.) C. V. Walsh.

46th (NM) REGIMENT (T.A.), DERBY

Annual Camp — High Morale Despite the Rain

The Regiment, less No. 3 (Leicester) Squadron, attended annual camp at Scarborough from 24th July until 7th August.

The first week was devoted to trade-training, the facilities at Burniston Barracks being admirable for this purpose. The second week was devoted to a Regimental Exercise "Broad Picture," and trade-testing.

The aim of "Broad Picture" was to exercise the Regiment in the provision of good communications through Radio Relay and associated equipment, HF radio, line and associated equipment, and S.D.S.; and to use these communications to full capacity. For the first day and night of the exercise the flood gates of the heavens were opened, and the down-pour presented formidable problems to personnel at every level. It was good to see how high morale remained despite the heavy rain. At the end of the three-day exercise many operational and administrative lessons had been learned and the aim fulfilled.

Trade-training was leavened during the first week with evening inter-squadron cricket matches and the Regimental Sports on the Friday afternoon, mercifully blessed with sunshine. To our sports we were delighted to welcome our Honorary Colonel, Colonel G. J. Underwood, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., who presented the prizes.

Various competitions were organised in the course of camp. Our W.R.A.C. twice crowned themselves with glory; firstly by winning the drill competition, and secondly by winning the cup for the best squadron. The guard-mounting competition was won by No. 1 (Derby) Squadron. Craftsman Rout, of the L.A.D., was selected as the best of the very enthusiastic recruits.

Distinguished Officers Attend

The Regiment was honoured on 5th August by a visit from the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Musson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. Earlier, during camp, we were glad to be visited by the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, Brigadier P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., Colonel E. Michell, A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, Colonel Sir John Crompton Inglefield, Bart, T.D., D.L., and Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Glanville, O.B.E., M.C., Chairman and Secretary respectively, of Derbyshire T. and A.F.A.; Brigadier J. M. Spencer-Smith, O.B.E., M.C., Commander 148 Infantry Brigade; and Colonel A. K. Knight, M B.E., representing Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., G.O.C. 49 (W.R. and N.M.) Division/District.

On Saturday, July 31st, the Regiment on ceremonial parade was inspected by the Honorary Colonel, Colonel G. J. Underwood, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., in the presence of Colonel J. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor, T.D., D.L., Chief Signal Officer, 49 Division/District, Lieutenant-Colonel (retd) A. V. Emery, E.R.D., T.D., Major (retd.) T. S. Wragg, M.B.E., T.D., Major (retd.) C. D. Didcott, M.B.E., T.D., and Major (retd.) I. B. Fenwick, T.D. The Honorary Colonel, in the course of the parade, presented the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire's Certificate to W.O.II J. F. Boldison, B.E.M., who has now served the Regiment for 18 years.

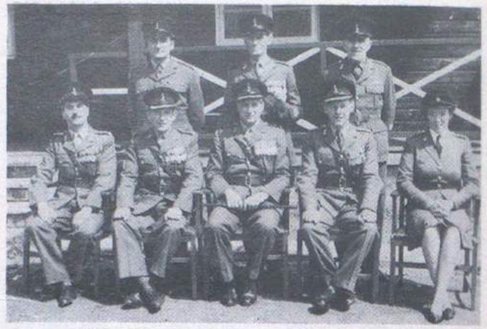
The special thanks of the Regiment are due to the Camp Commandant, Major F. Lunn, Royal Signals, and to his staff, for their great help and co-operation in making the Regiment's stay at Scarborough successful and comfortable.

No. 3 (Leicester) Squadron spent annual camp with their parent formation, H.Q., R.A., 49 Division/District, at Tilshead, from 26th June to 10th July. They, too, had atrocious weather for their exercise, but learned many valuable lessons. To No. 6 Regiment, R.A., and 3rd Signal Regiment, they are much indebted for their help and co-operation.

Losses — And Gains

On 23rd July the Regiment lost the services of Mr. C. H. Crowe on his retirement after eleven years as Chief Clerk. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. Wright, T.D., at a ceremony at R.H.Q., presented Mr. Crowe with an inscribed silver cigarette box and extended to him the gratitude of the Regiment for his services and best wishes for his retirement. He welcomed Mr. C. Collie, who succeeds Mr. Crowe.

Early in September we lose Major (Q.M.) R. F. Thirkell on posting. To Major and Mrs. Thirkell, mindful of their services to the Regiment, we extend every good wish for their stay in Singapore.



H.Q. GROUP, 82 SIGNAL REGIMENT A.E.R.

Standing left to right: W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) A. G. McIntyre, R.S.M. G. Tasker, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) T. Black. *Seated:* Captain T. Tevendale (Adjutant), Major K. G. Taylor (2I.C.), Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Dalziel, T.D., Major A. Herbert, E.R.D., Captain S. M. MacLaughlin, W.R.A.C.

82nd REGIMENT, A.E.R.

Annual Camp at Blandford

The emphasis at camp this year was on individual trade training and the usual Regimental exercise of the second week gave way to separate, though in some cases interconnected, trade exercises.

I think we all missed the camaraderie generated during a joint exercise but, instead, because of the extra time devoted to trade training many came away with the satisfaction of an improved rating and, of course, its attached financial reward. Our recruits, many of the W.R.A.C, achieved their grade III ratings to a man (or woman).

During these exercises the Radio Ops. and Radio Techs. were delighted to have an indoctrination into the mysteries of one of the latest sets. It was with obvious pride, and relief, that they pointed to one perfect line amongst reams of teletyped gibberish received from our associated regular squadron in Scottish Command. Reception at the other end, they assured us, was perfect.

Wonderful Food

Meanwhile, quiet lanes rang to the heady sound of hammers and jumpers (and the peculiar banter) of the linemen. They built a successful route across a particularly difficult and soggy part of Dorset in appalling wet which Captain Mike Gravett was at some pains to point out had not been specially ordained. Morale remained in peak condition, however, thanks to sterling work by Cook Sergeant Taylor and his merry men who produced some wonderful food.

Also enjoying this food were the comcen people busy passing messages between two comcens within spitting distance of each other. They really appreciated the fact that communications remained perfect throughout and that they could concentrate on the job in hand. I think many of our recruits were amazed to see all the information that had been pumped into them during the first week really did make sense and messages did get through.

The hardest task for the drivers was not the MT map reading and convoy exercise, but deciding how and where to find the R.E.M.E. L.A.D. when in trouble. We should have realised that, under the command of Capt. Tony Hall-Patch, they were inspecting sites suitable for possible use as maintenance areas —that these coincided with certain attractive hostelries was purely accidental. However, they did a grand job and rendered a most efficient service throughout camp—we hope to see them back next year.

A Sad Event

On Friday, 9th July, everyone was shocked by the sudden tragic death of Major John Wakeman, R.A.P.C., the ever helpful and greatly respected Paymaster of H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals. At the funeral on the 14th July a volunteer guard of honour expressed on behalf of all Royal Signals A.E.R. our deep sorrow at his passing. At the service in the Garrison Church the Regiment was represented by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Dalziel, Majors K. G. Taylor and A. Herbert, and the Adjutant, Captain T. Tevendale.

Colonel Blackburne's Reel ?

At the Regimental Dinner, Colonel George Blackburne, Commander H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals, who has ever encouraged the Scottish spirit and character of the Regiment, was presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Dalziel with his own pipe tune. This had been composed specially by Pipe Major McNab, and it was accepted with sincere appreciation by Colonel Blackburne. On this occasion and at the mid-Camp ceremonial parade, Lance-Corporal Stark, the Regimental piper, performed stirringly. The parade was inspected by the Honorary Colonel, Colonel W. H. Oliver, M.B.E., E.R.D., and even the critical eye of R.S.M. Tasker found little on which to fasten.

A Good Camp Ends

It was a most enjoyable, and training-wise, successful camp which encouraged all aspects of the Regiment's life and work, and which provided further opportunities for renewing the strong ties of friendship and comradeship fostered by successive Commanding Officers.

The end of camp normally seems to produce one or two names of those who, sadly, will not be camping with the Regiment again and this year was no exception. We shall miss Major Tom Lynas and Captains Peter Michie and Joe Routledge, and we think they will miss us.

58th REGIMENT (T.A.), WOLVERHAMPTON

In T.A. Units it is usual to start the Annual Camp File some thirteen months before a definite camp date. The file for this year's camp started in a nebulous way several years ago, but it took the determination of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel I. G. Swan, to fix the date.

At Last—Annual Camp at Fontainbleau

The role of the Regiment is to support NATO, but until this year it had never been fulfilled. Some officers and senior N.C.O.s have been to France during the last three years and brought back details of the framework within which we would have to operate. An enormous amount of work was required to bring the unit to a state of readiness and the greeting from the Q.M. on most drill nights was "I only passed his office and I was given another foolscap sheet of instructions."

For many months despite the preparations, it seemed that we would train at Scarborough due to the difficulty of finding funds from the appropriate grant. Much to the relief of the Permanent Staff, who had done enough paper work to fill a book, approval was granted and Annual Camp 1965 was to be at Fontainbleau.

At 1900 hrs. 16th July, the Squadrons assembled at their T.A. Centres, H.Q. and 1 Squadron at Wolverhampton, 2 Squadron at Newcastle-under-Lyme, and 3 Squadron at Bromsgrove, and the convoys moved off to rendezvous at Jackshill Cafe, Towcester. From there a steady run through the outskirts of London and the Dartford Tunnel brought the packets to Folkestone without incident.

Encouraged to Speed by the French Police

A special sailing had been arranged with British Rail and at 01.00 hours, 19th July, the Regiment boarded the B.R.F. *Hampton Court* at Dover. After a comfortable four hours aboard and having breakfasted well, although early, the squadrons disembarked and reformed the convoy on the quayside at Dunkirk. The French Police then decided to escort the convoy for the first two hours. For most of the drivers this was the first experience of driving on the right and, with the Gendarmes urging the convoy to greater speeds, it was rather like learning to swim by being thrown in at the deep end.

. . . A Well Trained Body of Volunteers . . .

In Fontainbleau it was found that the French, American, and British elements had spared no effort in assisting our advance party to make the tented camp in the Champs de



[Photo : Courtesy Express and Star, Wolverhampton

The Chief of Staff ALFCE visits the Regiment (*Left to Right*) The 2IC Major G. D. Davis T.D. (C.O. designate). The GOC British Army Element, Major-General R. C. MacDonald. The Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General M. Poncelet (Belgian Army). The CO Lieutenant-Colonel I. G. Swan. The Chief Signal Officer Landeen and Colonel E. N. Jenkins (US Army)

Manoeuvres as comfortable as possible. To the French at least it was a surprise to find that the T.A. was a well-trained body of volunteers and not merely a paper force.

During the first week the days started with P.T. immediately after reveille. Although a few needed a personal invitation before joining in the majority either enjoyed it or became accustomed to it. As usual with a T.A. unit much of the time was given over to trade training. Since time was short Friday was the only day off and most of the unit departed for Paris on Thursday evening. Many interests were followed, even pursued avidly, in the evening but during the day most members of 58 were seen at various times on all stages of the Eiffel Tower.

The following day the four-day exercise with JCA began. 58 U.K. as we had been designated by our Allies, acquitted itself well, once again surprising the Regular Troops by the capabilities of a Reserve Unit. The first message of the exercise was framed by JCA and presented to the Officers' Mess together with the flags of the NATO countries mounted on an engraved plinth.

Home and a Welcome by H.M. Customs

After the exercise, the Trade Boards, packing up, striking camp, and the journey home were rather an anti-climax. The only outstanding feature was the rigorously efficient manner in which H.M. Customs rummaged through the vehicles. However, the only item lost in this search was the opportunity of sleeping before driving to the Midlands. The squadrons reached their home locations safely and a memorable, possibly unique, camp had been completed.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during August, 1965:

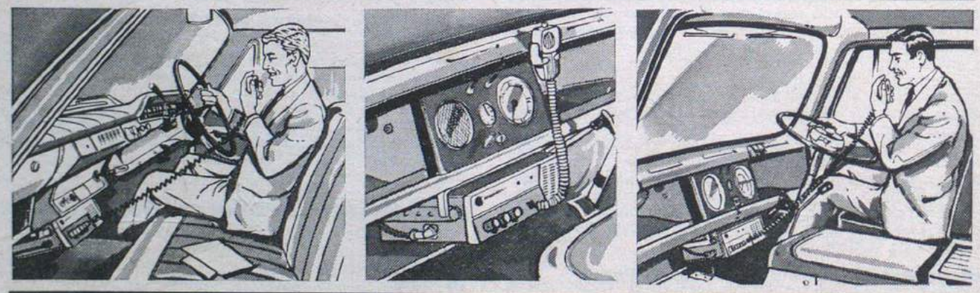
	£	s.	d.
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	3	0
216 Squadron	3	4	3
Junior Leaders Regiment (South Devon Hunt)	4	12	3
63rd Regiment T.A. (Parade Service at Annual Camp)	3	10	0
44th (H.C.) Regiment T.A.	4	0	0
302 Squadron T.A.	5	0	0
2nd Regiment (Officers' Mess)	3	14	8
7th Regiment	76	12	7
16th Regiment	468	16	5
22nd Regiment (Officers' Mess)	8	6	8
257 Squadron (27th Regiment R.A.)	7	10	0
17th (Gurkha) Regiment	4	11	0
18th Regiment	214	13	11
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	3	16	8
15th Regiment (3 Squadron)	9	0	0
Birmingham Branch	5	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D.	1	10	0
Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Emley	2	10	0
Various individual donations	1	1	6
Total Receipts	£828	12	11

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1965

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Editorial

Corps Benevolence

With the advent of the "Day's Pay" scheme, the attention of many in the Corps will be increasingly directed towards Corps Benevolence and what it is trying to achieve. The purpose of what follows is to give readers—particularly those who have been generous enough to contribute under the "Day's Pay" scheme—some idea of what the Association is doing in this respect.

Corps benevolent funds, in general terms, are intended to assist those members of the Corps, serving or retired, who find themselves in distressed circumstances. This includes their families and dependants.

The overall administration of these funds comes under the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, in his capacity as Treasurer, but the detailed allocation of grants or loans to deserving cases is the task of a welfare committee which meets every week. The Chairman of this committe is found from a panel of retired senior Officers resident in or near London, and the members consist of one serving Officer and two serving Other Ranks who are stationed in the London area. For some time this committee has had the voluntary assistance of a third Other Rank from H.Q., London District. The committee is advised by the two ladies of the welfare staff at Association H.Q.

Day-to-day correspondence and investigation of welfare cases is carried out by the two ladies mentioned above. Both are experts in this field. Miss Mollie Hyde-Parker, the senior, has served the Association for sixteen years and Miss Margaret Cook for eleven years. The volume of work is such that they cannot possibly leave this H.Q. to investigate cases on the ground, and this essential preliminary work is done most efficiently by such organizations as S.S.A.F.A., the Forces Help Society, The British Legion, and, from time to time, by local branches of the Association.

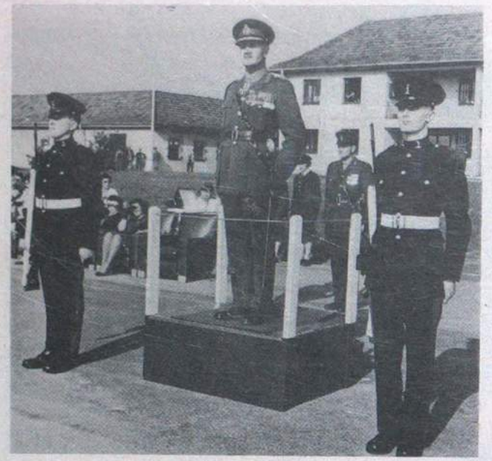
The amount of work involved in dealing with welfare problems is very considerable. Apart from investigating cases and providing financial assistance where necessary, much time must needs be expended in giving advice, helping over employment, writing morale-raising letters, interviewing personal callers and generally dealing with an astonishing variety of human problems. In addition, the Association welfare staff are kept busy unpacking and sorting out gifts of clothing so regularly sent in by our good friends in the Corps—all of which have later to be repacked and despatched to deserving families. This clothing scheme alone provides assistance in kind that must equate to the expenditure of several thousands of pounds over a year. On the average, well over a hundred letters a month are received on welfare matters, all requiring considerable follow-up action of some sort or other. In addition, some fifty parcels of clothing are made up and despatched every month.

During 1965, the Corps will have spent over £6,000 in loans and grants and over 600 gift parcels will have been sent to needy homes. Yet there is much scope for more aid in this good work. The implementation of the "Day's Pay" scheme will help the Corps to take even better care of those who come to it in times of need. All we can really do is offer "first aid" to those in distress—we cannot provide the complete cure to their ills.

In conclusion, let two things be said.

Firstly: The Welfare State by no means covers all human needs. Nor is it capable of dealing with individuals with the same friendliness and understanding as your Corps welfare organisation.

Secondly. No Corps or Regiment could be better served than we are by the two ladies of our welfare staff. They have achieved innumerable miracles over the years.



Taking a salute at 13th Regiment



A relaxed moment with Colonel Schultz of the 71st Fernmeld Battalion

The Signal Officer-in-Chief visits BAOR

THIS was the third visit in nine months that General Bradley has made to B.A.O.R., and once again, it was a most enjoyable occasion for all those taking part. His arrival, on the evening of 19th September, coincided with the disappearance of the particularly long stretch of bad weather that we have experienced this summer; it is interesting to note that ever since the visit we have had beautiful weather (perhaps there is something to be deduced from this!).

Courtesy visits

During the morning following his arrival, the S.O.-in-C., accompanied by the C.S.O. (Brigadier J. E. Anderson) paid courtesy visits to the C.-in-C. (General Sir William Stirling) and the C.S.O. NORTHAG (Brigade General M. Grunwald). These were followed by a tour of the H.Q., B.A.O.R. Communication Centre, where he met the Commanding Officer of 16th Signal Regiment, the Chief Duty Signal Officer and many members of the shift on duty.

The visit then fell into two distinct parts. The first included a visit to both 13th and 16th Regiments in barracks; 21st Regiment and some of the R.A.F. stations which it serves; the Theatre TRC and other static installations. The second, for which the General was glad to don his combat kit and to roll up his sleeves, included a visit to 28th Regiment on Exercise "Grand National," and to 1 (BR) Corps, deployed on Exercise "Barn Dance."

. . . Enormous energy and enthusiasm . . .

As usual, the General displayed enormous energy and enthusiasm and spoke to large numbers of officers and soldiers wherever he went. On the 1 (BR) Corps Exercise, he visited many signal units and also had the opportunity of having discussions with commanders at all levels.

Special mention should be made regarding the presentation of medals. During his tour the General took the opportunity of presenting the M.S.M. to Staff Sergeant Marsden (who he knew before the war) and Long Service and Good Conduct medals to W.O.I (F. of S.) Rutter, Staff Sergeant Woodley and Staff Sergeant Downe.

From the point of view of Regiments and Squadrons visited, and the very many officers and soldiers for whom the General had words of encouragement, the visit was a tremendous success and a tonic for all. We all look forward to the next occasion.

Letter to the Editor

From Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E.

Sir,

A most sensible gadget, invented by a retired Royal Signals officer—Captain George Briggs—as a direct result of his Signal training, has just come to my notice. It is the "Atracta" Audible Flasher Monitor, and judging by the numbers on the road who forget to "cancel" their indicators, it will fulfil a long felt want.

I hope I may use your columns to extol such good use of our basic training in the Royal Corps, and so encourage others. Captain Briggs retired many years ago but does not forget.

Yours etc.

7th October, 1965.

Scandinavian Edition

THIS edition of "The Wire" might well be termed "The Scandinavian Edition," in view of the number of references to Norway and Denmark (see pages 384, 392, 393, 396, 397, 398, 399 and 412.

"The Wire," on behalf of all its readers, sends best wishes to our good friends in these two countries, a number of whom, we know, read "The Wire."

Our relations with Norwegian and Danish Signals have always been very happy, and very many in the Corps have been recipients of much kindness from these friendly people.

Our candid camera trails the Signal Officer-in-Chief during his recent visit to B.A.O.R. and records the following events:













1. Inspection of 16th Regiment Quarter Guard. 2 . . . And of a ceremonial parade held by 13th Regiment
3. A "Look-In" at 28th Regiment's Tape Factory. 4 . . . and an even harder look at one of 21st Regiments boxes of tricks.
5. Finally a good laugh in the 16th Regiment s W.O.s and Sergeants Mess. 6 . . . and downright hilarity with R.S.M. Barnes of 21st Regiment

FIFTY YEARS OF SIGNALLING

Two Corps Stalwarts Shortly To Retire

Lieutenant Colonel B. T. S. Sherman, O.B.E., M.S.M.



LIEUTENANT-Colonel Beresford Thomas Sherman, O.B.E., M.S.M., completes his 50 years of Signalling on 5th November. The son of Captain T. Sherman, Royal Flying Corps (formerly R.E.), he joined at Bletchley in 1915 as a boy telegraphist, and gained experience with "K" Company in Limerick, Bristol, Manchester and Liverpool.

By 1919 he was a Corporal with 4th Division in Colchester, but returned to Ireland the following year. He then took part with "D" Divisional Signals in the Waziristan Operations of 1921-24 being mentioned in despatches. He was then a sergeant. On completing his Foreman of Signals course he obtained S.W.S. experience in Pembroke Dock, Colombo, Portsmouth and Plymouth, and by 1934 he was Q.M.S. at Steamer Point in Aden.

He became R.S.M. of the Training Battalion in 1937 and was commissioned as an I.P.C. in 1939. He spent the Second World War in the War Office as a G.S.O. III and in various units in the United Kingdom.

From 1946-48 he was on the Mission to Portugal and here he was awarded the Commandadore do Ordam de Avis, probably the only award of a Portugese order to a Signal Officer. The award was in recognition of the planning and installation of communications for the Coast Defences of the Estuaries of the Taqus and Sado. He was for the last ten months the only survivor of the British Mission and had to undertake Artillery and Engineer problems in addition to his own. He loved Portugal and found the people enchanting.

He was serving in Chester when promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) in 1952 and this was his last station. On retirement in 1955 he stayed on at Chester as S.O.II (SWS) H.Q. Western Command.

Tom married Miss Grant, whose father was in the R.A.P.C., and their daughter Judy resigned her commission in the W.R.A.C. to marry an R.E. Officer. The final retirement of Tom Sherman is expected towards the end of December and the Corps will wish a very charming and valuable couple long life and happiness.

Major G. R. Bishop



ON 19th October, 1915, at the age of 16, Guy Rodwell Bishop, better known to us as Ron Bishop, the son of an East India Merchant, enlisted in the Royal Engineers. His training included serving in "K" Company on the Aberdeen end of the "fish line." His first overseas posting was to Dar-es-Salaam in 1917. Here, as a member of the L. of C. Signal Company he took part in what was probably the most unhealthy campaign of the Gerat War. His experiences in the bush came to their climax when he was captured by Von Lettow's Askari and the General apologised for releasing him without food or clothing, the German force being very short of both commodities (Journal Vol. III p.88).

In 1919 he was in the great No. 2 Wireless Squadron in Iraq and took part in the suppression of the Iraq Rebellion and the N.W. Persia operations. He was transferred to the Corps during this period.

Joining "B" Corps Signals, India, in 1922, he gained more operational experience in Waziristan and then from 1927 for four years he was in Special Wireless.

He returned to England in 1933 and joined the Aldershot Wireless Station, since he was by now an outstanding tradesman. After serving as C.S.M. in 1st Divisional Signals and in Ireland, and as R.Q.M.S. at Harrogate, he was commissioned as a T.M.O. in 1939. He spent the Second World War in training units, Corps Signals and Air Formation Signals, and he arrived in Singapore in 1945 with the latter.

He was promoted Major in 1948 and served in Chester and with 2nd Regiment in B.A.O.R. before retiring in 1953. He remained in the Army in the capacity of Retired Officer grade III and has been in the M.I. Directorate since 1955.

Ron was a keen sportsman in his earlier days, playing hockey, tennis and football. He was an accomplished swimmer. He spends his spare time now fishing, gardening and stamp collecting. He married Miss Winifred Ashbrook in 1929 and they are double grandparents. The Corps wish them both long years of happiness in their final retirement in December 1965.

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Personal Column

Movements—Officers

ADDITIONS — SEPTEMBER LIST

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) F. W. Natolie ... To H.Q., FARELF
Major G. H. Clarke ... ... „ 11th Regiment

AMENDMENT — OCTOBER LIST

Lieut. (Tfc. Offr.) C. E. Hesketh ... „ 11th Regiment

ADDITIONS — OCTOBER LIST

Captain (Q.M.) M. A. Barnes Murphy „ 49th (Yorkshire) Regt. (T.A.)
Captain H. M. Calder ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant J. D. Leaver ... „ 229 Squadron
Major (Q.M.) R. F. C. Ashford ... „ 11th Regiment
Major F. M. Partington ... ... „ H.Q. Federal Regular Army
Major P. Wetherill ... ... „ 11th Regiment

NOVEMBER POSTINGS

Captain B. J. Austin ... ... „ Jungle Warfare School, Malaya.
Major St.J. P. Arcedeckne-Butler ... „ 209 Squadron
Captain I. F. Bird ... ... „ 1st Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
T/Captain D. T. Burton ... ... „ 30th Regiment
Lieutenant P. R. Brewis ... ... „ Army Air Corps Centre
Lieutenant D. J. Carnell ... ... „ 222 Squadron
Major (T.O.T.) P. E. C. Davies ... „ 30th Regiment
Lieutenant J. C. Day ... ... „ 222 Squadron
Major L. H. Dutton ... ... „ 28th Regiment
Lieutenant S. J. R. Dunlop ... ... „ 263 Squadron
Lieutenant C. M. Darby ... ... „ 1st Royal Anglian
Lieutenant R. C. Etheridge ... ... „ 4th Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Lieutenant J. Mc.D. Edgar ... ... „ 39 Missile Regt., R.A., Sig. Tp.
Major E. W. P. Foley ... ... „ 16th Regiment
Major B. S. Fordyce ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Major T. W. E. Fortescue-Hitchins ... „ 10th Regiment
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) I. Fry ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Lieutenant M. J. Giles ... ... „ 24th Regiment
T/Captain G. J. H. Grist ... ... „ 24th Regiment
T/Captain J. P. Goldney ... ... „ 3rd Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regiment
Lieutenant T. T. Hallchurch ... ... „ 15th Regiment
Major K. E. Haycock ... ... „ 4 Communications Unit
Lieutenant R. C. Hood ... ... „ 4th Guards Bde. Gp. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Lieutenant J. M. D. Hunter ... ... „ School of Signals
Captain J. M. Hewson ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Jackson ... „ 3rd Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) F. Lindley ... ... „ 45th (Essex) Signal Regt. (T.A.)
Captain T. C. Livingstone ... ... „ Jun. Ldrs. Regt., Royal Signals
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) R. G. Mitchell „ 10th Regiment
Lieutenant J. G. M. McLuckie ... „ 24th Missile Regt., R.A., Sig. Tp
Major (T/Lt.-Col.) W. G. Neilson ... „ 21st Regiment
Lieutenant M. A. Orwin ... ... „ Army Air Corps Centre
Captain D. Pitkin ... ... „ 7th Regiment
Captain J. D. Potts ... ... „ 19th Regiment
Major (T/Lt.-Col.) D. A. Polley ... „ 15th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) W. E. Parks ... ... „ 28th Regiment
Major J. E. P. Philp ... ... „ 30th Regiment
Major L. W. Prescot ... ... „ 24th Regiment
Captain R. C. Roberts ... ... „ Secondment to Zambia
Captain D. A. C. Randel ... ... „ School of Signals
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) R. J. Robinson „ 3rd Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regiment
Captain I. D. Scott ... ... „ U.K. Element, Sult. of Muscat's Armed Forces.
Captain (T.O.T.) H. Stevenson ... „ 253 Squadron
Major R. B. Scouller ... ... „ H.Q., Trg. Bde. Royal Signals
Captain C. M. Senior ... ... „ 21st Regiment
Major J. E. W. Thompson ... ... „ Min. of Aviation
Captain (T.O.T.) P. Thompson ... „ 30th Regiment
Captain J. H. Williams ... ... „ 16th Regiment
Major P. J. W. Stephens ... ... „ 24th Regiment

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

(*November*)

W.O.I (Y. of S.) A. A. Hudson ... To 28th Regiment
W.O.I (Y. of S.) A. R. Taylor ... „ 645 Troop
W.O.II V. F. M. Thom ... ... „ Junior Leaders Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) G. W. Giles ... „ 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.
W.O.II R. Good ... ... „ H.Q. B.A.O.R.
W.O.II (F. of S.) P. J. O'Brien ... „ 645 Troop
W.O.II (F. of S.) F. Clarkson ... „ 7th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) P. Harvey ... ... „ 645 Troop
W.O.II (F. of S.) D. C. Ashton ... „ 3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. F. Green ... „ School of Artillery, Larkhill
W.O.II T. Lockley ... ... „ Sch'l of S. (Y. of S. Course No. 10)
W.O.II R. G. Robinson ... ... „ 47th Regiment T.A.
W.O.II A. W. Peat ... ... „ Joint Comms. Unit (Borneo)
W.O.II E. Ormond ... ... „ H.Q. B.A.O.R.
W.O.II L. Dathan ... ... „ 16th Regiment
W.O.II L. N. Whitmore ... ... „ 9th Regiment
W.O.II H. A. Hemming ... ... „ 59th Regiment T.A.
W.O.II D. C. Armstrong ... ... „ 52nd Regiment T.A.
W.O.II A. Brown ... ... „ H.Q. SHAPE
W.O.II J. J. Brough ... ... „ 28th Regiment
W.O.II E. A. Beasley ... ... „ MOD Camp Comdt Cen. Staff
W.O.II J. P. Downey ... ... „ H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong
W.O.II A. C. Riddell ... ... „ 13th Regiment
W.O.II W. S. Stewart ... ... „ 30th Regiment
A/W.O.II W. D. Landymore ... ... „ 22nd Regiment
W.O.II G. S. Macdonald ... ... „ 210 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. H. Jays ... ... „ 2 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
A/Staff Sergeant H. McKay ... ... „ H.Q. Far East Land Forces
Staff Sergeant R. W. Aldous ... ... „ 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. W. Easter ... ... „ 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. McCormick ... ... „ 4 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Staff Sergeant A. Morris ... ... „ Joint Comms Unit (Borneo)
A/Staff Sergeant T. C. Hicks ... „ 15th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. M. Rhodie ... ... „ 252 Squadron
A/Staff Sergeant L. P. Bowers ... „ A.A.S. Harrogate
Staff Sergeant C. J. Courtenay ... „ 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. A. Sharman ... „ 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. L. Stanhope ... ... „ 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) N. H. Cowman ... ... „ 6 Fd Regt. Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. O'Connor „ 7 Armd Bde Gp. & Sig. Sqn
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. Keeton .. „ 501 Troop
Sergeant B. Turner ... ... „ 261 Squadron
Sergeant R. Swaine ... ... „ 15th Regiment
Sergeant S. G. Neill ... ... „ 257 Squadron
Sergeant A. Leary ... ... „ 18th Regiment
Sergeant E. G. Bell ... ... „ 20 Armd Bde Gp & Sig Sqn
Sergeant L. Gray ... ... „ 10th Hussars Sig Troop
Sergeant A. King ... ... „ 21st Regiment
Sergeant R. Walker ... ... „ 28th Regiment
Sergeant D. G. McCartney ... ... „ 235 Squadron
Sergeant A. E. Feltham ... ... „ 19th Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Cooper ... ... „ 8th Regiment
Sergeant D. W. Payne ... ... „ 8th Regiment
Sergeant H. G. Arnold ... ... „ 210 Squadron
Sergeant J. Boyle ... ... „ 252 Squadron
Sergeant L. J. Dicker ... ... „ 249 Squadron
Sergeant A. P. Drugan ... ... „ 235 Squadron
Sergeant N. J. Holcombe ... ... „ 20 Armd Gp & Sig. Sqn
Sergeant C. E. Jones ... ... „ 224 Squadron
Sergeant W. J. Kirk ... ... „ 11 Inf. Bde Gp & Signal Sqn
Sergeant G. C. Langley ... ... „ 9th Regiment
Sergeant R. J. Mathieson ... ... „ 22nd Regiment
Sergeant B. E. Shaw ... ... „ 28th Regiment
Sergeant E. S. Storie ... ... „ 532 Troop
Sergeant J. W. Birkwood ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant P. G. Blakelock ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant C. Campbell ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant W. Coxon ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant A. W. Cudlip ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant J. M. Ferguson ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant P. C. Gray ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant K. Glenville ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant I. R. Holmes ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant A. McBeath ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant P. B. Neal ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant G. E. Rawlins ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant L. W. Sharp ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant A. C. T. Tasker ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant J. R. Toll ... ... „ School of Sigs Y. of S. C'se No. 10
Sergeant R. W. Webster ... ... „ H.Q. NORTHAG
Sergeant A. Rae ... ... „ H.Q. ALFCE
Sergeant D. Oliver ... ... „ H.Q. Trg Bde R. Signals
Sergeant F. T. Fraser ... ... „ 8th Regiment

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Commencing in 1966

R Tech (Lt)	Class II- I	31 May 66	
Comcen Op	Class II- I	10 May 66	
Clerk R Signals	Class II- I	24 May 66	
R Tech (Lt)	Class III-II	24 May 66	
Clerk Tech	Class III-II	3 May 66	
Clerk R Signals	Class III-II	31 May 66	
Tg Op	Class III-II	3 May 66	(Two courses)

Employment

The Association has frequent employment requests from electrical firms for ex-Corps personnel who are Cable Jointers, Linemen, or Telegraph Technicians.

Full details can be obtained from the Welfare Section, Royal Signals Association.

Vacancies for COMCAN Technician

Vacancies exists in Cyprus and Singapore in the non-industrial grade of COMCAN technicians. Full details of these appointments, pay, etc., can be had from H.Q. COMCAN, Kings Buildings, Dean Stanley Street, Westminster, S.W.1, or from Association H.Q.



A piece of unrecorded history!

FIELD Marshal Montgomery, when visiting Berlin as C.I.G.S., is seen being offered a 'lift' by Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Douglas of Kirtleside, who was at that time Military Governor of Berlin. What is unrecorded is that 'Monty' had just said "What — you're going to drive?" and then turning to the Royal Signals Lieutenant Colonel behind him went on to ask "Can he drive?" To which the Lieutenant Colonel replied "Yes — like any other fighter pilot."

This amused 'Monty' and General Dick McCreery, who was standing by, but not so the Marshal of the R.A.F., who read into it a certain "double entendre."

The Lieutenant Colonel was one A. M. W. Whistler, who was the Governor's Military Assistant at the time.

General 'Mike' Whistler reports that 'Monty' and he had a terrifying ride but that Sholto seemed to notice nothing untoward.

Promotions

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No
To W.O.II	22956947	S Sgt.	Wright, G. J.	1770	1490

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23700621	Cpl.	Knox, D.	5113	9098
	23503325	Cpl.	Williams, J.	5120	8404
	23734312	Cpl.	Bender, P. J.	5190	9305
	23707132	Cpl.	Hope, I. D.	5195	11931
	23661892	Cpl.	Southall, T. G.	5203	8320
	23733334	Cpl.	Jones, F.	5205	11810
	23646986	Cpl.	McEwen, R. A.	5215	9366
	23611571	Cpl.	Joglekar, M. V.	5230	9990
	23528565	Cpl.	Madden, M. A. S.	5240	9460

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	23130610	A/Sgt.	Mirk, T. A. B.	11994	15600
	23697842	Cpl.	Powell, G.	12440	31960
	22983631	Cpl.	French, C. K. R.	12450	17570
	19046339	A/Sgt.	Berry, J. A.	12460	4210
	22771416	A/Sgt.	Cowler, K. E.	12470	6740
	22845308	Cpl.	Milton, J. F.	12480	7600
	22569094	A/Sgt.	Huet, A. F.	12490	14370
	22776973	A/Sgt.	Holmes, L. W.	12500	14540
	22983742	Cpl.	Dickey, L. K.	12510	17800
	23226009	Cpl.	Gibson, J.	12530	19070
	23537146	Cpl.	Holland, J. C.	12540	19600
	22835653	Cpl.	Matthew, W. S.	12550	21320
	23515147	A/Sgt.	Watson, R.	12560	21940
	22776614	A/Sgt.	Higgins, J. A.	12590	24330
	23785995	Cpl.	Cornforth, J. W.	12600	24769
	23473408	Cpl.	Mack, T. M.	12610	24818
	23473416	Cpl.	Vale, R. G.	12620	24917
	23661746	Cpl.	Bates, R.	12640	25172

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	23469343	Cpl.	Cunningham, G. D.	4260	1880
	23516903	A/Sgt.	Davis, K. O.	4350	4110
	22537197	A/Sgt.	Gray, W.	4360	1150
	22308502	Cpl.	Morris, F. W.	4370	2790
	22776264	A/Sgt.	Woods, R. J.	4390	3430
	02548943	A/Sgt.	Elliott, D. H.	4400	3460
	23514569	Cpl.	Carr, D. H.	4410	3464
	22550651	Cpl.	Churchfield, P.	4420	3500
	22097195	Cpl.	Hall, L. C.	4430	3660
	23683225	Cpl.	Gibney, R.	4440	3670
	23683537	A/Sgt.	Fuller, J. B.	4450	3690
	22309519	Cpl.	Donkin, W. C.	4460	3760

DELETIONS

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.II 1410

TECHNICAL ROSTER

Sgt. 1760

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgts. 5900, 7530, 8310, 8570, 9510, 11450, 12280

FIELD ROSTER

Sgts. 120, 2540, 3640.

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2 diaries 9d. 6/7 diaries 1/9d.
3 diaries 1/–d. 8/14 diaries 2/–d.
4 diaries 1/3d. Over 14 diaries 2/6d.

These diaries include a special to Corps section of 16 pages including details of the Association, Royal Signals Institution, Corps history and Corps winners and runners-up in Army team events.

When ordering it will be sufficient to refer to diaries under their category letter, i.e. 'A' 'B' 'C' or 'D.'

Only a few 'A' or 'B' remain but there is a reasonable supply of 'C' and 'D' in hand.

Orders will be dealt with on a 'first come first served, basis.

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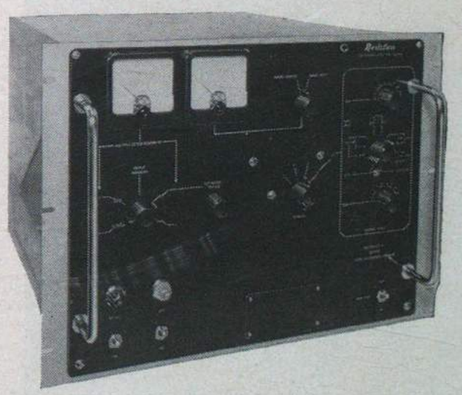
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Phase modulation gives improved range with longer battery life. AM and CW facilities make the A.13 compatible with existing systems.

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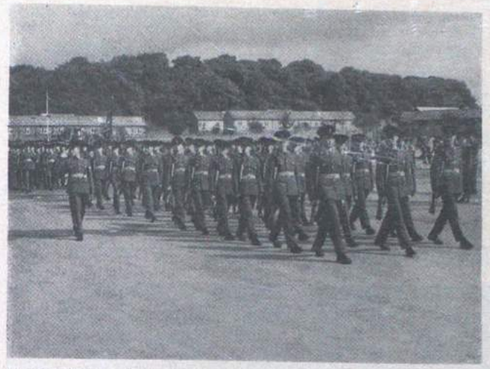
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JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

The end of the Summer Term fortunately brought about the only spell of fine weather this year and just managed to last for Graduation Day.

Graduation Day

Many parents visited the Unit for two days. Approximately 200 were in Camp and a further 150 (who were staying locally) visited us for the day.

The reviewing officer for the parade was the G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth Darling, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who arrived by helicopter, landing on the sports field.

Ninety-two Junior Leaders formed the Graduation parties who lead the March Past. They have recently departed for Royal Signals Units. During the afternoon 78 recruits of Junior Squadron had their pass off parade before moving up to the three squadrons. Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, was the reviewing officer at this parade. There followed displays by the Gymnastics Team, The Pipers and Dancers, Junior Squadron Drill Team and the Corps of Drums. A full day was concluded with the Commanding Officer's address and the presentation of prizes . . . and so to leave!

American Marines at Denbury

The Winter Term began on 8th September, 1965. Junior Leaders returning from leave were puzzled by the presence of American Marines. The Marines were the United States Embassy Guard in London and were staying in the camp whilst playing Rugby locally. The Americans were very interested in the Junior Leaders' organisation as apparently they have no counterpart in the States.

New faces

A large intake of 122 arrived on 14th September for Junior Squadron. After the inevitable initial periods of homesickness all have now settled down. They are eating and sleeping well after their introduction to Army training.

There are many new faces in the Unit amongst the Staff this term and also some new additions on the training side. A new battery shop and generator shop are recent additions. Line training rooms and stores are nearing completion.

Boxing and cross-country

There has been much noise eminating from the gymnasium in the past week, cheering supporters have accompanied the Inter-Troop Boxing. There have been many fine fights, particularly on the finals night. Although many contestants lacked skill there was certainly no lack of spirit. It is hoped that the winners will give a good account of themselves in the forthcoming Army competitions.



Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth Darling, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. addresses the Regiment on the Graduation Parade

The Inter-Troop Cross-Country came close on the heels of boxing. The individual winner was Junior Signalman Paterson of Jerboa Troop. This was a particularly meritorious effort as Paterson is only a second term boy and now has a chance to equal Signalman Drew in winning the race every term in a Senior Squadron.



TRAINING BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS STAFF
Front row (left to right): Captain B. I. Weston, Major F. T. C. Williams, Major C. Mitchell, Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., Major L. W. Prescot, Major G. W. Nation, Major (Retd.) G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E. *Back row (left to right):* Lance-Corporal C. G. Rogers, Sergeant W. McKay, W.O.I. G. A. J. Barnaby, Sergeant T. McEwan, Signalman H. Goddard, Corporal P. A. Smith

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION
ANNUAL LONDON LECTURE
THURSDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 1965, at 6 p.m.
TELEVISION
Not so much an Entertainment—More a way of Communicating
By G. G. GOURIET, M.I.E.E., Head of B.B.C. Research
in THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
(Entrance in Craven Street, off Northumberland Avenue)
LONDON, W.C.2
The bar will be open at 5.30 p.m. and after the lecture.
All members and ex-members of the Corps will be welcome, whether or not members of the Institution.

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

Graduation Parade one of the finest seen for some years

The Summer Term Graduation Ceremonies took place on Wednesday, 11th August. The Reviewing Officer was Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Musson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, Northern Command.

The School was delighted to welcome a large number of visitors and families of the apprentices, some of whom had travelled a long way to grace the proceedings. The weather, which had been inclement for days, became wholeheartedly co-operative, and the "wet weather" programme was thankfully shelved for another occasion.

The parade was generally held to be one of the finest seen for some years, and the turnout and bearing of all taking part reflected great credit on the School and themselves.

After the parade, the Reviewing Officer presented the prizes and awards for the term. In his address, the General reminded the assembly of apprentices, families and staff that the parade was to have been taken by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, whose recent death saddened us all, and said how much she had been looking forward to the day.

No lack of interests for Harrogate Apprentices









1. Hobbies—The Vigilantes: (left to right) A/T Lance-Corporal Collyer, A/T Hodgkinson, A/T Burley, A/T Sergeant Illman. 2. The Canoe Club. 3. Physical Training—the Obstacle Course. 4. Trade Training—the D.II (left to right) A/T Carnell, A/T Butler, Mr. Norfolk

Good Advice—Eyes open, mouths shut

The General went on to congratulate the School on its achievements, which had been outlined by the Commandant, Colonel J. R. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C., in his end of term address. The General adjured the apprentices to go out into the world with their eyes and ears open and their mouths shut; it is not necessary to tell people how good they are, let them find out for themselves.

After luncheon, the General visited the Trades and Hobbies Exhibitions, where he met and talked with many of the apprentices and staff and saw something of the various ways in which the School spends its working and leisure hours.

The principal prizewinners of this term were:
The Army Commander's Prize.—A/T R.S.M. C. A. Arundel
Commandant's Prize.—A/T S.S.M. F. E. Bentley
Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award.—A/T H. Kelly
Colonel Commandant's Award.—A/T Sergeant M. W. South

Captain B. B. Postlethwaite

Saturday, 14th August, saw a small but select band of warriors from the School gathered at the Parish Church of St. John's, Bilton, near Harrogate, to witness the wedding of Glynis Mary Milner to Captain Bryan Barry Postlethwaite. The ceremony was watched over by best man Captain John Fisher; the Guard of Honour, commanded by Major P. Wetherill, held swords aloft in the finest tradition of the Service.

The bride wore a white empress grown and looked, I observed, radiant. The 'groom wore No. 1 Dress and sword, and looked like B. B. Postlethwaite.

After a splendid reception, the happy couple departed to look for their car, which had been tactically sited in a secret location as a precaution against well-wishers, and spent their honeymoon in the West Country.

We wish them all happiness in the future.

Chief Instructor

We were happy to welcome our new Chief Instructor, Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Harvey, who came from Cyprus in time to witness the graduation ceremonies.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Brown, who is now largely recovered from his motoring accident, leaves us shortly for Western Command, and we wish them both well in their new appointments.

Army Boys' Expedition

Four apprentices went on the three-week Army Boys' Expedition to the Pyrenees. The expedition included mountain walking and rock-climbing.

Mountain Rescue

As the School Mountain Rescue Team has been officially recognised, it was decided to test the system to see if it could serve any useful purpose. Use was made of a Rawson Squadron exercise at Ribblehead—particularly of W.O.II (S.S.M.) Templeton, who became a mock casualty.

The team had been out overnight on the North Yorkshire moor, and at the team were on their way to Wharfedale. However, they were contacted through the unit and also the civilian police. On arrival in the area, they organised a search, using Rawson Squadron personnel, but unfortunately it was wet and misty, and instead of taking three hours to rescue the Sergeant-Major, it took about seven. By this time he was in need of rescuing. It is rumoured that Rawson Squadron tended to hinder the rescue!

Cycling

During the recent International Sports Festival at Crystal Palace, A/T Lance-Corporal McNeilly and A/T Hyde were on the Army Cycling Union Stand, giving a demonstration of roller racing. It is understood that this stand was particularly popular. Lance-Corporal McNeilly also represented the Army in a two-day Inter-Services Stage Race.

Swimming — Captain P. W. Foakes

Captain (T.O.T.) P. W. Foakes had the honour of being assistant manager and coach to the Army Team in the recent Inter-Services' Swimming Championships. Captain Foakes was also second substitute in the Army Water Polo Team. However, his greatest achievement was as manager of the W.R.A.C. team, who recorded their first win since the championships started in 1947.



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1st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 32

Composite Squadron visits Denmark

Each year it has been the custom of 1st Regiment, now 1 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, to exchange visits with signal units of the Royal Danish Army. For a number of reasons the Danes were unable to visit Verden this year but nothing intervened to present our visiting them.

A composite squadron was formed of elements from all squadrons in the unit under the command of Major Ian Simpson. A teleprinter terminal, line and radio relay detachments from 1 Squadron, a section of VHF/HF vehicle detachments from 2 Squadron, exchange and teleprinter terminals plus HF radio detachments from 3 Squadron and cooks and other administrative staff from Headquarter Squadron. This Squadron, totalling some 95 men and 32 vehicles, set out for Denmark in the late evening of 7th August. After a day spent near the Danish border, the Squadron arrived at a field location near Koge on Sealand Island where a base camp was set up.

Two exercises were scheduled during the visit, each of four days duration. For possibly the first time on any exchange visit the technical detachments were to be fully integrated into the Danish communication system.

Integration with Danish Signals

The first exercise—"Samar Ten"—was essentially a communications exercise without participation by the Staff. The Squadron was deployed with various companies of the 1st Telegraph Battalion of the Sealand Signal Regiment. A VHF/HF vehicle detachment was attached to each Company Headquarters, operating a signal unit domestic net. A radio relay chain was set up between the main H.Q. Company and H.Q. Combaltap, which was sited in a permanent barracks in Roskilde. This provided speech facilities linking main H.Q. to the static exchange system. One telegraph channel enabled the Squadron's two teleprinter terminals to bridge the gap between the static and field tape relay systems.

Sergeant Ferguson was in command of the radio relay and teleprinter terminal detachments based at Roskilde; by normal British Army exercise standards they enjoyed a luxurious exercise with beds, good food and other good cheer provided by the hospitable Danes.

Lieutenant Toby Seymour and Second-Lieutenant Chris Melhuish were attached to Main H.Q. Company which was commanded by Major Chris Schnor, a real anglophile even by Danish standards. These officers were detailed to act as watchkeepers at the Company Command post and this integration principle went all the way down. Corporal Cameron found himself performing fairly familiar duties in the Danish system control vehicle. Corporal Graham carried out the duties of counter clerk in the Danish Signal Centre whilst in exchange one Private Toff, Royal Danish Signals, manned the British teleprinter vehicle in company with Signalmen Aston and Birrell.

Incidentally, this particular teleprinter link with Roskilde was kept very busy—averaging some four to five hundred messages per day.

The Squadron Commander and Captain Bill Grant, Royal Canadian Signals, were attached to Battalion Headquarters, where they were incorporated into the staff of Lieutenant-Colonel Thomisen, the Danish Battalion Commander. The Squadron's small Officers' Mess section became the nucleus of the Danish Battalion's Officers' Mess, a system which worked extremely well, to the satisfaction of all parties. Some credit must go to the Danish Recce Officer for both exercises. He managed to find good communication sites, as well as ensuring that the Battalion Headquarters was comfortably located in baronial splendour. This is literally true, for first a Count played host, then a Baron; the Recce Officer certainly preferred castles to barns!

S.S.M. Wilson, with a willing bunch of helpers, stayed behind at the base camp and provided logistic support when required.

The closing stages of this first exercise were marred by the tragic death of Lance-Corporal G. Coates, a young and very promising detachment commander, as a result of an accident.

Much hospitality

The week-end interval between the first and second exercise was spent at the base camp. Some of the British soldiers were invited to the homes of some of their Danish counterparts, whilst others went on a grand sightseeing tour of Zealand, organised by the Danish Battalion. Army Public Relations visited the Squadron and took a number of films, still and television, and interviewed half the Squadron.



The Signal Officer-in-Chief accompanied by the Commanding Officer talking to W.O.II Cunion during exercise Barn Dance

British Detachments absorbed into Danish system

The second exercise was much like the first, but this time the staff were participating. Rather more static headquarters bases were connected to the field units. The British radio relay and teleprinter terminals were attached to Rear H.Q. Company this time. There was one move during the exercise.

The most impressive conclusion derived from both exercises was, perhaps, the very easy way in which the British detachments were absorbed into the Danish system. It would be fair to say that the Danes contributed the most, for they insisted on conducting the major part of their business in English.

After four days, the whole Danish Battalion, together with its British detachments, still integrated in line of march, returned to barracks at Hovelte, some 23 kilometres north of Copenhagen.

And more hospitality

This final week-end of the visit was spent enjoying some more of the famed Danish hospitality—and, in small kind, repaying some. The British officers were entertained to a splendid dinner-dance by officers and past officers of the Zealand Signal Regiment Officers' Club. At this function the Danish Regimental Commander said some kind things about the Royal Corps of Signals and impressed all the British officers present by inviting all to stand for a minute's silence in memory of Lance-Corporal Coates. The Squadron was presented with a framed picture depicting Danish cable wagon drills of almost a century ago; in return, the Danes were given an inscribed silver ash-tray.

The Squadron's officers reciprocated by holding a cocktail party the following day. Similar functions were exchanged by both Sergeants' Messes.

After a very early start on the morning of 23rd August, the Squadron returned to Verden; the journey back taking much less time than the journey there—as usual! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and all are looking forward to next year.

Exercise "Barn Dance"

This was the Corps CPX of the year, and from this Regiment's point of view, went very well indeed.

Communications were normal and functioned very well throughout the exercise. The main problem was to pass the vast volume of message traffic that was flowing backwards and forwards, much of it carrying a high precedence (still, in many cases, too high).

Our new T.O.T., Captain Churchill, recently arrived from COMCAN, was nothing less than staggered by these figures. Watch out, COMCAN, Divisional Signals will be making a take-over bid soon.

There were two highlights during the exercise—a fleeting visit by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, accompanied by C.C. R. Signals. Unfortunately, General Bradley could only spend a short time with us, this being largely spent in meeting the acting Divisional Commander, Brigadier Gill, and having a short discussion upon "integration."

The other highlight was a visit to the Headquarters by the Right Honourable Fred Mulley, M.P., the Deputy Secretary of State for Defence and Minister of Defence for the Army.

It was most refreshing to be visited by a Minister who clearly showed a great and sincere interest in all aspects of our work, and clearly enjoyed talking to and questioning those he met. This visit included visits to the Operations Centre, including the Communication Head, thence to the Communications Centre and on to radio. During his visit he was accompanied by the C.-in-C., B.A.O.R., and the Corps Commander.

The G1 alleged that within a period of 36 hours, we received visits from Generals totalling between them 21 stars—not a bad tally, by any standards.

Sergeants' Mess

The highlight of the social scene recently was a truly magnificent barbecue organised by Sergeant-Major Simmons. All the officers of the Headquarters and Signal Regiment and their ladies were invited, as well as many other guests. The total attendance was finally 600, and though it may sound like a feast (one hesitates to use the word "orgy") of ancient Rome, it is a fact that seven hundredweight of meat was consumed. The steady rain in no way marred the proceedings—spirit (hic) call it what you will. One of the sights of the evening was the A.K.C. manager, Mr. O'Meara (ex-Staff Sergeant, Royal Signals) twisting with a Squadron Commander's wife, under a large umbrella; others just got wet, and enjoyed doing so. The proceedings were wound up at dawn with a hearty breakfast, and so ended a very memorable occasion.

The "Keller Bar," re-named "The Retreat," now has a flourishing restaurant, which is well patronised by the 130 members. The R.S.M.'s cry is: "The best and cheapest food for miles around." As usual, he is right, too.

2nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 22

The redoubtable 2nd Regiment get into top gear!

Winners of B.A.O.R. Canoe and Cricket Championships

It is with pride that we record the success of the Regiment in the field of sport. The notes on canoeing were delayed in the hope—since proved right—that we would be able to make a double feature of our article. We have now set ourselves a high standard which I know all cricketers and canoeists in the Regiment will do their utmost to maintain and, if possible, improve upon. No more need be written, as the notes speak for themselves.

THE CANOE STORY

The efforts of our Regimental canoeists were rewarded with individual and team places in the championships held on the River Weser on 26th and 27th July.

Conditions of the race

The race is split into two stages over two days. The first day is devoted to a 9 kilometer up-stream paddle and the second day to a 65 kilometer run-down stream including a "portage" of about one kilometer. The night between the two stages is spent sleeping out and all equipment necessary for this must be carried in the canoes. An individual prize is awarded to the boat making the fastest time over the whole course and a team prize goes to the team of two canoes with the best combined time.

The Regiment entered two teams, each of two canoes, one team of Hustlers, the other of K2's. On the 26th July they assembled together with some other boats for the start, having previously been examined to ensure no one had left anything behind, deficiencies of equipment meant the unwanted award of a time penalty.

Maddened by rudders jamming

Teams started at 30-second intervals and our teams were on their way shortly after 3 p.m. Lance-Corporal Simpson and Signalman Rowley in a K.2 were off to a good start, the other K.2 manned by Signalmen Cory and Irwin ran into trouble almost at once in the form of a jammed rudder which lost them valuable time spent carrying out repairs on the far bank of the river. The two Hustlers by maddening coincidence made a similar start, one boat going well the other having rudder trouble.



1st REGIMENT

All who have served in Verden will recognise the smiling face of Anne Vidler. This picture was taken upon her leaving Toc H Verden after much devoted service, in which she was recognised by the award of the M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours 1965

Once under way it was a long hard paddle against the more than usual strong flow of the river. The fastest time for the 9-kilometer stretch was just under 1½ hours. At the end of this stage the K.2 team was placed first, individually lying in second and fifth place. The Hustler team was somewhere in the middle of the field.

Night incident

The teams camped over-night taking what rest they could to prepare themselves for the effort they knew would be needed in the following day's racing. The night was enlivened by the spectacle of a burning tent belonging to a competitor obviously not conversant with the dangers of cooking under canvas. Apart from this incident a reasonably quiet, if not restful, night was spent.

Second day starts well

The second day's start was at 9.30 a.m. and by this time some eight competitors had dropped out. Once again Lance-Corporal Simpson and Signalman Rowley shot away in great style, leaving the field trailing behind. Signalman Cory and Irwin in the second K.2 got going without trouble and were also making good time. At the portage section Simpson and Rowley were clearly in the lead with the second K.2 in third place.

The Hustler team did not fare so well. The canoe of Corporal Rushton and Lance-Corporal Melton sustained a smashed rudder in a mix-up involving themselves, a ferry boat and police launch. They managed to reach the portage section where they were forced to retire. Signalmen Hanson and Hardy in the other Hustler on seeing their team mates' plight decided to retire with them.

Putting on the pressure

Once clear of the portage section Simpson and Rowley piled on the pressure until they had a clear six minutes lead over their nearest rival. Cory and Irwin, undaunted by the loss of a place in the portage section, were also going well and for the last 3 kilometers of the race they pushed the pace up to a sprint to come in second over all in the down stream section.

A fine result

The over all result individually was a win for Lance-Corporal Simpson and Signalman Rowley, with Signalman Cory and Irwin in fourth place. The team prize also went to the K.2 team.

A magnificent effort which gained its just reward for the hard work and training put in by all team members. Well done K.2 and Hustler teams.

Continued on page 386

THE CRICKET STORY

On Sunday, 5th September, the 2nd Regiment, in a thrilling match, won the B.A.O.R. cricket final . . . When the 11th Hussars were all out for 88 before lunch (Lance-Corporal J. Hamilton 7 for 35) one might have been forgiven for some quiet confidence, but believe me, there were some well-bitten nails by the time we finally made it with only one wicket in hand.

On form this looked all the way like being our year for the cup. We have been 'knocking on the door' now for a few years and started this season with all of last year's team. Our bowling seemed strong with the mainspring in Lance-Corporal Hamilton who has had a simply brilliant season. Our batting so solid that we had at least four batsmen, who in previous years had batted high in the order for good regimental and representative sides, but who failed to make the team at all.

The preliminary matches

We had four matches at the Divisional stage of this cup. The first two were comfortable wins when we beat 1 B.A.O.R. Troops Column (82 in 30 overs and 85 for 1 wicket in 16 overs) and 25 Corps Engineers Regiment (58 all out and 59 for 1 wicket in 12 overs). The Divisional semi-final was played against 1 DWR, a strong and very well led side. The 'Dukes' in their 30 overs started at an alarming rate but were gradually contained and finished with 123 on the board. Our 124 for 7 in 29 overs was cutting things a bit fine but was typical of the tearaway attacking cricket of most of our batsmen. The Divisional Final was against H.Q. Regiment 1 (B.R.) Corps. The H.Q. Regiment had some ill batting luck and got 66 all out. We won this match by 6 wickets.

In the B.A.O.R. semi-final we met 36 Heavy A.D. Regiment R.A. at Duisburg. This was a 35 overs match. Lance-Corporal Hamilton was the man of the match with a fine 63 not out followed by a bowling 'analysis' of 7 for 28. The Gunners got 67 all out in reply to our 143 for 9.

The Final

The Final was played at Minden in a 40 overs match. Our captain, Second-Lieutenant Clive Collier, won the toss and the 11th Hussars duly went in to bat. Fast bowler Hamilton was at his best and he quickly had the Hussars feeling uncertainly for the ball. His 7 for 35 speaks for itself but one must add that he was extremely well supported in the field and there were three catches which would have brought Lords to its feet.

It was just after lunch when our openers went out with a fairly springy step and we were still jaunty to the winning stroke (despite the supporters' bitten nails). We have a wonderfully extrovert batting side, full of strokes but inclined to flash sometimes and to sneak runs which aren't always there. Three were run out in this match (and all foolishly). The final score. 11th Hussars 88 for 10 in 29 overs, 2nd Regiment 89 in 36 overs.

Representative matches

Four of our men have had representative matches this season. All have had success and we wish them well now that they have been "noticed."

Lance-Corporal K. Crichlow has had six Corps and four B.A.O.R. matches; B.A.O.R. batting average 63, Corps batting average 35.

Lance-Corporal L. Worrell has had six Corps games this season. Signalman S. Butler has had four Corps games this season. Lance-Corporal J. Hamilton has had one Corps game this season.

Non-cup matches

We have had 10 non-cup matches this season and in these we have had nine wins and one loss. Wins include matches with 1st, 7th and 22nd Regiment, a very good match against a Dutch touring side and a most enjoyable match (and visit) with a Berlin side. We lost at Bünde to the Royal Horse Guards, our only defeat of the season (112 for 10 beat our 110 for 7).

The Hampshire C.C.C. tour

On Sunday, 12th September, the Hampshire C.C.C. Touring Team with 10 regular county players came to Bünde to play on Monday the 13th against a 2nd Divisional side. We did our



Regimental cricketers who represented 2nd Division in the Hampshire C.C.C. Match. *Left to right:* Lance-Corporal J. Hamilton, Captain S. Marchant-Smith, Second-Lieutenant R. Baly, Signalman R. Lawrence, Lance-Corporal F. Parris, Signalman S. Butler, Signalman G. Manton. "We were not deterred by the cricketing strength against us"

level best on Sunday to get them 'below their best' but alas their stamina in the bar is at least equal to their cricket.

On a tolerably good day and before a very respectable crowd, the tourists treated us to some lovely cricket. They batted first and their effortless 241 for 7 included a 72 from H. Horton, 51 from E. R. Marshall and a lightning 61 from skipper Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie.

The Divisional side which included seven from the Regiment were not deterred by score nor fame and batted well. No quarter was given nor asked and we were very happy with our 96 all out. It isn't always that Regiment batsmen find names like Stackelton, Cottam, Sainsbury Casteel and Capel lined up against them.

Top scorer for the Division was Captain S. Marchant-Smith with 31 and best bowling analysis was Lance-Corporal Hamilton with 4 for 69.

The following have played for the Regimental side this season: Lieutenant M. Carson, Royal Signals (captain until posted in August); Second-Lieutenant C. Collier, Royal Signals (captain); Major W. Duthoit, Staffs; Captain J. Billingham, Royal Signals; Second-Lieutenant R. Baly, Royal Signals; Second-Lieutenant M. Cartwright, Royal Signals; W.O.II P. V. Dixon, Lance-Corporal K. Crichlow, Lance-Corporal J. Hamilton, Lance-Corporal F. Parris, Lance-Corporal L. Walwyn, Signalman M. Doyle, Signalman R. Lawrence, Signalman P. Maxwell, Signalman S. Butler, Signalman L. Worrell, Signalman G. Manton, Signalman L. Gabriel, Signalman C. Bowen, Signalman F. Morley, Signalman M. Norgrove.

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W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. G. Johnson is presented with a sword by the Officers

3rd REGIMENT, BULFORD CAMP

R.S.M.'s lament

After the hustle and bustle of getting the regiment away on exercise I thought, rather naively perhaps, that things would be a little quieter but now we are faced with the annual UEI and administration inspection in the not too distant future and no doubt the tempo will increase until November and December respectively.

Many of the vehicles due to be inspected will not be back from the exercise until a matter of days before the CIV so there should be no cause for anyone to say 'I ain't got nuffin' to do, Sir,' for the next three months at least.

Comings and goings

This month we say goodbye and good luck to Major Williams, R.A.P.C., R.Q.M.S. Kirk, W.O.II Peat and Staff Sergeant Cassling to mention four of the more prominent departures. R.Q.M.S. Kirk leaves us on promotion to R.S.M. of 11th Regiment—a well deserved appointment. We welcome Major Lowe, R.A.P.C., R.Q.M.S. Acott and W.O.II Raynor and hope that they will enjoy their stay with us.

Sport

We are enjoying a successful start to the winter sporting season, the soccer team successfully negotiating the preliminary round of the Army Cup aganist the School of Military Survey by two goals to one and beating 1st Welch by four goals to three. The Rugby team adding the scalp of 30th Regiment to their successes in a local derby by the score of eleven points to eight. The hockey team—despite many new faces—is settling down with a win and a draw.

A visitor from 'Down Under'

We were honoured this month by a visit from the Chief of General Staff (designate) Australian Army, Major-General T. J. Daly, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who came to see how we coped with the many problems of airportability and I think we can safely say he was "quite impressed."

Touring England

The staff of R.H.Q. continue to 'tour England' on weekend exercises under the benign care of the chief clerk, Staff Sergeant Phillips, R.A.O.C. This time they are off to Wales: was it Signalman Edwards or Driver Marrison who was heard to mutter "what are we supposed to be—clerks or b . . . goats?" The last time they went out it rained all the time but this weekend looks a little better—rain only between sunrise and sunset.

R.S.M.'s honour

Once more the officers of the Regiment continued the tradition of presenting the incoming R.S.M. with an engraved sword complete with scabbard, knot and carrying case. Our photograph shows W.O.I (R.S.M.) Johnson inspecting the engraving under the eye of the Colonel and the officers.

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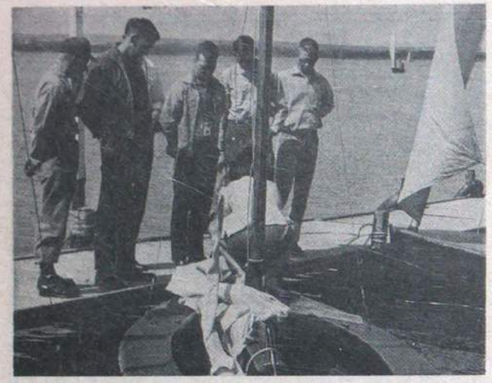


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U.S. Signaller's getting integrated into 4th Regiment's sailing activities



THE AMERICAN APPROACH TO HOCKEY"

8th Signal Battalion team "march on" for their game against the 4th Regiment

4th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Training in France

During the summer two D11 detachments from "Alpha" Troop were sent to Le Laczac, France, to provide rear link communications for units of the division training there. During the exercise aerials were used to maintain the 900-mile link to Herford, the most successful being the twin V. Commanded by Corporal Morris, the crew found time to make several excursions to the seaside and local beauty spots, including it is rumoured, a nearby nudist colony.

Cycling



Signalman West in training

Our cycling enthusiasts are still as active as ever, but a broken chain put the team out of the B.A.O.R. 100 Kilometer Championship race this year, when they were all occupying leading positions. As we won this competition in 1964 this was a great disappointment, but Signalman West, our club captain, was placed eighth out of a large field, and he has since been selected to represent the Army at roller racing at the International Sports Festival at Crystal Palace and at the time of writing is again representing the Army in Grantham at the Inter-Services Championships.

Visit to 8th Signal Battalion U.S. Army

At 5 a.m. on the morning of 12th July, three days after our return from Exercise "Silver Spear," our "Rolling stock" again "trundled" out of Hammersmith Barracks, this time heading 300 kilometres south to Regimental Camp at Bad Kreuznach in the American Zone, where we were guests of 8th Signal Bn. U.S. Army. During what was a hectic but enjoyable 10 days we were to experience American hospitality at its very best; once experienced it is never forgotten.

We saw an impressive display of American communication equipment and vehicles and were able to study the layout of their divisional headquarters in the field. In turn we staged a similar demonstration followed by a skill at arms competition.

Troop and Squadron traning coupled with many social visits (and memorable games of soft ball versus our hosts) kept us fully occupied during our stay. On Sunday, 18th July, 1965, our hosts provided us with five coaches to take us to a Motor Racing Meeting, a National Athletics Meeting, a Rhine Wine Festival, and pleasure steamer trips on the Rhine to Koblenz.

The Return Visit

During August a party from 8th Signal Battalion paid a return 8-day visit to the Regiment at Herford, thus giving us the opportunity to repay some of the hospitality received by us at Bad Kreuznach. Whilst with us the Americans were "integrated" into various Troops of the Regiment, taking part in all Troop/Squadron activities; they were also initiated into the mysteries of hockey and football, cricket and sailing.



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Sailing

During the early part of the season two courses were run at Kiel Y.C. for Baltic Helmsmen on which four Units' entrants were successful. In early July a course for dinghy helmsmen was run at the Dumner Y.C. and four Unit candidates were successful in qualifying as light weather dinghy helmsmen. This course was also used to provide training for our more experienced helmsmen in preparation for the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Sailing Competition. In this competition we were closely beaten in the second round having beaten our neighbours, 7th Regiment, in the first round.

To close the season a Regimental Regatta was held at the Dumner Y.C. on 22nd September. In the morning sixteen helmsmen competed for the individual trophy which was won by Second-Lieutenant M. Galloway. The competition for the best 1965-qualified helmsman was won by Corporal Scott of 3 Squadron. In the afternoon the Inter-Squadron Regatta was won convincingly by 3 Squadron.

Regimental Fête

The annual regimental fête was held on Saturday, 7th August, and despite bad weather raised a large sum of money for local German and Army charities.

Exercises

The Unit has had a successful exercise season. These notes are written in the short gap between "Barn Dance" and "Double Deal."

Soon days in the open air will be but a memory, and we shall be living once again with blackboard and chalk.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Es tut mir leid, we have very little to talk about. The month has only thirty days in it, and we spent twenty of them on exercise—at least quite a lot of us did.

A Shaking-Down Exercise

The first week we had more or less to ourselves, shaking-down, after a number of equipment changes. I think it was towards the end of this first exercise week that a senior member of the Regiment was heard to pronounce that "it's only when things go wrong that you really learn something, and this time we've had a first-class exercise." It should be noted that not all our troubles were home-made; the local populace helped to train our line faults parties by axeing our cables with monotonous regularity. (Sorry, John, but NO, that remark of your is unprintable). It was at the end of this first week, also, that a local Hospital made it quite clear that they wished we would find somewhere else to exercise; all our battle casualties were flooding them out, and they were concerned mainly with mental cases. (Come to think of it, maybe we were going to the right place after all).

During the second week we had a few smaller commitments—we lost count a bit—was it three or four?—can't remember. Each one was an exercise in its own right, and very important to the staff, but one got the feeling that such little things should not have been allowed to intrude on our peaceful existence. (What was that, John? More cable cuttings? Dear, dear, how very uncouth).

The Staff take to the woods

The third week was what we had all been preparing for—THE exercise, when all the staff came out to live in woods (well, *nearly all* the staff, and *some* of them in woods, and for *nearly* all the week, between week-ends). We had wonderful weather nearly the whole time; this country is nearly as unpredictable as England and *Gott sei Dank*, communications went well. (What, not *again*, John? You really ought to do something about it!) The new exchanges proved their worth—the record was 78 calls in a timed five-minute period. (What on earth do they find to talk about?)

Who stole the moustache wax?

One real crises: some nasty little man stole Sergeant Le Quesne's moustache wax. Well, you see, you can't get it in Germany, so it would have meant filling out a new import licence, and the German Customs, not being romanticists, just wouldn't have believed it; but justice triumphed and the criminal unmasked; or was it all a plant? (You wouldn't believe it, but the moustache is a potential Yeoman, *not* a potential R.S.M.). Never mind, cher Henri, we luvs yer.



Who recovers the recovery vehicles ?

Our photograph shows the most difficult recovery job undertaken by our L.A.D. during the exercise. We hasten to say that the Scammell, so forcefully "thrust" into the shop window, is not ours. (Careful reading elsewhere will reveal the owners—Editor.)

And for the fourth week, back to mad preparations for individual training, but everyone's doing it, so we won't bore you with it.

Motor-cyclists to the fore

"Muscles" (S.S.I. Dolphin) is starting his first winter season with us and he has a nasty gleam in his eye. The rugger players have been heard to remark that they are learning a whole new range of really evil get-fit exercises, and this also applies to the football team, runners, basketball enthusiasts, and so on.

The motor-cycling team goes from strength to strength. Two events in September, one civilian and one military, and Sankey and Slaughter triumph again! Although only 18 of 105 riders finished Exercise "Ridemaster," so that no team prize was awarded, Sergeant Sankey and Staff Sergeant Slaughter were first and second in the individual competition.

Departures.—Major Donald Newman, who leaves to command 65th (City of London) Regiment (T.A.); Major Ward, to the School of Signals; Lieutenants Stanley and Neale to Shrivenham; Second-Lieutenant Budd to 207 Squadron, and W.O.I (F of S.) Sharp to H.Q., COMCAN. Our thanks and best wishes go with them all.

Arrivals.—These include Lieutenant (Alan) de Bretton Gordon (already selected for our hockey team) and W.O.II (Y. of S.) Smith and Sergeant Foster to plug the gaps in 3 Squadron.

BIRTHS

Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Fotheringham—a son—Stuart Andrew.
Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Didon—a daughter—Julie Marie.
Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Bell—a daughter—Linsey Allison.
Corporal and Mrs. Greig—twin daughters—Karen Valerie and Deborah Gibson.
Signalman and Mrs. Hamilton—a daughter—Tareina.

MARRIAGES

Corporal Creer to Miss Irene Horn on 7th August, 1965.
Signalman Dowling to Miss Kathleen Murphy on 14th August, 1965.
Signalman Wright to Miss Marion Elizabeth Bulmer on 7th August, 1965.
Signalman Bayton to Miss Elizabeth Oakley, on 4th September, 1965.

8th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

8th Regiment Trainee Linemen Combine work with pleasure at Scarborough Motor Cycle Trials

Having read in recent issues of "The Wire" of some of the exotic and far away places that Royal Signals seem to visit and work in, the author had the idea that the work of some trainee linemen from 8th Regiment might be of interest.

Each year the Scarborough and District Motor Club organises motor cycle road racing on the Olivers Mount circuit. Normally, three meetings are held each year, and for many years now, the trainee linemen have been going down prior to each meeting and laying lines for both telephone and P.A. systems around the course.

The Linemen concerned are usually in about their seventh or eighth week of training, and this task is included as part of their practical field training, which would normally be done over the Catterick moors.

Recently it has been the turn of Lineman Course 3/45 to carry out this task. Having discovered some two or three weeks prior to the event what was due to happen, there was a marked improvement in the punctuality and turnout of the course, with everyone taking care to keep out of trouble, in case they had to remain in camp.

A "going-on-holiday" atmosphere

Monday, 13th September, dawned a dull, misty day, but by 09.00 hours the sky started to clear and very soon it was a beautiful, clear day (most unusual for Catterick). Stores and personal kit were soon loaded and, with almost a "going-on-holiday" atmosphere, the course departed from the bounds of Catterick Camp. A stop was made at Thirsk for lunch, and at about 15.30 hours we arrived at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, our new home for the next seven days. For those who have not been lucky enough to stay there, the barracks are delightfully situated, a soccer pitch length away from the North Bay beach.

After a quick cup of tea, rations and personal kit were unloaded, by which time the 47th Signal Regiment's catering staff had produced an excellent meal. Afterwards, a quick wash and change and we set out to explore Scarborough's evening amenities.

A night on the town

Signalman Stewart, on his second visit to Scarborough, was elected guide, and by about 9.30, most of the course had found its way to the George Hotel, where the resident beat group made conversation difficult, but produced plenty of noise.

Daily routine included an early morning run across the sands, organised by Corporal Escott and, as a result, several of the course who had never contemplated running as a hobby, are new keen members of the Regimental cross-country team.

Tuesday morning the Troop O.C. held an inspection, and several people saw the wisdom of cleaning boots and kit before going out; then we were taken up to Olivers Mount and Sergeants Stevens and Marshall explained what had to be done. Very soon D10 and Quad was pouring out of our two line-layers, and by lunch-time on Wednesday, most of the installation work was completed.

In the afternoon we challenged the 47th to a game of soccer, and after an enjoyable, but robust game, we are pleased to record that we won by 5 goals to 2.

We had grandstand seats

Thursday morning was spent clearing up the final details on the lines, and having a complete check that everything was still in working order. At lunch time we were pleased to see our Troop O.C. again, particularly as he came with mail and some very welcome pay. The practice laps to decide grid positions were held on Friday morning and the actual races were on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Throughout the races we had virtually grandstand seats as we were required to operate the switchboard and telephones. Fortunately there were no fatal accidents although some close shaves were witnessed.

A thoroughly enjoyable outing

On Saturday night an After-the-Race Dance was held to present the prizes and we were all given free tickets for this.



(Left): Corporal Escolt at work and *(right)* at play assisted in this case by Sergeant Stevens

Sunday was spent in taking up all the lines and at lunch time Monday we departed from Burniston Barracks to return to Catterick. This was our first taste of 'live' work and we are all now anxious to complete our trade training and get posted to a working unit.

Finally we wish to thank 47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A. for their help and consideration in letting us live in the Barracks with them and especially the messing staff who ensured that we were well fed and provided us with delicious sandwiches and cakes for 'elevenses.'

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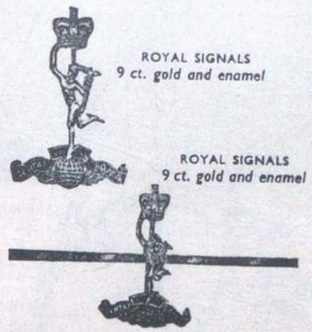
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FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

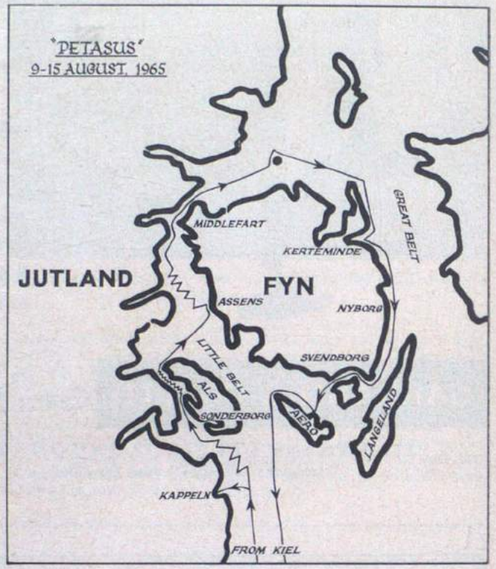
WESTWARD HO!

BY "SKIP"

A PARTICULARLY attractive aspect of service in B.A.O.R. is the oportunity for All Ranks of the Corps to sail in exciting and scenic waters amongst the inlets and islands of Denmark.

The Corps yacht "Petasus" recently sailed out of Kiel with Major R. H. Gilbertson as skipper and a party of five young soldiers from 22nd Regiment as crew. The plan was to change crews every five or six days by returning to Kiel. The following is an account of the adventures of the first crew. Space, unfortunately, precludes the printing of the adventures of the next two crews but it is hoped to publish these in later editions of "The Wire" as opportunity permits.

Why Westward? The Baltic is north, and if anything, east, of our home port in B.F.P.O. 16. However, "Westward Ho" was the name of the exercise, and on 7th August seventeen doughty sailors set out in a variety of transport to make their way to Strande, a pleasant seaside village just north of Kiel.



Shaking down

Pausing only to discover (two hundred miles too late) that three of the six bales of canvas trustingly taken over as tents, were in fact something quite different, six of us, the first crew, went on from our hastily set up camp to take over *Petasus* at the British Kiel Yacht Club. After provisioning ship and learning a few of the multitude of ropes, we sailed on Monday, 9th August, at midday. A quick trip to Sonderburg, said Skip, would be just the thing to shake down the crew for some really serious hard work the next day. Sonderburg is 37 miles from Kiel, however, and it was soon clear that Skip had made his first bad guess about the wind; for it hauled round dead ahead and then dropped away almost to nothing. 18.00 hours found us only 20 miles on our way and off a most interesting fiord, the Schlei, so making a virtue of necessity we started the engine and motored in. Seven miles inside the entrance (Schleimunde, or 'Mouth of the Schlei'), is the German town of Kappeln, where we moored just above the ferry berth at 19.45. Mac had been pretty sick, but it was his first day in any sort of boat so this was hardly surprising. An hour and a half up a quiet river on a lovely evening put everyone to rights, and we fed heartily before a good night's sleep.

A nice wind becomes dead foul

We slipped away at 07.30, this time with a nice light breeze over our shoulders, sailed down the river without bothering the Mate to start his engine again, and passed the Schleimunde lighthouse at 08.45. The nice over-the-shoulder wind now become dead foul, but preconceived notions die hard, so instead of changing his mind about our destination, Skip charged straight ahead for Sonderburg again. It took us another seven hours to get there (we did the same trip in reverse in just over two hours coming back several weeks later) but we got in just in time to buy some essential groceries before the shops shut. The fact that the famous ships chandler, Hans P. Hansen, sells excellent and very cheap Japanese binoculars at Sonderburg, may have been a factor in Skip's decision to plug on, for soon he and the Mate were both well dressed for a day at the races, new 7 × 50s having taken the place of the taggy and saltstained 6 × 10s of dubious origin with which they had been looking out for the buoys on the way up from Kiel. Another purchase was a fisherman's knife, for the galley, a sensible no-nonsense piece of good steel in a plain beechwood handle, taking a lovely edge with a few strokes on the stone.

As supper was stirring (an average of 2½ kilograms of potatoes among the six of us, for a start) the Customs came aboard and filled in a copious form, while helping us with a good will to get rid of a glass of grog. Skip always likes to think he is the Master of a British ship, and takes great pride in displaying the Certificate of Registry—but he has never tried to marry anyone on the high seas yet (or anywhere else for that matter).

A chance to blow the foghorn

The next morning was again fine (I'll stop saying that—it was fine for the first twelve days without stopping) and the wind was set in the northwest, so Skip said he'd always wanted to beat up the Als Fjord; away we went, through the King Christian Bridge at 09.30. The engineer opens the bridge for vessels flying the letter N at halfmast, and making a long and short blast on the whistle, so we had flag drill and a chance for Skip to blow the foghorn too. The first few miles of Als Sund are very narrow, with green fields and woods on either side, and we had a fine time tacking the ship every few minutes in smooth water for well over an hour. We cleared the Fjord itself by 13.30, and were able to bear away slightly for Assens, our first port in Fyn, at 16.30. We motored into the recommended yacht harbour pretty slowly, and this was just as well, for it was at once clear that the only possible berth was immediately inside the entrance on our right. We managed to turn the ship in just over her length by a bit of quick warp work, and had just settled in and secured when a man arrived to tell us that our berth was wanted for a bigger yacht due in later that evening. The alternative offered was just big enough to take a Dragon, and with about four feet of water—we take nearly six, so after a quick look at the outer harbour on foot, Skip came back shouting—'Send the Mate ashore for bread and milk, we sail in twenty minutes,' and that was Assens.

Black as the pit and no lights

By now we had a snorting wind and quite a bit of sea, but everyone was well settled down and we went off closehauled to see if we could get to the Middlefart Channel. Night fell and we ploughed on, seeing one of the big squarerigged training ships at anchor just before dark off the Fyn coast. The wind



A calm spell. Lance Corporals Turner and Hodgson at ease. Yacht is under power and transistor radio plays in the cockpit



Watering ship. Lance Corporals Turner and Hodgson deal with the jerrican. 'Skip' and Signalman McLaughlan take off the sail cover

continued foul, so eventually the Skip decided to make a long leg across the Belt to get into the shelter of the Jutland Shore, and found an inviting bay to anchor in. The night was black as the pit and this part of the Belt is off the regular steamship tracks, so has no lights; navigation was tricky, as it proved impossible to reconcile the lights on shore with the villages marked on the chart. However, about a quarter-past-ten, we handed the sails and started the engine, to motor slowly up the soundings and anchor off the beach. "No bottom with four . . . No bottom with four . . . and-a-half . . . three . . . and-a-half . . . two—STOP . . . two . . . slow astern . . . ONE" and we had grounded gently on a sandy bottom just before coming to a halt. This was not Skip's first trip too far up the beach, and we quickly learned that a rhythmic rocking to and fro, while going astern on the engine, would bring her off at once. We backed off cautiously, and this time stopped and dropped the hook in 2½ fathoms for a really peaceful night at anchor.

Some shopping and a comfortable lunch

Next morning was a flat calm and 'gunfire' was served at 08.00. After an idle breakfast we motored off at 10.00, and kept our flat calm to the south end of the Middlefart Channel at about 11.20. The wind then came easterly, light, and we set main and genoa and reached up the first leg. A bit of tacking in really lovely surroundings, with green woods down to the shore on either side, and we saw the Middlefart Bridge. This passed, we dropped the sails and motored into Middlefart harbour for some more shopping and a comfortable lunch. Leaving again at 15.45, we sailed smartly off, but were again caught by the wind dropping; by 17.30 we had covered exactly a mile and were off Fredericia, but not liking the look of this highly commercial port, Skip ordered the iron topsail set and we motored slowly east towards the island of Aebelo. This was the best part of 15 miles, and we approached soundings off the small haven with the last of the light at 20.40, for another night at anchor.

A pleasant town and a hygienic swim

Black Friday, 13th August, dawned with a promise of a real scorcher, and another near flat calm. We motored off to get clear of the headland by 08.00, and found a light northeasterly wind. Setting main and genoa again, we sailed slowly east to round the top of Fyn, but spent a rather dull morning with the wind rarely good enough to fill the genoa convincingly. We had plenty of practice rigging the boathook as a whisker pole (our spinnaker boom had been left under repair at Kiel) and did some ship's work, renewing the servings on the runners and halyards. In the afternoon, however, the wind improved, and, rounding Fyn's Hoved at 14.55, we sailed south down the Great Belt to enter Kerteminde at 17.45.

This is a very pleasant town, and we moored on the North Mole, just alongside the local bathing pier. The water was clear and cool and we all, or nearly all, had a 'hygienic swim.' We also watered ship. Some of us had a look at the town and 'Lover Boy' made another of his conquests. He was getting to be notorious by now; she eventually sent him back to the ship to ask what time he had to be aboard in the morning. How he does it on a diet of Coca-Cola we shall never understand. We also rigged the rubber dinghy for practice, and rowed around the harbour. During the night the local fishing fleet put to sea in a hurry, and the resulting wash lifted us off our fenders and bumped us none too gently against a black tarry pile. The mark had later to be removed with paraffin.

A fine reach down Langeland

We sailed out again at 11.00, meeting the returning fishing fleet in the bay; they were well loaded down with small fish, variously recognised as sardines, sprats, and sild by the cognoscenti. We sailed on south; the wind, as usual, dropping rather light in the late afternoon, and at 17.45 we had to run the engine to get through the very busy sea lane between Nyborg and Korsor, under full control. However, we were clear by 18.15, and soon after the wind improved to give us a fine reach down behind Langeland, during the last of the light. By full dark, we had Lohals abeam and continued on towards the Thuro Rev buoy. We rounded the buoy just before midnight and anchored off the village of Osterskov for the night.

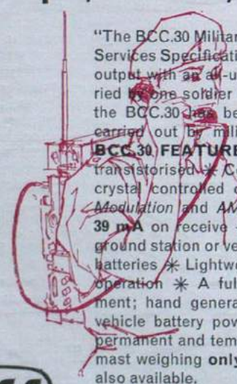
The wind was splendid

An early start the next day; skip was calling for all hands at 06.30, and by 06.45 we were under way for Rudkobing. This is an interesting sail, as the new bridge and the town are approached by a narrow and twisting dredged channel between vast shallow areas (we had anchored overnight to avoid making this passage in the dark). The wind was splendid, so we did not go into the port but waved cheerfully at it as we passed on towards Marstal. We breakfasted under way and made such good progress that it seemed a pity to go into Marstal either. Gybing off the town, we headed for the Morkedyb Channel at 10.00. This was more splendid sailing, hard on the wind for some of the tricky legs, and we cleared the channel at 10.55. The day was going so well that a council of war decided to give Aeroskobing a miss (it was Sunday, anyway, and we would have had a very early start next day), so we sailed on to round the island of Aero and cross the bay to Kiel. Rounding Skjoldnaess at about 13.00, we had a good close reach for most of the afternoon, though, by evening, the wind had veered slightly and we finished closehauled. We passed Bulk (the lighthouse at the northern end of Kiel Fjord) at 20.00 and moored off the BKYC at 21.00. This was by far our best day's sailing, 68 miles over the ground in 14¼ hours, using the engine for the last 30 minutes only.

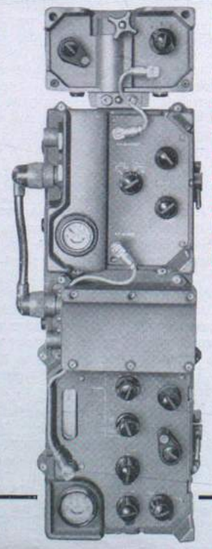
We had to change crews here, so the morning of Monday, 16th August, found a hardworking crew scrubbing out the ship to be ready for the new crew at 14.00; a bit of shopping and a quick look over the ropes and we would be sailing at 17.40 for Danish waters again.



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Corps Life in British Honduras

Our Wives are so Adaptable—Bless 'em
By Yeoman of Signals P. Durrant of 633 Troop

It is tempting to consider notes from our troop as monthly instalments suitable for the feature "Far away places—Unusual jobs." It is not so much the distance—5,200 miles from London—as the entirely different life we live out here.

The troop forms part of the British Honduras Garrison Staff, and with nine men, it is the largest single element. We have six men living in a camp which, for this small place is a superb one. The accommodation is screened, and what is even more luxurious, there is plenty of running hot and cold water.

Amenities many will envy

Airport Camp as it is called, boasts the only fresh water swimming pool in the country. It has a good Naafi shop, cinema, church and an excellent education centre. Practically all the sports can be played including cricket, soccer, hockey, tennis and more recently boxing.

The garrison owns two large boats which are well used. For those who are well insured there are a number of canoes. Two members of the troop recently chanced a weekend canoeing and we were all relieved to see them at first works parade the following Monday morning. It must be said that this country is a paradise for the fisherman and the canoeist.

A hard-worked Land Rover

British Honduras with a population of 105,000 and about the size of Wales, has only about twenty miles of roads. However, there are hundreds of miles of tracks and the one troop vehicle, a Land Rover F.F.R., averages 1,000 miles a month. September was a very wet month but so far even the heaviest rains—2.4 inches in 24 hours—have failed to inhibit the troop mobility.

The second troop exercise in two months, "BH Jimmy II," took place between the 21st and the 26th of September. The aim was to clear frequencies for an important job later in the year. The exercise itself met with limited success but if nothing else, it got the troop out of camp and up into the mountains away from the grim and grimy heat of Belize. The daily routine at exercise location included swimming in the mountain creek from 06.00 until 08.00 hours. There was no choice in the matter really, as this was the only opportunity to wash and shave—fresh water is at a premium out here.

Water is a problem

Talking of fresh water, most readers of THE WIRE will recall seeing paintings depicting London at the time of the Great Fire of 1666—or thereabouts. The houses at that time had large timber water butts situated outside, the purpose of which was to collect rain water. Well, look no more with scorn at such paintings because, should you be posted to this troop and you happen to bring your family with you, the capacity and state of repair of the water butt outside your house will assume gigantic importance. If the butt runs dry, water can be purchased for about £2 for 1,000 gallons. Another important factor is the system of generating the water supply, the choice being hand or electric pump. Two or three of our wives have developed gorgeous biceps from operating the hand pump.

Corps wives adaptable

It is amazing how adaptable our wives have become—bless 'em. They have been heard to boast that they have only seen X number of rats lately, and that the roaches, fleas, mosquitoes, bugs, snakes and scorpions are rather less in evidence this month. However the rage and indignation with which they discuss their inability to buy a little cheese or some such other delicacy, is an experience which should be avoided. For the most part the wives are content with the occasional Cayes trip, the .22 club, an evening cinema at the camp or in the city—the word city is used in its broadest sense—Sunday morning swimming at the camp nine miles away, providing they can catch the only transport at 10 a.m., and their morning coffee meetings at which it is assumed they discuss their children.

Corps children thrive

Education seems to be no bother here, the good Nuns look after the girls and the American Jesuits take care of the boys. The most incredible thing about the children here is that they thrive. They are subject to untold dangers and yet they have nothing more serious than prickly heat. Incidently the prescription for prickly heat, given by the garrison M.O., is two weeks local leave to be taken in Merida, Mexico. We have not told the kids yet.

Although we are far away, we are not forgotten and we get quite a few visitors. Next week we are expecting the Secretary of State for the Colonies and he and his wife can be sure of a great welcome here. Details of the visit will be included in next month's notes. We hope also to include an account by two of the troop of their two weeks leave spent in Mexico and the United States of America. (*Thank you—Editor.*)

In Singapore it is called the "Changi Splash"

It's a Thousand Foot Parachute Drop . . .
and a Ducking in the South China Sea!

Major J. E. P. Philp, of Air Formation Signals, writes for us this exhilarating feature about an aspect of Service life in Singapore that certainly demands toughness, courage and fitness. All you have to do about "Changi Splash" is . . . well, just volunteer! The whole operation, from instruction to the ultimate drop takes two hours and forty-five seconds and, as Major Philp laconically points out, this time includes a thirty-minute NAAFI break!

Major Ted Philp writes:

I have long admired those tough stalwarts of courage and fitness, the Parachute Brigade. When an opportunity came along, not only to parachute, but to do so painlessly, it was too good to miss.

It's called the "Changi Splash," as it's done from R.A.F., Changi, and one ends up in the sea. Any Serviceman is eligible. It consists of one parachute descent from about 1,000 feet into the warm, green, South China Sea, a mile or so off the coast of Singapore. That part takes forty-five seconds. The other two hours, including a thirty minute NAAFI break, consists of learning how to get into a parachute harness and how to get out of it. It is as simple as that. All you have to do is volunteer.

So far, one C.A.F.S.O., and S.O.2, and one officer of the 19th Regiment have taken the plunge. There is a large Air Formation Signals queue, which grows daily as the three certificate holders grip their audience with the gory details.

Three seconds an eternity!

I completed mine the other day and so my memories of it are very fresh in my still somewhat bemused mind. I think the most vivid recollection is of shutting my eyes once I had leapt from the aircraft. I was told it only takes about three seconds for the parachute to deploy, but that three seconds seemed an eternity. There was, however, no sensation of speed or discomfort. A slight catch of the breath as I jumped and then I was aware that I was falling. A gentle tap on my shoulder reminded me that I ought to open my eyes as something had happened up above me. I looked—and there was my parachute, huge and perfect. The view was superb.

. . . Feeling 10 feet tall . . .

Down below R.A.F. launches sped towards each jumper and I suddenly remembered I had better do something about preparing to land in the sea. By the time I had completed my drill, the early morning sea had engulfed me, and a second later I was happily floating in my Mae West with my parachute harness entangled in my arms, my seat strap around my neck and a voice saying: "All right now, sir? Swim round to the side of the boat, then." They fished me out of the water—parachute first, of course—and soon I was sipping a cup of hot tea, feeling ten feet tall. We were then deposited on the master launch, with everyone from Group Captains to airmen swopping stories of their descent. It sounded like a lot of fishermen talking about the one that got away.

North to Norway

True to form, a party from 22nd Regiment "thrust" north to Norway. Under their leader, Lieutenant Neil Horler, they have a wonderful time, climbing and ski-ing, and they also enjoy the warmhearted hospitality of many Norwegian friends — particularly Norwegian Signals, whom they salute in this article.



The party from the 22nd Regiment including Alv Muri their Norwegian host

On 3rd August, twenty-one men from all squadrons of 22nd Regiment, under Lieutenant Horler, left Lippstadt in two three-tonners and two Land Rovers with all the necessary kit for a mountaineering trip in Norway. The rather tedious and boring route through north Germany, the length of Denmark and by ferry to Larvik, in Southern Norway, took two days.

We call in on the Norwegian School of Signals

We disembarked at Larvik early and arrived at the ski and tourist centre of Lillehammer in the late afternoon. The next morning we paid a visit to the Norwegian School of Signals at nearby Jorstadmoen to collect ski gloves and maps, to renew old friendships and to collect information and advice from the vastly-experienced Norwegians. Thus equipped, a recce party consisting of the O.C. and Signalmen Heapy and Mullin set off for Nordfjord.

A stroke of luck

In the tiny village of Olden (pop. 1,000) we had incredible luck when we were given a large barn for the duration of our stay by Alv Muri, a local farmer and ex-regular sergeant in the Norwegian infantry. Alv looked after us very well in the days to come, with large supplies of milk and fresh vegetables and advice on the nearby mountains.

The village of Olden lies at the head of the innermost arm of the lovely Nordfjord, which cuts its way into the county of 'Sogn og Fjordane' for almost 35 miles. From the village the valley stretches southwards for 15 miles to the mighty icefields of the Jostedal glacier, the world's second largest. The rest of our party arrived the next day and by Sunday morning we had our little camp well organised. We spent the next two days on two long terks up the Olden and Loen valleys in turn, in pouring rain and poor visibility. We had all, by now, orientated ourselves and also made numerous friends in the neighbourhood, which had begun to take notice of the unusual band of 'tourists.'

The hazards of rock climbing

The rock climbing we did on Wednesday was not altogether as planned since we did more hacking our way through jungly scrub before we came to the rocks, than actual climbing. The next day, however, we set off to climb the mountain of Skala (6,000 ft.). Not everyone reached the top to experience the fantastic view of the icefields and to wet the seat of their pants on the exhilarating descent of hardpacked snow. Signalman Rumbellow did manage to let a rock attack him on a part which he normally uses for sitting on and consequently aggravated a previous wound which confined him to a horizontal existence for the rest of the trip. In the next ten days in Olden we accomplished a great deal, in every meaning of the phrase.

We had another day's rock climbing which was a little more successful. Signalman Thomas and Craftsman Hedley found out what a human pendulum felt like and Signalman Gore saved Thomas from an exceptional rocky landing and burned himself with the rope in the process. We have not got any Edmund Hillarys here! Our four days spent ski-ing were really worthwhile, especially for the few who could ski, and who could appreciate the antics of the others who could not. What a pantomime!

A most amusing and interesting companion

The climax of the expedition was a trip on the glacier which we did on two separate days, each trip lasting about 12 hours. We enlisted the services of Fred Kvamme (aged 72!) as our guide and he turned out to be a most amusing and interesting companion. The view across the glacier is something most of us will never forget. We will remember the beauty of the scenery, the cold and our exhaustion!

We cannot end the account of our stay in Olden without mentioning Martin Lilleheim of Styra, a local journalist, who



High up the mountains. Lance-Corpora lWilliams, Lance-Corporal Thomas and Signalman Gore meet up with the local goats



Left to right: Lieutenant Horler, Lance-Corporal Chandler, Signal man McKay and Lance Corporal Mullin set off on a "recce"

published a photograph and an article on us, so that the locals knew all about us. Our girl friends from Olden and district made the evenings most interesting and to all the villagers we owe a debt of gratitude. How on earth they suffered us we shall never know, but they want to see us again.

'Thank you' to our Norwegian friends

We returned to Lillehammer on 23rd August for three days' relaxation and general cleaning of ourselves as much as our gear and vehicles. The Norwegian School of Signals was once again most helpful. Majors Holmsen and Sandvik, Captain Koppervik and Lieutenants Odegaarde, Brykfeld, Sandin all gave us much encouragement and advice. They all read THE WIRE but do not realise how much we owe them.

We returned to Lippstadt, all in one piece, feeling tired but fit and looking very bronzed. We have certainly learned a great deal about the mountains.

Exercise Northern Lights

Lapland was off — so we go to the Home of the Giants and 'Collect' 20 Churches!

By Second-Lieutenant Peter Shaw, of 204 Squadron

A CASUAL observer standing outside of our barrack gates in the early morning of a recent Sunday, would have noticed a strangely assorted crew setting forth in anonymous looking Land Rovers. This was our party of one officer and 10 men on their way to Norway.

No petrol so Lapland is off

We had originally intended to go to Lapland, where we were to study the life of the Lapps, and make a documentary film of it. However, at the very last moment, when everything had been arranged and we were just about to go, we were informed that petrol would not be available from our Norwegian Army staging point. This ruined our chances of reaching Lapland, so instead we decided to visit the Jotunheimen (Home of the Giants) district of Central Norway. This is a very mountainous, noble region.

We drove up through Germany and Denmark in our three Land Rovers, and caught the ferry from Friederikshaven to Larvik, in Norway. As we steamed up the Oslo Fjord, the strange countryside caught everyone's imagination, and there was considerable speculation as to what sort of country we would cover in our journey through Norway up to the Jotunheimen.

Strangely beautiful scenery

Instead of using the normal route north, up through the magnificent Gudbrandsdal valley, we decided to take advantage of the lonely, twisting route over the wild and barren mountains on the central region of Norway. The rugged, bare scenery was strangely beautiful and overawed most of us.

On our arrival at our destination, Lom, in the heart of the Jotunheimen region, we were fortunate enough to make friends



A casualty? Lance-Corporal Milner, Signalman Swinton and Guardsman Mockford coping with Guardsman Carver

with the owner of the Soleggen Fjellstugue, which is a winter ski-ing hotel.

This hotel was about 10-15 miles from the nearest village, right up in the hills, and standing on its own. The proprietor kindly allowed us to make our camp on his property.

We spent the first few days at our base camp in hill walking, rock climbing and swimming in the ice-cold mountain lake close to the hotel. During this period, we all got fairly fit, and Corporal Potier narrowly missed a few weeks in hospital by falling off a ledge. (Fortunately he managed to grab a bush in the nick of time!)

The Squadron Commander makes a bet . . .

There are some very old timber churches in Norway—exactly 23 to be precise, and our Squadron Commander bet us a crate of beer we could not produce proof of our having visited at least 20 of them. Accordingly, on the first Sunday in our Base Camp, the party divided itself into groups of two and armed only with money for rations, set off, less a small base party, on initiative tests, to bring back proof of having visited as many of those as possible in one week.

We try—but the wolverines did not come our way!

As luck would have it, all the parties sent out were actually back within the week, having accomplished the tasks set to them, with many adventures to boot. Lance-Corporal Kenny and Signalman Winskill, for example, decided to spend one night in Trondheim police station. The policeman on duty was only too pleased to let them stay the night, but the following morning refused to let them go without first calling the Immigrations Officer! Fortunately, they were freed the moment he arrived.

When everyone was back in camp, the situation was reviewed, and we still needed more churches to win our bet, so clearly the parties would have to go out again. Anyway the next few days were spent in washing clothes (and bodies!), some more walking and rock-climbing, and just the smallest amount of sunbathing and swimming in the beautifully cool mountain lakes. Luckily the weather was hot, and the skies virtually cloudless for most of the time. We discovered during this time that the Norwegian Government paid about 7,000 Kr (about £350) for a dead wolverine, and that there were one or two in the remote part where we were.

Never ones to look a gift horse in the face, we had an abortive attempt to trap one. Perhaps fortunately, nothing of any description came anywhere near our trap!

Working the passage home

Soon the day came round for the parties to set off again, under exactly the same conditions. Corporal Potier and Signalman Madden somehow managed to lose their entire ration allowance on the first day out! However, being made of stern

stuff, they refused to come back to base camp, but made friends with a Norwegian farmer and went to work for him for a week. They helped gather all the grass they could in the hills ready for the severe winter in the valley. The people were extremely friendly and kind, and perhaps were too generous with their strong, home-brewed ale!

Guardsmen Rix and Carver visited Bergen and were "hospitably" entertained by some friends they had met earlier! Signalman Winskill hurt his back (he says by jumping off a train, but we aren't *sure* about this!)

At the end of the week everyone returned looking fit and brown, and our "collection" of churches was nearly complete. During the whole exercise we had also been making a film, which should turn out to be very interesting!

We returned via the Gudbrandsdal valley and the same ferry, and were hospitably entertained by the Danish Army on our way back. We all thoroughly enjoyed the exercise and derived great benefit from it.

Norwegian Rendezvous

By Signalman C. J. Hynes

THE soldiers of the 13th Regiment certainly get out and do things. Signalman 'Chris' Hynes describes below a combined canoeing and trekking exercise to the fjords of Southern Norway. It is good to hear of the young men of the Corps engaged in worthwhile enterprises such as this and "The Wire" always welcomes all such stories.

We set off

In September, 13th Regiment sent a party of eight men on a combined canoeing and trekking exercise to the fjords of Southern Norway.

The party was made up of one officer, Lieutenant J. Hawthornthwaite, and seven signalmen, including myself.

The exercise was given the name "Trek North II"—we sent a similar expedition to Southern Norway last year.

We left the Regiment on the morning of 7th September, and for the next two days travelled across Germany and into Denmark, where a ferry was to take us across the Baltic to Norway. We travelled in a three-tonner which, although not the ideal means of transport, wasn't really too bad.

We arrived at the ferry at about 7 p.m. on 9th September. I say "ferry," but it was more like an ocean-going liner than a ferry. It was a really large ship and we were lucky enough to meet, quite by chance, the ship's radio officer, who was only too pleased to show us the radio room. This was of great interest to us, as we were all radio operators.

We left Denmark at midnight and arrived at Christiansaand in Norway at breakfast time, the whole journey across the Baltic having taken six hours.

An icy start

We were met by a truck from the 1 (BR) Corps Outward Bound School. We had our kit and supplies loaded and were away on the 40-mile journey to the School by 07.30 hours.

On arrival at the School we were told that prior to our leaving there, at 17.00 hours that evening, we would have to pass a swimming test. This, we were informed, was usual for all parties, and was to ensure our ability to swim in the cold waters of a fjord. (*Very cold waters, as we soon discovered*).

The test was set for 11.30 hours, and at 11.29 hours, eight rather hesitant figures approached the water's edge. We were told to swim 50 yards in our own time, but to keep within 10 yards of the shore.

It was the fastest and coldest 50 yards we have ever swum in our lives!

"White Water" canoeing great fun

After lunch we were given the chance to try our hands at "white water" canoeing. This means shooting rapids, and for this occasion we were going to use two-men fibre-glass canoes of the Canadian type.

The rapids were about a quarter-mile long, and ran under a bridge. We were not the only ones to "shoot" them, as the boys at the Outward Bound School (about 30 of them) were also going to try.

To our great surprise and pleasure, all eight members of our Regiment were extremely successful and made no errors at all. I cannot describe the sensations experienced doing this



Six signalmen of the 13th Regiment enjoying Norway. *Behind, left to right:* Signalmen Drysdale, Hynes (author) and Lockyer. *In front:* Cromack, Trigg and Smith

kind of canoeing, and can only say that given the chance, we would all have gone down again and again.

We finally left the Outward Bound School at 17.30 hours and camped for the night in a disused barn. Quite the most comfortable barn I had slept in for a long time!

We arose at 09.00 hours that morning, and by 11.00 hours had packed our provisions and assembled our canoes (they were the collapsible Klepper Doubles).

Unfortunately, just as we were drawing away from the bank for our first day's canoeing, it began to rain, and continued to do so spasmodically for the rest of the day.

All take a turn in command

Lieutenant Hawthornthwaite informed us that each canoe (there were four) excluding his own, was to assume control of the party for one of the three days we would be canoeing.

This proved highly successful, as it gave us all an insight into what is expected of one when assuming control. It also provided us with differences of opinion, which ranged from the amusing to the abnormal, but with Lieutenant Hawthornthwaite to advise us, when asked, we all managed to cope quite well, and that night we camped at the side of the fjord, wet, but in high spirits and looking forward to the days that were to follow.

The next day the weather was clear, and remained so for the rest of the exercise, and we set off at 11.00 hours for the second day's canoeing. This day passed very quickly, as did the third day, with fine weather and no wind at all.

Rendezvous with another party

We camped at the end of the third day with the knowledge that at noon the next day we were to rendezvous with a party which had been trekking whilst we canoed. They were the same strength as we were (eight men in all). They had arranged for their own canoes to be brought to the RV point, so we dismantled ours and sent them back by truck to the Outward Bound School. Then, taking the trekking packs from the other party, we were all set for our stab at trekking.

The exchange of kit and collection of rations were not completed until 15.00 hours, so we stayed down where we were and made camp for the night.

We were up at 08.00 hours the next day and taken by truck to a point where our trekking was to begin.

With us was a trekking instructor from the Outward Bound School, but (to use his own words) he was just a spectator—with us if we happened to need any advice.

One of our party was appointed Trek Leader for the day and, on being shown our objective on the map, we set off.

A difficult obstacle to cross

The packs were not too heavy, and the first few hours just shot by. At 14.00 hours we were stopped by a gorge, so we had lunch. The food was cold, but quite nice, and as we were hungry, it was even more appetising.

On inspection of the gorge we realised that the only way to cross it was to climb down one side and up the other.

The instructor with us assumed temporary control and, after adjusting our packs, we followed him down.

The vegetation was rotten, the rocks loose and the sides very, very steep; a combination which made us all step, or rather climb, warily. We crossed the waters flowing down the gorge by means of boulders, and prepared to ascend the other side. The weight of the packs made this rather hard, but on being told that the day's objective was a log cabin about 50 yards from the summit above us, we were all up there like a bunch of human flies.

The cabin was reached and we camped down for the night. After pitching our tents, we entered the cabin, which was very old, but wind-proof and usable.

We cooked our supper in it and "brewed up," after which we all had an early night.

Objective—a crashed bomber

Before finally turning in, however, we were told our objective for the following day (our last day on the exercise). It was a Flying Fortress bomber that had been shot down in 1941. The Norwegian Government had had all the bodies buried in a village down in the valley.

We broke camp at 08.00 hours and, after 45 minutes trekking, we stopped and left our packs together at the side of the trail.

We fanned out over about 150 to 200 yards and climbed towards the area where the plane was thought to be. Forty minutes later, and about three-quarters-of-a-mile higher up the trail, a cry from the left brought us running—the wrecked bomber had been located.

The Norwegian Government had sent a party up to erect a form of memorial. This consisted of an engine from the plane, mounted on a convenient boulder, and with an inscription on a small plaque fixed to the engine. The inscription, in Norwegian, was to the effect that at that spot seven Allied airmen were shot down and died for the cause of freedom; it was dated sometime in 1941.

After looking around and taking some photographs, we descended to our packs and, from there, on down into the valley and the side of the fjord that was to mark the end of the exercise.

We had arranged to rendezvous with the same party as before, who would then ferry us singly across the fjord to where a truck would take us back to the Outward Bound School for our canoes and such clothing as we had left there.

The party arrived as arranged and we were ferried across the fjord. After a short wait the truck arrived, and soon after 14.30 hours we were on our way to the Outward Bound School.

Time off in Christiansaand

We called first at Christiansaand for some souvenir shopping and then drove up again to the Outward Bound School.

By 19.00 hours that evening we had returned the trekking packs to the School and picked up our canoes. After making our farewells, we were on our way back to catch the midnight ferry from Christiansaand.

With four hours to spare in Christiansaand, we decided to have a meal that would be cooked *for* us instead of cooking it ourselves (as we had been doing for seven days).

We decided on hamburgers, eggs and chips, and did justice to what we all agreed was a well-earned meal. I am afraid that the amount we all ate must have given the local inhabitants the impression that we had been starving for weeks.

A cheerful crossing

The journey back by ferry was made even more enjoyable by the presence of 40 Norwegian students, ten of whom were girls (all of the right size and shape!) These students, who were on their way to Denmark, all spoke English, and produced guitars. We all sat in a lounge and a sing-song ensued—enjoyed by the other passengers equally, I think, as by all of us.

On docking in Denmark we were met by a truck from our own Regiment, and after loading our kit aboard were on the road by 07.00 hours.

We had an uneventful day's journey across Denmark and into Germany. That night we stayed at a placed owned by a friend of our driver. Here, for the sum of only DM5 (about 10/-) we had supper, the use of the courtyard to camp in, and breakfast in the morning. This was extremely reasonable by any standards. The food was first rate, and that evening we all went to bed feeling very at ease with the world in general and with the landlord's wife in particular—she had cooked our suppers!

Home . . . and we would do it again

We were up and away by 09.00 hours the next morning, and travelled all day back to our own Regiment. We finally arrived in camp at 20.00 hours on 17th September, having been away for ten days.

The whole expedition had been tiring, busy, and yet thoroughly enjoyable. Need I say more than that the next chance we all get to do the same thing—WE ARE GOING!

Telephonic Communication on Lydd Ranges

THE Wire is more than happy to print below the kind tribute paid to the Corps by a remarkable old warrior—Major (retd) d'Arcy-Clarke. At the age of 80 he has just retired from his appointment of Documents Clerk with 10th Regiment, having completed no less than 60 years of loyal service to the Crown! (See 10th Regiment's notes.)

Some record! Some man!

Major d'Arcy-Clarke writes:

"As I am about to retire after seven years of documentation in the Royal Corps of Signals, I feel that I have the opportunity of paying a tribute to the Corps. It is not possible within the limits of a short article to go into detail in the matter of Lydd Ranges, but I hope I can tell sufficiently of the story to show what part the Corps played in what turned out to be the largest A/T Range in the U.K. I was a retired Gunner and was appointed to Lydd Ranges in 1937 when it became obvious that anti-tank gunnery would play a large part in the next war: and that the vast open space of WD property at Lydd was not being used for any useful purpose. The War Office plan envisaged an Anti-Tank Range, with two Rifle Ranges, a Battle Shooting Range, a Hosepipe Range and a Field Firing area. The whole concept had to be carried out from the egg, and it was perfectly clear that if, as intended, we were to shoot on



Major E. d'Arcy-Clarke

all these ranges at the same time, the safety of the whole range must be placed in the hands of one man—the Officer-in-Command the Ranges. The scheme of safety involved a Central Control Tower, two outlying 80 ft. high observation towers, one at each end of the range, a series of firing points for different ranges and concrete shelters in the firing areas, at which targets could be patched and marked. It was also necessary to build a series of Decauville track trenches in which targets could be towed across the front of the firing points.

Eight miles of U.G. cable

When these matters were completed Royal Signals were called in. The operation of the safety and the movement of the targets involved the underground laying of eight miles of 8-core cable and connections to 32 safety points and shelters. The whole of these points were connected up to the Central Control Tower, in which was a telephone exchange, from which ran lines to the Camp Exchange and thence to the Post Office Lines. Numerous pillars had to be put down in which telephones on the end of D8 line could be plugged for moveable Field Firing Exercises. There was also a WD Ship which patrolled the outside of the sea danger area and was in wireless communication with the Central Control Tower.

The whole of this communication installation was done in an amazingly short time by the Signals IPC at Dover aided by the 4th Divisional Signals at Canterbury; so rapidly that we were able to have our first A/T shoot within six months of starting the project.

But this was nothing to what came later. When the war began, it was necessary to step up the training facilities and three new A/T Battle Practice ranges were built with three new winch houses, two more watch towers and additional concrete shelters, bringing the total number of telephone points up to 68 and this tremendous addition to the area, and to the length and complication of the telephone communication, was taken in their stride by the Royal Corps and within a short time we were shooting on 4 A/T Ranges, two rifle ranges, mortar range and a Field Artillery zeroing and registration range, with everything from 6 in. guns to Vickers MG and rifles. And it was possible to carry on the shoots simultaneously.

It will be obvious that the communications on this enormous area of land under these circumstances were of the very greatest possible importance, if safety was to be successfully assured.

The Corps never failed

But the Corps never failed in their maintenance of cable, wireless and the 100 telephones which had to be permanently sure of functioning at all times. For 5½ years during the war we fired every day—Saturdays and Sundays included—and very often did two or three night shoots a week as well.

Sir Bernard Paget, G.O.C.-in-C. of Home Forces, came to my office one day in 1941 and told me he wished to see a regiment shooting and to make a call to the War Office—and he had only a quarter of an hour to do it. I told him his only hope was to proceed to the firing point of one of the A/T Ranges and telephone the War Office from there, while he watched the shoot. He laughed at the idea of being able to do this on a range telephone system. I took him to the firing point and put in a call to the War Office which took 63 seconds—he spoke for five minutes and told me he had never spoken on a better line. He wrote to me next day that "he had discovered the only perfect range telephone system that had been known in the Army in his 40 years service."

That was his tribute to the Royal Corps of Signals. Mine, I hope, is equally valuable to them. Although in the 20 years in which I was in charge at Lydd—5½ under continual bombing, machine gun fire from German planes, and doodlebugs—we fired just under a million rounds of shell ammunition, I was able to say when I left there in 1956 that we had never had an accident due to the failure of the safety precautions, either on the land or sea. If that is not a tribute to the splendid original installation and the continued excellent maintenance of the communications by the Corps, I do not know what can be.

And I never asked in vain for help from the Corps without immediate and willing response. I have done documentation for Eastern Command Signal Squadron, 239 Squadron and 10th Regiment for seven years up to my 80th birthday and I can only hope I have repaid some of my debt to a great Corps for a great work."



THE REGIMENTAL CRICKET TEAM WITH THE INTER UNIT TROPHY
Back row (left to right): An Umpire, Corporal Herstell, Lance-Corporal Cook, Private Martin, W.O.II Barnham, Signalman Power, Corporal Peyton, Signalman Parton (Scorer). *Front row:* Signalman Herrick, Corporal Aitken, S.S.I. Foster Captain), Signalman Green, Lance-Corporal Merrick

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

C.S.O.'s Cup winners

The final of the C.S.O.'s Tennis Cup Competition was held on Saturday, 25th September, between 1 Squadron and 3 Squadron. After a hard and close contest, the result was a win for 1 Squadron.

With the result of the Tennis Cup, the final placings in the C.S.O.'s Competition were known. 3 Squadron were the winners with a commanding total of 37 points; 259 Squadron were second, and 1 Squadron third, with 23 points.

3 Squadron had established an early lead in the competition and ended up, as can be seen, with a substantial lead in points over the remainder of the competitors. Well done, 3 Squadron!

Military Training Centre

The recently-formed Training Centre has started its courses of instruction with the advent of the 'winter' season. These courses are being run by Captain Jones and W.O.II Gale, as resident organisers and instructors, assisted by other temporary instructors from within the Regiment. The students are being drawn from all Royal Signals units on the island. With an MPT 1 Course completed and an MPT 3 course in progress at present, a good start has been made to the training season.

Cricket

Last month we reported the success of the Regimental cricket team. Belatedly, we publish a photograph of the team with the Inter-Unit Trophy.

Feature — Sub Aqua Club

Each month it is hoped to run a feature on one of the many off-duty activities in the Regiment. This should be of interest to anyone coming to Cyprus, not only those joining the Regiment.

This month we feature the Sub-Aqua Club.

The club has been in operation since May, 1963, and has had a most successful summer season. Major Foley was the Secretary and 'Chief Diver,' until September, when he had to hang up his flippers and head for cooler climes.

Several new divers have been trained and boat expeditions have been made to many parts of the S.E. Coast of Cyprus. The favourite diving areas have proved to be Salamis, which is famous for its underwater archaeological treasures, Cape Greco and Cape Andreas, at the North-Eastern end of the 'Panhandle.'

Two club members have recently returned from an expedition to the Red Sea port of Eilat. This area of the Red Sea is famed for its glorious coral formations, of many and varying colours. For those who seek an interesting and exciting pastime, this has much to recommend it—including the warm, clear waters of the Mediterranean.

AQUA-LUNGING WITH THE 9th



1. Setting off. 2. After something. 3. "Smile please". 4. "I am smiling". 5. The hunter's return.



Enjoying a military proficiency course at the 10th Regiment were the above including 34 students from outside the unit

10th REGIMENT, HOUNSLOW

R.H.Q.—A wonderful record

It is with regret that the Regiment bids farewell to its oldest civilian member, 80-year-old Major d'Arcy-Clarke (Retd.). Major d'Arcy-Clarke completed 60 years service to the Crown, having been commissioned as a Gunner Officer in September 1905.

He played rugger for Ireland in 1905/6 and on retirement in 1938 became Commandant and Range Officer of the Lydd ranges. Major d'Arcy retired once more in 1958 only to renew his service by joining the Eastern Command Signal Squadron in January 1959, as Documents Clerk, and moving with the Squadron to Hounslow in 1961 prior to the reformation of 10th Regiment in July 1964. The Regiment and all those who have served with him wish him well and many years of enjoyable retirement. (See also page 399.)

1 Squadron

The last of our Royal Signals Recruiting commitments at local shows has been successfully completed—at Brent in North West London.

The double Military Proficiency Class III/II has just been completed; we were delighted to have 34 students from other units to swell the numbers, and our instructors are recovering to face the Class I course starting on the 11th October, 1965, at the same time a nine weeks Communication Centre Operators course to BII is being run under the guidance of Major Norman Robinson, Sergeant Mackay and Staff Sergeant Ellis.

The Horse of the Year Show began on 4th October and seven members of the Squadron are assisting in the stage management.

Our 'Ham' specialist, Sergeant Tanner, has recently managed to notch up his 299th contact, and no doubt will be calling upon the Regiment for more QSL cards and a possible further grant from PRI on achieving his 300th.

Births

SPENCER.—To Corporal and Mrs. A. Spencer, a daughter, on 14th August, at 85, Beavers Crescent, Hounslow.

UNDERHILL.—To Signalman and Mrs. L. P. Underhill, a son, on 18th July, at 4, Barons Court, Teddington.

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11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Pass-off, 17th September, 1965

The best recruit of the pass-off on 17th September, 1965, was Signalman Michael Barnett. He is aged 20 and comes from Newport, in Shropshire, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Barnett, of 19, Forton Road, Newport, Shropshire. Whilst living in Newport, Signalman Barnett received his education at Adams Grammar School.

On leaving school he took a job with the Central Ordnance Depot at Donnington, where he worked as a storeman. As a member of the local T.A. and A.E.R., he decided that he would like to make the Army his career, and because he had an interest in electronics, he signed on in the Royal Corps of Signals.

He has now completed his seven weeks' basic training at 11th Regiment, which is the Depot Regiment of the Royal Corps of Signals. In his training, he showed himself to be a first-class recruit in all aspects of his work, and was awarded the title of "Best Recruit" of his intake.

Signalman Barnett will now continue his training at 8th Regiment, where he will be trained as a Technician.

Potential Officer Troop

By Signalman Smith, OR1

The training programme of OR1 Troop allows for a considerable amount of adventure training. During the past six months the troop has spent a week in Skye, hill walking, mountaineering and rock-climbing; ten days walking on the Pennine Way, about 160 miles, from Edale, Derbyshire, to Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co. Durham; and six days walking about 170 miles from Dumfries to Oban by road. In addition, there have been shorter periods, such as at Stainforth, in Ribblesdale, fell walking, caving, potholing, canoeing, swimming, archery, football, beer-drinking and (by two of our more off-beat types) railway signal-box operating!

There is no doubt that the benefits gained from this adventure training are quite substantial. Self-confidence grows as we find that we are able to tackle things we once had grave doubts about. At one time wild horses could not have dragged me into a cave where I would have to twist myself into impossible postures while laying on my front in water, in order to get through a ridiculously-shaped tunnel, 6in. high and half-a-mile from the nearest daylight; yet, when the time came, I did it with never a hint of panic-stricken "get me out of here!" Similar sentiments have been expressed by others poised hundreds of feet above deadly-looking rocks with nothing but a finger-nail between them and eternity.

Self-reliance is fostered as we learn to make delicious and nourishing stew from half an Oxo cube and some mashed potato powder; as we break hurdling records while pursuing across fields a tent which a Force 9 gale is taking to the next county; as we wash socks in streams which seem to put in as much dirt as they remove; and as we try to rejuvenate feet ravaged by 30 miles of red-hot tarmac.

If slogging up a slope of 1,500 feet every so often does nothing else for us, at least it makes us a little more able to slog up a slope of 1,500 feet. It is also powerful anti tobacco propaganda.

There are many other benefits, too, especially affecting character. Three or four men working hard toegther with only each other for company over a long period soon learn from necessity to be tolerant and live with each other, even if they hate each other's sight. An argument, so often ridiculously trivial, though very bitter, can, with a little practice, be dissolved in an evening cup of tea or pint of beer, provided someone has the guts to say "I'm sorry." And it is surprising how heartily you can laugh while tramping for hours through cold winds or pouring rain. Or perhaps it's hysteria?

There is usually some element of danger in adventure training. One of the gravest dangers we have regularly to face is that of a Staff Sergeant who will appear with camera clicking like a grasshopper. As soon as we next meet him he is armed with a handful of prints, often still wet, but always crystal clear, and vanity always makes us buy far more than we can afford.

The whole Troop agrees, however, that adventure training does us a power of good. If you ever visit the Regiment you will recognise us—we are the ones with the ruddy complexions and limps.

Rugby Football

The Regiment has had a somewhat unfortunate start to the present season. Our first match was against Yorkshire Copper Works 2nd XV at home. Good rugby was played by the Depot, with Corporal Collins playing an outstanding game. Inexperience was the main factor in our defeat, by 15 points to 6—Corporal Collins scoring all six points. We travelled to Leeds to play Leeds Telephones. The ground was rather more of an assault course than a rugby pitch, but despite being under rather a big handicap of having to make last-minute changes, we only lost by 10 points to 3. The evening was spent in the traditional style, with Lieutenant Aird in great voice.

Wednesday found us at York, playing York 2nd XV, to whom we lost by 15 points to 3, with the match being played in almost complete darkness.

We entertained our old friends from Gosforth on 18th September, at Catterick. Unfortunately, they were in none to friendly a mood and defeated us by 11 points to nil. We played our first fixture against an Armed Forces team on Wednesday, 22nd September, when we entertained R.A.F., Leeming. This was a hard and clean-fought match, with the Depot finally going down by 11 points to 8.

This season there has been a greater team spirit and will to win in the Regimental team than at any time during the past two season. There is no lack of drive and energy from the forwards, with Messrs. Lawrence, Aird, Podevin and Alden producing the straight running and solid work in the "engine room" from Thomson, Sadler and Meek. Our main deficiency is the inability of the forwards to play as a pack, but no doubt this will come in time.

The first round of the Army Cup finds us drawn against C.O.D., Chilwell, at Nottingham, and, with any luck, we might progress to the second round.

Late News.—Result, win, 11—9, against a very strong C.O.D. side containing at least five R.A.O.C. Corps players.

14th REGIMENT, GLOUCESTER

Life is not quite the same without them . . .

Readers who have been following our notes over the past few months will have observed the progress towards losing the W.R.A.C. element of the Regiment. At last it has happened —Sergeant Gibbs with the remaining ten girls left on 1st October, and already their absence is felt. The J.R.C. no longer echoes to the sound of music as couples gyrate their way around the "jive" room, and where, oh where, are the baby-sitters? The barracks are infinitely duller, and it only remains for us to thank all members of that Corps who served with us for their presence in the Regiment and to say "good luck."

1 Squadron

On Friday, 17th September, 1 Squadron sent a rifle and S.M.G. team to the London and Middlesex Rifle Association Meeting, held at Bisley. Last year we won the "H.M.S. President" Cup and the Regular Army Small Arms Efficiency Trophy.

This year we went off full of hope to defend them, and, if possible, return them to the cabinet at the Guard Room. This, we are sorry to say, was not to be. As a team, we came second in both events, the "President" was taken by The Queen's Royal Rifle Corps and the Efficiency Trophy was won by the 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

Individually, we had two results worth recording, W.O.II H. Haw won the Association Service Rifle Competition and Corporal G. Hughes was placed fourth out of a start number of something over 70 competitors. Both received a silver spoon.

Accommodation was provided by 2 Squadron at the Pirbright Transmitter Station, and, thanks to the cooking of Corporal Parnell, the Chinese "nosh house" was not visited during the evenings. This may be due to the fact that he used POM to thicken the stew and almost gummed up the works of most members of the team.

The man behind every shooting team is the Regimental Armourer, Sergeant Makepeace, R.E.M.E., who is never mentioned, but has given sterling service all this season. Other people can always blame jams on the weapons or the ammuni-

Continued on page 404

tion, we, unfortunately, can only blame the "duff" ammunition or ourselves. This is due to the very good service provided by Sergeant Makepiece, who has taken a great deal of trouble to see that all our weapons are kept in first-class condition.

2 Squadron

News from Droitwich is a hotch-potch of small items with no big story.

For example, we had our first hockey game at home on our newly-acquired pitch at Norton Barracks on 30th September and won 3—1 against Worcester College of Education. W.O.II Devine-Jones distinguished himself, as did W.O.II Barrett, but the stars of the game were undoubtedly three pretty student teachers (female) from the College, who played so hard that the umpire checked one for charging!

The soccer team has started the season well, also playing at home at Norton Barracks, where the facilities and atmosphere are so much better than the old public grounds leased from Droitwich Town Council.

Another sport in the news here is cycling. Corporal Forster has been selected for the Army in the Joint Services' Hill Climb at Spital Gate on 16th October. We feel this is a well-earned recognition of a man who has worthily represented the Corps and Regiment all summer.

Sailing is still very popular. We are running a regatta for the youth clubs and organisations of Worcestershire on 10th October, when we will put up all the prizes, provide meals and refreshments on repayment, rescue organisation and a sailing committee. Then, on 16th October we have a regatta in which two Officers' teams seek revenge on the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for the thrashing they receivd at cricket during the summer. The Officers' Mess seem to be able to field two strong teams, but the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess are struggling to field six sailors, and there are ugly rumours of sudden promotion for high-class sailors with only two stripes up.

On the technical front, we are getting set for the final stages of the construction of a Marconi Log P Aerial on 150ft. towers at Pirbright, to be completed in November.

At Droitwich, having completed the installation of the E10s from Nairobi, we are now busy designing a modern 'Aeradio-type' system control layout embodying the new E10 synthesiser racks, which we hope to instal in 1966.

Coming from the sublime to the more normal, everyone not actually on duty is busy painting and clearing up for our annual Administrative Inspection in early November. The motto, as usual, is 'request M.P.B.W. to carry out a works service, wait 12 months, then do it yourself!'

3 Squadron—"To err is only human"

We feel that to devote a small section of our Corps Magazine to a member of another Corps is, in this case, justifiable. The subject is the rejoining of Corporal E. J. Browne, R.E.M.E., and it speaks for itself when a man asks if he may be posted to 3 Squadron, 14th Regiment, on rejoining the Colours. We can't be such a bad little outfit if people actually want to return!



Corporal E. J. Browne, R.E.M.E.
"It's good to be back!"

The story started on 26th July, 1964, when Corporal Browne joined us to serve the last eight months of a nine-year engagement. A first-class vehicle mechanic, and an ex-apprentice, he now felt the urge to tackle "Civvie Street."

Fourteen weeks after his transfer to the Reserve, he returned to visit the friends he had left in 3 Squadron, and it was immediately obvious that here was a man who missed Service life. He had landed a good job, yes, but after tax as a single man had been deducted and food and accommodation paid for, he ended up with *less* pocket money than when he had been serving. Enough to make any man reconsider!

The sequel is that Officer-in-Charge R.E.M.E. Records honoured the wishes of Corporal Browne and he has now returned to serve a further tour with us. A most satisfactory arrangment for both!

The moral may be of interest to other young soldiers who are on the verge of giving up the security of Service life. The moral? . . . Take your pick!

15th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 69

Talents and manpower utilised to the full

XV

As always, the 'Red Cat' Regiment finds its talent and manpower utilised to the full: indeed, some might even say stretched. Life in Aden is certainly very hectic and very earnest; the Regiment providing not only the more normal communications for the whole of the Middle East Land Forces, but has a large responsibility for internal security communications as well.

Also our Line Squadron has a major civil undertaking in the Aden 'auto-tel' system, to be finished in November. With 3 Squadron on permanent detachment in Bahrein, and a Troop (544) with the 1st Coldstream Guards in Swaziland, it is sometimes difficult to spare sufficient men for the guards and internal security patrols we are asked to produce—though there is usually no shortage of volunteers for the latter.

However, there is a firmness of purpose and sense of *esprit de corps* that extends through the Regiment from the Colonel to the newest-joined members.

Kat Club gets off to a good start

On the lighter side, the newly-created Kat Klub is progressing well, thanks largely to the sterling work of Captain R. A. Macheath, whose spare time, together with that of a devoted band of helpers, is largely taken up by this project. Though not yet ready for an official opening, it was decided to have a trial run in September, which proved to be the wettest night the Regiment can have known for some time. The connection may be doubtful, but shortly afterwards there appeared over the bar a photograph of the Colonel in the form of a "Wanted" poster, with the legend, "Red Rayner," alias 'Ginger Tom,' wanted for beer rustling"!

A somewhat bent Land Rover

The Regiment recently provided a C11 detachment for 24 Infantry Brigade for an exercise in the Eastern Aden Protectorate, designed, among other things "to test men and vehicles under arduous condition of climate and terrain." Did it just! The men, Second-Lieutenant O. M. Lewis, Corporal T. Lincoln, Lance-Corporal R. C. Carr and Signalman S. J. Howard, seemed to thrive, but the ¼-ton F.F.R. they brought back will never be the same. It had lost two sand channels: ("Went down in quick-sand, sir. Put our arms in up to the shoulder, but couldn't find them, sir!") possessed one square wheel and no longer had the front prop-shaft, rear-axle differential or three of the tyres that it started out with! However, communications were steadfastly maintained and all moves made (somehow) on time. The officer-in-charge of the detachment arrived back limping noticeably; this being occasioned by his having one leg somewhat longer than the other. During the exercise, a telegram arrived at the Regiment for him from his fiancée, couched in terms of somewhat unrestrained affection, which the Adjutant, in his wisdom, had relayed to him in clear. The course taken by this message was not clear, but seemed to take a most circuitous route through most of South Arabia. It is a fine thing that so many were prepared to interest themselves in the course of True Love.

Farewell to a popular C.O.

Regretfully, the Regiment is saying goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner at the end of November. No man could have better undertaken the tricky job of integrating three independent squadrons to re-form a regiment and, in the short space of eight months, have made that regiment the pride of the Middle East Command than he. Though, when he leaves, it will indeed require a good man to fill his place, we know that we will have such in our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Polley, who will come to us from the School of Signals, Catterick. We look forward to seeing him.

16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

A Regimental Weekend was held on Saturday and Sunday, 11th/12th September, beginning with a Regimental Parade and ending with a Six-a-Side Soccer Tournament.

Farewell to Brigadier J. E. Anderson



The C.S.O. talking to Staff Sergeant Brewin about his recent detachment to U.N.F.I.C.Y.P.

The Parade fulfilled a two-fold purpose in that it was our farewell parade for C.S.O. B.A.O.R. Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., and the occasion for the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to Lieutenant (Tfc) W. R. S. Kennedy, Royal Signals, W.O.II (S.S.M.) A. E. Maskell and Staff Sergeant J. R. Gross, R.A.P.C., of this Regiment. Two other recipients were W.O.I F. R. Richardson (the Superintendent Clerk to the C.S.O.) and W.O.II Davis (Chief Clerk, Signals Division, NORTHAG).

Despite unpromising weather in the few days prior to the weekend we were fortunate that the sun shone, and as can be seen from the accompanying pictures all the effort was well worth it. We were also fortunate in obtaining the services of the Pipe Band from R.A.F. Laarbruch and although many were unused to the skirl of the pipes it was not as difficult to march to them as was anticipated.

A multitude of activities

In the afternoon the Regimental XI had a home fixture against 3 BAD and flushed with success (and a good following of spectators) won the game 12–0.

An All Ranks Dance was held in the evening and, as always, it is amazing how a gymnasium can be transformed into a "Palais de Danse" with bunting and other decorations—plus a great deal of hard work on the part of the organisers. It was perhaps a good thing that C.S.M.I. Andrews, A.P.T.C., was away on his Corps Convention because many of those "excused boots," "excused standing," etc., showed that they can Twist and Limbo with the best.

Church Services were well attended on the Sunday and in the afternoon a Six-a-Side Soccer Competition was held. Eighteen teams entered and after some very exciting games in the preliminary rounds the final was played between "The Shorts" (Comcen Operators of 1 Squadron) and "The Warriors" (Linemen of 2 Squadron) with "The Shorts" emerging the winners after a very close game.

The visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief to the Regiment in Barracks on 20th September, 1965, and in the field on 22nd September, 1965, is reported in the B.A.O.R. notes.

During the period 17th-24th September we were involved in Exercise "Barn Dance," the Corps Exercise, and showed, we hope, that we are just as capable of signalling as our counterparts at the "sharp end."

Unit cricketer is honoured

Now that the cricket season is over we wish to congratulate Signalman Rush of the Regiment on his success during the season. He played regularly for the Rheindahlen Garrison and B.A.O.R. sides and was awarded his B.A.O.R. Cap for 1965. He was also honoured by being elected by the Cologne Cricket Club as an Honorary Player. This Cricket Club is believed to be the only genuine civilian team (as opposed to civilian components of the forces) in Germany, and Signalman Rush was in fact the only player afforded this honour this year.



Brigadier J. E. Anderson inspecting 2 Squadron under command of Major F. St.C. Robinson, 16th Regiment

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

Brigadier Anderson visits

In August, most of our time was devoted to climbing, sailing, canoeing, even ski-ing (on duty of course), farming, or just having leave. During September we have been paying for our pleasures with ceaseless exercises; some in our normal role, many were in support of other people's exercises. A glorious "Indian Summer" did much to make these enjoyable.

Brigadier Anderson paid us an informal visit on the 14th, during which he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Staff Sergeant Taylor. As well as having tea with the Warrant Officers and Seniors, the C.S.O. found time to walk round and chat with the few who were not in the field.

Camouflage "too damn good"

Regular readers will know that we are rather proud of our camouflage! We were secretly delighted when the S.O.-in-C.'s helicopter pilot failed to find us on Exercise "Barn Dance." Arriving half-an-hour later, by car, the General was heard to remark: "Your camouflage is too damn good." We were pleased that both he and Brigadier Hancock had time to stay for lunch.

Still thrusting

Naturally, we are still thrusting. Returning from a recovery job, our Scammel thrust its way into an empty shop front, using its vast bulk to support the flat above. It was no easy matter to recover the brute, but for achieving this we are indebted to our friends in 7th Regiment. Alas, there were no props to support the flat and we hear that it, like the Scammel, is now B.L.R. (See page 389.)



A friendly word from the C.S.O., B.A.O.R. Brigadier Anderson accompanied by Major Finch has a chat with Staff-Sergeants Long and Ratcliffe



"Ah! made it, follow me man, Ohhh!!!" Gwiller

28th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35
Look at Life No. 4 — Autumn Double

Frantours

Many readers will recall our tales of the Franciscans, and we must now attempt to bring you up to date with our recent tours.

Franfriesian

The march of the Franciscans to Franfriesian reflects our Regimental adventure training exercise in the Friesian Islands, a high proportion of the Regiment participating. The basic theme was the trekking and mapping of Langeoog—"devils island"; Spiekeroog—1 Squadron "Trelawny's Own"; Wangerooge—2 Squadron "we've never had it so good." Before going further, let it be placed on record that at the end of a week, self-administering patrols produced maps of these islands which astonished professional surveyors. Maps of these areas are now being printed.

The move into the islands, on 7th September, was achieved by fishing boats from separate embarkation ports on the mainland. With a fair wind, two days' rations as a start, and the odd apprehensive face, all set forth.

Outboard Bound

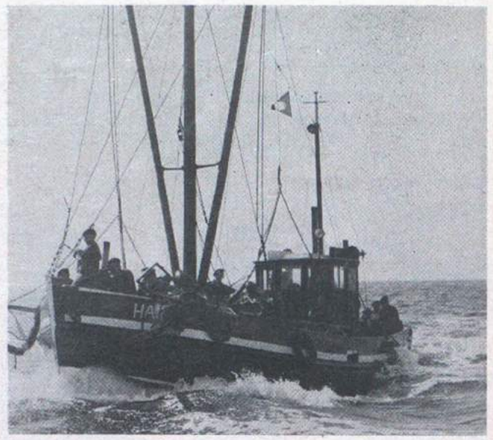
Our cartoonist has attempted to capture a minor incident at Neuharlingsiel, the 1 Squadron base port. These lucky people had two assault boats in support, and O.C. 1 Squadron, better known as "Admiral" Trelawny ventured out with one serviceable outboard motor providing the motive power for two boats ("we don't do it this way in Cornwall"). We are assured the crossing was hazardous, and the failure of the motor on the return lap led to an exhausting paddle. Disembarkation of the "Admiral" into deep mud was the end of an eventful 1 Squadron embarkation programme.

Dune is busting out . . .

Devil's Island, Langeoog, was the larger and lesser populated island, and had the Adjutant in command. It demanded a strong constitution and a route march over miles of sand dunes for refreshment at the end of the day. It was just like sitting through "Lawrence of Arabia" in the camp cinema. This was fine until the return to the mainland and H.Q. Squadron heard about 2 Squadron's holiday camp.

British take over Heligoland again

Our base camp "wallahs" also had their moments. On 9th and 10th September, two parties cruised to Heligoland by civilian packet. A Force 9 gale ensured a lively crossing—even our most experienced sailor recommended a standing position at the "blunt end" to prevent the "mal de mer." Twenty-foot waves have now become forty-footers and unused sick-bags a status symbol.



That famous seafaring Regiment, the 28th, invade the Friesian Islands

Shrimpboats is A'Coming

Sergeant Wood, Signalmen Treece, Berry and Thoms went fishing with the local shrimp boats. They enjoyed shrimp fishing at night and were a great help to the fishermen. The messes benefited, too, since the fishermen were not too selective—shrimps, plaice and eels were included in the catch, and eventually went to the kitchen.

Bogeymen are no handicap

During the one week back in the centrally-heated St. Toenis, before our autumn exercise, "Grand National," our golfers won the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Golf Competition. They beat 1 RTR on their home course at Hohne, to be the first Signal Regiment ever to hold the cup. Majors Andrews, Marsh and Murray and Lance-Corporal Key are to be congratulated. W.O.II (Q.M.S.I.) Issitt, who made a worthy contribution in the earlier rounds, must not be forgotten, since he also has the distinction of being the 1965 Army and B.A.O.R. golf champion. He has left for Malaysia, with golf on the up-and-up, and we wish him well.

Grand National 4/65

From the water jump of Franfriesian, over the Hohne ditches and on to the last fence—"Grand National." Here, a highly-modernised signal system went smoothly into action to test out the hard work of our technicians.

It was a positive demonstration of our capacity and ability to engineer and utilise circuits provided in conjunction with German, Belgium and Dutch signal support units; and to show off our high standard of international co-operation. The Signal-Officer-in-Chief, who was with us all morning on 22nd September, was able to see this for himself. General Bradley visited both "groups" of the Regiment at a brisk pace, finishing with refreshment in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and lunch in the Officers' Mess.

Arrivals.—Major R. L. Murray, Captain M. J. L. Bygrave, W.O.II (Y. of S.) French, Sergeant Cobb.

Departures.—Major P. D. Parker, Major P. Ashlin, Major Everard, Lieutenant K. G. Doyle, Staff Sergeant Cardinal, Sergeant Lavery, Sergeant Speeks (R.E.M.E.).

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30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Regimental Week

It now seems many moons ago that our optimistic Commanding Officer announced Monday, 13th September, as the starting date for our Regimental Week. The two main attractions of the week were a cricket match against our friends from H.M.S. *Hermes*, supported by a Regimental fête and the Inter-Squadron Athletics Meeting.

The social side included an all ranks' dance, Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dance and the Officers' Mess Annual Cocktail Parties.

Cricket match and Regimental Fête, Wednesday, 15th September

On a typical English summer's day with the rain seeping through out raincoats we turned out to watch the cricket match at which the Regiment defeated H.M.S. *Hermes* by six wickets.

At the same time "all the fun of the fair" was available at the Regimental Fête for those who found it wise to keep moving. The rain was a considerable disappointment to those who had worked so hard to provide a fine variety of games of skill or chance, together with pony and train rides for the children. Particular mention should be made of our civilian staff who endured the rain at their well stocked produce and "white elephant" stall.

Despite the weather we took a total of nearly £70 which has been divided between S.S.A.F.A. and the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

Inter-Squadron Athletics Match, Thursday, 16th September

After the dismal weather for the cricket match the rain passed away by lunch time on the day of the athletics and we were blessed with the warmest sunny day for weeks. Everyone was of course delighted but some mutterings of "the sun shines on the wicked" we assume were directed at the organiser!

The meeting was a great success and enjoyed by the spectators and competitors alike. The outcome of the meeting was a win for the second year by 640 Troop, being chased home by "Rusty" Davis's highly trained athletes from 1 Squadron.

The other main awards were a win in the tug-of-war for 4 Squadron, beating 640 Troop easily in the final, and the athlete of the day was Lance-Corporal Marshall of 640 Troop who carried off the Victor Ludorum after winning the 100 yards, 220 yards, second place in the long jump and anchor leg of the 4 × 110 yard relay.



Lance Corporal Marshall of 640 Troop, Victor Ludorum, winning the 100 yards at the Regimental Athletics Meeting

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H.Q. ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG B.F.P.O. 1

Visit of the S.O.-in-C.

We were greatly honoured by a visit from Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., D.S.O., from the 6th to 10th July, Hong Kong being the first port of call of his initial tour of the Far East since taking up his appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief.

"Melting the Starch"

We have had many inspections before, but few visiting officers have succeeded so quickly in "melting the starch" and generating such a warm personal response from soldiers as our new S.O.-in-C. He spoke to everyone he met, and in a very quick tour of Hong Kong, he saw all there was to see in the Squadrons, being impressed by the very wide variety of Signals activity carried out in the Colony, and by the cheerfulness of all the units. Whilst in the New Territories, he also took the opportunity of meeting the Signal Troops of 49th Light Regiment, R.A., and the 1st King's Own Scottish Borderers.

In order that the S.O.-in-C. should see as much of Hong Kong Colony as possible during his all-too-brief visit, arrangements were made for him to take a flight in a "Two Star" Auster of 20 Flight A.A.C. We apologise for the fact that it could only be the "Fifteen Shilling Trip," but time did not permit a more expensive one!

Joint Service co-operation thrives

Joint Service co-operation in the communications field is a feature of Hong Kong, and complete integration is never "out of the sights" of all three Services. The very real desire to achieve the greatest degree of co-operation and joint Service working was quickly in evidence during the visits arranged to the R.N. and R.A.F. communications installations. These visits were a great success and the very real interest the S.O.-in-C. took in all he saw was shown, and his zest and enthusiasm created a tremendous impact and has been a talking point ever since. Not very often do other Services, or even our own for that matter, ask when will the S.O.-in-C. be coming to see us again.

A variety of guards

The visits to the Squadrons all commenced with an inspection of a quarter guard, and here again we can offer some variety, in that 252 Squadron produced a British guard; 253 Squadron one of Hong Kong soldiers; and 246 (Gurkha) Squadron one of Gurkha Signals. In all cases, the guard was highly praised by the S.O.-in-C. for their turn-out and presentation. In particular, S.S.M. Chu Fook Hung and Sergeant Chow Kam Pui, of 253 Squadron deservedly received high commendation.

Cheerful informality

In discussions with Squadron Commanders and talks, formal and informal, with soldiers he met on his rounds, it was seen that the General's zest for living, or his choice of adjectives to describe a situation had not in any way deteriorated with advancing years or increased responsibilties. The laughter emerging from behind closed doors during the briefings by the Squadron Commanders can have done nothing to convince the rest of the Squadron that serious matters were, in fact, being discussed. No account of a visit by General Bradley is complete without reference to his pipe! It was "Old King Cole" who supposedly called for his pipe and his bowl. The General didn't have to call for his pipe, he was smoking most of the time . . . and for bowl, read camera. This was also in constant use throughout the visit, and we fully confident that his photograph from the top of Signal Hill, Whitfield Barracks, will be a masterpiece, if the jockeying for position to get the viewpoint to a nicety is anything to judge by.

Departure

Socially, the General was also kept very busy. At informal luncheon parties he met officers' wives, and at C.R. Signal's cocktail party, a representative gathering of officers and their wives from all Services and Formation H.Q. in the Colony, and from civilian communication agencies (G.P.O., Cable and Wireless and Hong Kong Telephone Company), with which



S.O.-in-C. talking to members of 252 Squadron Quarter Guard.
Left to Right: Major J. W. Ingledow, Lieutenant Colonel E. J. Winn, Major General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., Corporal Ditchburn, Signalman O'Connor, Signalman Silsby, Lance Corporal Crane, Lance Corporal Hall

we work so closely. The General soon had all these gatherings reduced to extreme informality and a good time was had by all—so much so that time passed all too quickly.

Too soon the time of departure arrived. From Hong Kong the we think he left with the impression of Signal Squadrons with widespread responsibilities; many contacts in all walks of communications, and a great variety of tasks. He left us with the picture of a human being, blessed with a lot of laughter, pithy comment, and an easy manner in response to which the reticent blossomed and the dour smiled. We felt he was leaving us far too soon.

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT, BORNEO

Making the most of Service life

Although on active service, and consequently very busy, members of this unit have managed to devote a considerable amount of time and effort towards organising and participating in the many social and pleasure facilities that can be found in far-away Borneo. Good luck to them in their enterprise.

Water Ski-ing

Lance-Corporal M. N. S. Crow writes:

"About five months ago the unit purchased a speed boat and acquired an engine, since when we have enjoyed countless hours of trouble-free ski-ing. This is thanks mainly to the engine placed at our disposal by the Royal Engineers in Brunei and the considerable efforts of our own Unit R.E.M.E. detachment.

When the club first started, Captain (Mechanic) Last spent all his week-ends teaching us beginners; we were sorry to see him go, but his place has been taken by Captain Austin, who is well on the way to becoming an expert.

During the rough weather it is left to the stalwarts of the club, who include myself, Corporal Tell Morris, Lance-Corporals Mick Fish and Al Ewing, to see that it keeps going. It's just great to ski during a monsoon season shower, but you could do with a pair of goggles while trying to drive the boat.

As of yet we haven't had any serious accidents, except colliding with the odd log or two.

Recently the unit purchased a new pair of skis which lasted one afternoon—it's rough on active service! Thank goodness the replacement pair are standing up to us far better and are now well on their way to earning their Borneo Clasp. I must mention also that we have a fair proportion of "figures" as members, but it's not true they take to water like fish—well not so elegantly, anyway.



Corporals Blake and Cairns with Signalman Rogers and friend Tara Singh enjoy the primitive life

Besides Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, we ski all day on Sunday, and it's usually late when we pack up. The long hours have caught many new members unawares, with the inevitable result, a few days suffering painful sunburn.

Seriously though, it's great fun, and if you want to change postings, you know the address."

The Carousel Club

This was featured in previous WIRE notes, but deserves further mention, as it is there that deals are made and promises of equipment extracted from innocent guests who have really only come for a quiet "Tiger" beer.

Suffice to say that our club, constructed by Corporal Cairns and many helpers, and run by a committee of junior N.C.O.s from the unit, it is the financial backbone of all the many projects that are in hand at the moment.

Unit 'Basha' on Da-at

Da-at (pronounced Dahaat) a small island four miles off Labuan, is now on the map. A party comprising Corporal Cairns, Corporal Blake and Signalman Rogers have constructed, during their rest and recuperation leave, a basha (temporary hut) for use by members of the unit.

The party established a base camp at Da-at and then completed a quick recce before work commenced.

The site finally chosen is in a coconut grove not 20 yards from a superb beach. The work progressed quickly under the technical direction of Corporal Cairns, and with the "forced" labour of Corporal Blake and Signalman Rogers, the piles for the foundations were completed ahead of time. Meanwhile, arrangements were being made to transport the prefabricated sides of the basha out to the island by R.E. tug, this resulted in a short delay, so the party downed tools and explored the island.

The total population of Da-at is three, two locals and an Indian Headman; all three work in the coconut plantation. They proved extremely helpful and full of useful information concerning the 25ft. pythons which apparently thrive in that area.

During this respite from work the party spent an evening crab fishing. The idea is to wade slowly through shallow water (2ft. deep) a spear in one hand and a high pressure lamp in the other, and, with the reactions of a test pilot and the luck of the devil, you usually catch a couple. In fact the party had the luck of the devil and speared 12; these were boiled and eaten in quick time. Unfortunately, like one of the ten little nigger boys, one member overindulged and was very ill the next morning.

Eventually the R.E. tug was repaired and despatched with the remainder of the basha. This high-powered group was led by S.S.M. Gibbs, with Major Hild (O.C.), Major Napier (R.E.) and Corporal Laird as labourers.

The tug and its attendant 'chiefs,' having unloaded and left Da-at, work began in earnest and the basha was completed in six days—a fine effort by so small a party.

The result—an idyllic holiday home, large enough to sleep four in comfort, and equipped with a large verandah.

Since the construction of the basha, the Unit has purchased a 20ft. boat and outboard engine. This is available for hire and is proving very popular with parties using the basha.

205 SQUADRON, BORNEO

By the time these notes are published we will have settled down in our new location. Indeed, if we haven't there will be the most awful chaos going on!

Our departure was preceded by the usual visits from senior officers and for these Sergeant Baldwin displayed his prowess at unarmed combat and much credit is due to Signalman Dean who volunteered to be "the fall-guy."

The officers are learning Malay and the O.C.'s fluency is directly related to the subalterns who sit on either side of him.

The whole month has been dominated by night firing, swimming in denims, kit checks, inoculations, lectures on this and that, rounded off by P.T. It is rumoured that the special classes for the over-35s are more strenuous than the others. It certainly seems that way when one sees them tottering out of the gymnasium.

Staff Sergeant Stapleton, our new O.R.S.Q.M.S., has maintained the Squadron's link with the tradesmen's entrance of the Ministry of Defence. Someone keeps walking on our ear! We hope that Sergeant Rose enjoys his new appointment in 237 Squadron and that Mrs. Rose made the most of the seven evenings he had at home during their embarkation leave.

We welcome Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Raku who has joined us from the School of Signals and Sergeant Griffiths, Sergeant Halliwell and Sergeant McCarthy who have also just arrived.

Sergeant Thomas has left us this month and is shortly to take up an appointment in the W.D. Constabulary. We wish him the very best of luck and look forward to seeing him around when we return—off duty of course. Sad too is the departure of Sergeant Back for the flesh pots of Oslo; it is only to be hoped that they need a good hockey goalkeeper.

208 (COMMONWEALTH) SQUADRON
c/o G.P.O. MALACCA, MALAYSIA

Sporting achievements

We would have liked the reader to have obtained the impression over the last few months that our silence in THE WIRE was due to preoccupation with exercises and hard work, but here we are about to tell you of our sporting achievements of late.

For the first time in the Squadron's history our cricket team won the Malaya Area Cricket Knock Out Competition, the cup being presented by Lieutenant-Colonel C. Adwick. The Malaya Area Athletics Cup was dashed from our lips by 2 Infantry Workshops who beat us by only one point. Craftsman Phillips (one of ours) put up, by sheer courage, one of the most astonishing performances of the meeting in the 4 × 880 relay, but alas we lost the race. In the individual events Corporal Toppin won the high jump at 5 ft. 8 in. beating all comers from major units. Our swimming team has been doing early morning training at the pool of late and our hopes are high as we defend, at the beginning of September, the Brigade Swimming Shield, which we won last year.

Much coming and going

It's difficult to know who started all the changeovers and coming and going in the Squadron, but there's no doubt that there's been quite an upheaval in the last couple of months. Captain Reg Elder has returned down under whilst Captain John Greatrix has gone the other way, in other words to Catterick. Replacing these two departed officers are Lieutenant P. Brunton, up from Singapore and Lieutenant M. A. Cornforth from R.M.C.S. Shivenham. We have a new Yeoman, too—W.O.II Heasman. Within the Squadron tracks have been worn across the compound by Lieutenant D. J. Slade, who has taken over the helm of "J" Troop; by Sergeant Lewer, who has moved to "A" Troop and Sergeant Stewart, who is now "J" Troop Sergeant. Our computer is trying to decide on a permutation of personnel that we haven't tried.

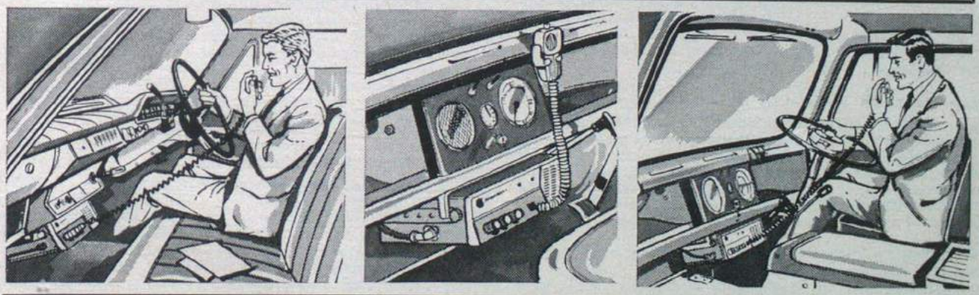
We offer our congratulations to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. B. Oram on the birth of their son Garry at B.M.H. Terendak and our best wishes to Signalman Tichborne of the Royal Australian Signals who married Miss Karen Kellow on the 8th July, 1965.

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212 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 36

The following notes should be of particular interest, describing, as they do, events from the Signalman's point of view of an exercise inside the Arctic Circle.

We have been very fortunate that not only this Squadron, but the whole Brigade, has just returned from Norway. The actual exercise was from 16th to 23rd September, but our vehicles left Germany at the beginning month and now (1st October) are just beginning to return.

All the vehicles travelled in two chartered M.T. ships and all men by civil aircraft. Arguments still go on as to the relative merits of the aircraft, food (and hostesses) provided by the three firms supplying the aircraft. As I write, the unfortunate O.C. "A" Troop, who was the Squadron Emplaning Officer, and therefore last out, is still sitting at Bardufoss Airport due to a snowstorm.

The exercise took place in a wild piece of country about 200 miles inside the Arctic Circle. This led to one military expression being demonstrated very forcibly: "The Brigade was held up by one enemy tank . . ." and also the true meaning of a "single road axis" was seen when one vehicle accident could, and did, block all road movement for the Brigade.

This article continues with notes by various sections of the Squadron, giving their outstanding memories of the exercise. They are necessarily short. There is much we could say, but we hope they convey the spirit—which was terrific.

"A" Troop

Radio communications within the Arctic wastes of the far north present no mean problem. In a country of high peaks and deep valleys, VHF working appears to be virtually impossible. However, with careful siting of rebroadcast stations, "Alfa" Troop gave good account of itself. At one stage, the vehicle-borne rebroadcast station was right up in the front line and was sited on what turned out to be an enemy helicopter DZ, with the result that both crew and vehicle were captured. It had been planned to place a helicopter-borne RRB on a 3,000ft. peak for virtually the whole exercise, but bad weather prevented the deployment of this detachment until two days before the end of the battle.

Fun abounded at Main H.Q., which was subjected to three attacks during the exercise. The first by an enemy penetration patrol resulted in a smoke grenade being released in the Saracen pent-house, which produced much coughing and spluttering from staff and operators alike. The second, an attack by a Company of enemy, was beaten off by a nearby Infantry Unit. The third was a heavy air strike, which caused us to be umpired out for a couple of hours.

On the whole, the exercise was an undoubted success, and great experience for all concerned.

Rear Brigade H.Q.

The battle reached us at Rear H.Q. on Monday, 20th, September, with a dawn report that the enemy was all round. Their troop-carrying helicopter activity was rather light for the first hour, but then steadily increased. We stood-to and sent a recce patrol out of two signalmen under Corporal Davidson. The patrol returned at 07.30 hours with the grid reference of two helicopter pick-up points and one dropping-zone.

Thursday, 23rd September, saw us occupying a position on the coast. Defence H.Q. was situated on the shore with the cookhouse close by. At 02.30 hours an enemy seaborne force of three M.T.B.s and one L.C.T. approached our sector and bombarded the coast with multi-coloured very lights. The alarm was raised and rear stood-to. The cooks being nearest to defence H.Q. were first out and engaged the enemy with small arms fire. The cooks, at breakfast, made sure that everyone knew that they had engaged the enemy and beaten them off! A hungry and tired lineman, looking rather sceptically at the contents of his mess tin said: "How the hell did you manage that? . . . Show them this —— breakfast!!!!"

"J" Troop

Exercise "Bar Frost 65," or a funny thing happened on my way to the Foreman

There was indeed great gnashing of teeth by the Sigcen DSO, for as fast as he could originate a particular message for a certain infantry unit, a certain DR was just as quickly destroying them either by fire or fiord water to save them from the hands of dreadful adversaries. Three times his efforts to reach the Battalion failed, but, using his fourth vehicle, the DSO's fourth lot of envelopes and best wishes, and a "tiger in his tank," the signal eventually filtered through . . . but by then, of course, damn it! . . . the Norwegians knew about Signal Frog going on his ACE 3rd Class.

One must not finish without mention of our linemen, who once again, against adverse conditions, did a wonderful job.

The rain, the scenery, the recherché compo, the Norwegian Brigade, the smell of uncured reindeer skins—these, and a hundred other happenings were suffered and thoroughly enjoyed by "J" Troop on Exercise "Bar Frost 65."

Final Note

One memory we all have.—We did not see much of the Norwegian Army, as they were the "enemy," but without exception, their friendliness and help before and after the exercise were most marked and much appreciated.

259 SQUADRON (COMCAN)

Wind of change

During the past few months the wind of change has swept through the Squadron. Major B. C. Complin has taken over from Major B. H. Parsonage; Captain N. A. Walter from Captain J. M. Newman as Chief Systems Engineer; Captain P. A. Scott, W.R.A.C., from Captain M. M. Tweed, W.R.A.C., and Captain S. W. P. Cox as Administration Officer. We extend a special welcome to Captain Cox, as he has only recently joined the Corps. We have also been joined by Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Carr, Staff Sergeant Wymbs, Sergeants Bell, Byrne and Law. We hope they enjoy their tour with COMCAN, Cyprus.

On the debit side, we have lost W.O.II (F. of S.) P. J. Swaby, who has returned to Installation Troop, 14th Regiment; Staff Sergeant Hayward to 43rd (Wessex) Regiment (T.A.); Sergeant Rhdoes to 30th Regiment; Sergeant Whiteside to 237 Squadron (COMCAN) and Sergeant Radford to Mons O.C.S., having passed R.C.B. in July. We all wish Sergeant Radford every success.

"Slot Car" Racing

The Squadron are indebted to W.O.II Swaby for his great help in founding, together with W.O.II Butler, our "Slot Car Racing Club." This meets every Monday evening, when the smell of hot oil and burning rubber exudes from the car club room as Volkswagen, B.R.M. and Porsche race on a course that demands great skill. Someone has started a rumour that Corporal Schneider is presenting a trophy—this is not true, he is too busy converting the Orderly Room into an obstacle course to deter visitors to the O.C.

Visit from C.S.O., COMCAN

A recent highlight has been a visit from C.S.O., COMCAN, Colonel J. R. West, in connection with future planning. During his stay we were visited by the A.C.D.S. (Signals) Rear-Admiral E. B. Ashmore, D.S.C., R.N. The programme included a visit to the Transmitter Site (N.C.O.-in-Charge, Staff Sergeant Orr) the Receiver Site (Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Chorlton) and the Traffic Hall (C.D.S.O., Mr. Peberdy). Prior to visiting the T.R.C., Rear-Admiral Ashmore inspected a quarter guard commanded by Staff Sergeant Brown.

Sport

As part of the C.S.O. Cyprus Championship Squadron Competition sports programme, our swimming team, under the guidance of Sergeant Woodford, was literally beaten to the touch in coming second to 1 Squadron, 9th Regiment, and second again to R.C.T., Cyprus, in the Army Minor Units Championships. Our tennis team, consisting of Corporal Lindebringhs, Corporal Harper, Lance-Corporal Sweeney and Mr. Stewart were beaten in the C.S.O.'s Cup semi-final by 1 Squadron, 9th Regiment. We congratulate 3 Squadron, 9th Regiment on becoming this year's Championship Squadron, and say "well done" to our teams in gaining us second place.



A smart Quarter Guard greets Rear Admiral E. B. Ashmore, D.S.C. as he arrives at 259 Squadron. Staff-Sergeant Brown in command

Work

During the past few months we have been engaged in running Military Proficiency and Trade Training courses. Staff Sergeants Brown and Hayward have been responsible for M.P.C. II and III courses; W.O.II (Y of S.) Brown a Comcen operator BIII trainee course, and Lieutenant (Q.M.) Wilford a Driver, Royal Signals, trainee course. (Our vehicle insignia still strikes terror in the hearts of the local population).

During a respite in training, our S.S.M. (W.O.II V. De Clancy) went on leave to Mount Olympus—which only goes to show that, in the end, Mahommet had to go to the mountain.

W.R.A.C.

Part of the Squadron complement consists of 19 W.R.A.C. Besides doing sterling work in the traffic hall, they have made a fair contribution to the Squadron sporting achievements. Against the W.R.A.F., in the Episkopi Station Sports, Corporal Caldwell took first place in the 100 and 220 yards and the shot, and has now gained her athletics colours. Lance-Corporal Cassie and Private Pears have gained their swimming colours, Private Pears putting up a particularly fine show at the Inter-Services Swimming Championships.

We also have a prominent cyclist—Signalman Parker, last season, won no less than 12 medals in various events. He has started this season by winning the 25 miles trial for the Curium Wheelers, which is the station cycling club.

Wives' Club

An important part of the Squadron is the Wives' Club. A very capable committee has organised a series of very successful and enjoyable functions. These have included a cheese and wine party, pub night, kebab night, beach supper and various trips. Future plans include a fête to raise funds for the children's party and a wives' dining-out night down town. The Squadron very much appreciate these excellent functions, which add greatly to the social amenities.

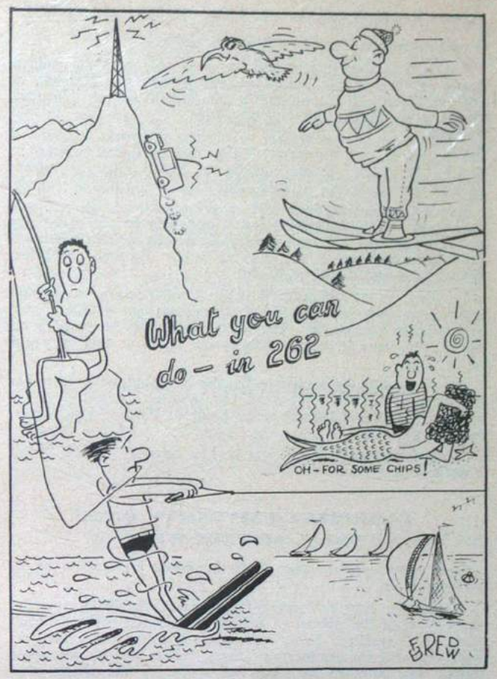
262 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 53

Our cartoon is no doubt self-explanatory for those who have served in Cyprus. For the tradesmen in training and others who have yet to come, who may wish to know what lies in store, here are a few more details.

Wide variety of interests in Cyprus

In the top left corner, a vehicle is struggling up to the Radio Relay Detachment on Mount Olympus. This can really be a struggle during winter when snow prevails. A fairly recent article on the life of the detachment, which has been published in THE WIRE and The Soldier gave ample photographic proof of conditions here.

It follows logically, as well as in a clockwise direction, that ski-ing is possible. Not only possible, but well catered for! Broken limbs have been plastered in B.M.H., Dhekelia, very



expeditiously. Our character in the picture, by the way, is heading for disaster—his stance is all wrong!

Down to summer and roasting temperatures. It is often a painful experience for the unwary who find the morning sunshine more fierce than they imagined. To those who enjoy sunshine and sea bathing, there are no less than six very pleasant months when they can dip without a single goose-pimple. Indeed, all-year-round swimming is possible for the more hardy.

Sailing is popular and well supported. It is understood that once tasted, the call of canvas with a fair wind can ever more be irresistible.

Water ski-ing is possible, though perhaps less prominent a pastime. The water is not always ideal in the base areas, but if you move further afield there is no problem.

Fishing is inevitable, and to the keen fisherman who is prepared to search, it provides excellent sport.

These are but five pastimes, which bring us back to Olympus and, of course, the reminder that we don't play all the time. In the next cartoon we hope to include yet a few more reasons why we in 262 don't mind being in Cyprus.

C.S.O.'s Champion Squadron Swimming Meeting

Tuesday, 10th August, saw fair weather (as usual) for the Champion Squadron Swimming Event. Facts and figures will not be quoted, but it does seem that even amongst Service swimmers records are being broken. It would be inexcusable in Cyprus if previous standards were not at least equalled, since swimming is the daily pastime for all.

Competition between the six contesting Squadrons was keen and most events on the programme had spectators shouting encouragement to their own swimmers.

1 Squadron, 9th Regiment, emerged the eventual and worthy winners, with our own team coming in a breathless third.

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LANCE-CORPORAL DAVID JOHN RANDALL

A correspondent in 261 Squadron writes:

"It is with deep regret that we have to report the sudden death, in Cyprus, of Lance-Corporal David John Randall, of 261 Squadron (Air Formation) at the British Military Hospital, Dhekelia on Friday, 1st October, 1965.

"Taffy," as he was known to his many friends, had joined the Squadron in November, 1964, and was first posted to R.A.F., El Adem, before moving to R.A.F., Nicosia, where he was serving in the Airfield Troop at the time of his death.

Lance-Corporal Randall had a great zest for life, as was borne out by the enthusiastic way in which he set about any task he was set, and the speed with which he had become a prominent member of the Station Rugby Football, Athletics, Water Polo and Go-Kart Clubs.

In short, to meet Lance-Corporal Randall was a stimulating experience, and one felt that he was someone who intended to get on in this world. It is thus particularly tragic that his life should have been so abruptly cut short at the early age of 19 years.

All of us who knew him will miss him, but will remember the example he set. We send our heartfelt sympathy to his parents, family and friends at his home in Porth, South Wales, in their great loss.

Lance-Corporal Randall was a life member of the Royal Signals Association."

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY O.T.S. ROYAL SIGNALS WING

It is regretted that space does not admit publication of the article sent in.

During the Easter Vacation members of the Wing attended the Course at the School of Signals and visited the 14th Regiment at Gloucester. Later Communications and P.A. facilities were provided for the bumping races. There was no unit camp during the summer vacation but many of the Wing were attached to a variety of Signal Units both U.K. and overseas.

SALISBURY BRANCH

Mr. E. G. Hand

A correspondent writes:—

It is with profound regret that Salisbury Branch record the sudden passing of ex-Sergeant ("Ernie") Hand on 10th September. Mr. Hand served in World War I in France, first as a regimental signaller with the Wilts T.A. and afterwards with R.E. Signals.

After demobilisation he was one of those who assisted in the formation of the Salisbury Branch of the Association—probably the oldest branch in the country—and he had remained an active and stalwart member ever since.

Shunning publicity and never seeking personal popularity he was always to be found wherever an opportunity arose when he could help any member of the Association or the Corps.

He was granted Life Membership of the Association in 1956.

CROYDON DISTRICT BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting on 13th October was well attended. As well as discussion of matters usual on such occasions the Branch decided to present a Trophy to the 1st Cadet Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. This to be named the Huneyball Trophy, to commemorate the outstanding services given to the Branch by Captain D. T. Huneyball for so long Chairman, now President, continuing the 'provider.' The Branch also expressed gratitude to the Officer Commanding the Battalion for their hospitality and voted a small token gift.

Plans were made for Branch Representatives to attend at the opening of the Field of Remembrance on 11th November at the Cenotaph on 14th November and Remembrance Sunday Parade at Croydon and the evening service of the Salvation Army. The Norbury Hotel was again voted as the place for the Annual Dinner on 5th February, 1966.

The following officers and Committee were elected: President, Captain D. T. Huneyball; Chairman, Mr. L. Rebbeck; Vice-Chairman, Mr. P. Terrant; Hon. Secretary, Captain J. R. Way; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. P. Ashton; Committee: Major L. S. J. Chalke and Mr. F. J. Cagby.

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Army Apprentices' School	7	7	6
30th Regiment	15	0	0
H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals	2	11	0
326 Squadron (T.A.)	5	5	0
4th Regiment	40	10	0
229 Squadron	8	10	6
36 Hy. A.D. Regiment, R.A.	1	6	10
9th Regiment	2	1	0
Fed. Reg. Army Signal Squadron, M.E.L.F.	3	0	0
Et Gloria Lodge, R.A.O.B.	5	0	0
Various individual donations	7	3	10
Total Receipts	£125	12	0
Expenditure during September, 1965: (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£598	3	11

In the August/September WIRE in the list of subscriptions received from Units, 13th and 16th Regiments were inadvertently shown as T.A.

Four Corps Players in Army Football XI

In a recent match in which the Army drew 1—1 against an F.A. Amateur XI, it is worthy of note that the Corps found no less than four of the Army team. These players were Lance-Corporal C. A. Sutherland, Lance-Corporal A. Forrester, Signalman A. Gordon and Signalman B. Hannah.

One newspaper report describes Forrester as one of the best players on the field.

The congratulations of all will go to the four Corps representatives who have thus distinguished themselves.

Corps Cricket 1965

Review of a Highly Successful Season

A highly successful season was concluded at Tidworth, when a weak R.A.C. side was beaten by an innings and 38 runs, on 1st and 2nd September. The Corps went through the season undefeated in inter-Corps matches, and the final record of four wins and two weather-terminated draws auguers well for the future. To the Corps fell the distinction of being the only Service side to outgun the Royal Marines, who included three current Navy caps. The season's highlights were undoubtedly the bowling of Signalman M. Kilvington (8th Regiment) and Signalman F. Worrell (2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment), the award of Army Cricket Caps to Major de Clive-Lowe and Lance-Corporal Mayes and Kilvington's two appearances for the Army XI. Not since the days of Padgett, Barker, Marner and Mortimer has the Corps been so well represented in Service cricket. The pace of Kilvington and the off-spin of Worrell invariably paved the way for victory, despite inconsistencies in the middle order batting: Crichlow, of 2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment (an Army cap of 1964) should, with his abundance of talent, find his true form on return to U.K., as should Butler, also of 2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment. Mayes and de Clive-Lowe were the two leading batsmen; the latter scoring the season's only century against the R.E. Worrell provided the season's only hat-trick, in the Royal Marine's second innings, having previously taken three wickets in his first over in the first innings; his match analysis of 13 wickets for 118 runs in this match was the outstanding individual performance of the season. Second-Lieutenant S. A. Coltman, of 8th Regiment, showed promise in his first season for the Corps, his 53, against R.M.A., being his best performance. One century was scored against the Corps, by Major F. Fenner, for the R.A.S.C. It might appear to the reader, from the foregoing, that the Corps have an abundance of Corps standard cricketers; the season, however, would not have been so successful without the help of the Commanding Officer of 2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment in releasing some of his players to represent the Corps; his efforts are fully appreciated.

Results of the match Royal Signals versus R.A.C., at Tidworth, on 1st and 2nd September:

R.A.C. 97 for 6 declared (Kilvington 4 for 29) and 100 (Kilvington 5 for 24).

Royal Signals 235 (Coltman 56, Captain J. D. Potts 37, Mayes 36).

Royal Signals won by an innings and 38 runs.

Corps Hockey

Representative team does well to hold Thistles

The season was off to a good start on 24th and 25th of September. As customary, the trials took place on Friday, followed by the opening match against the Thistles the next day.

Twenty-three players presented themselves for a trial which was only a proportion of the forty who had been nominated and invited.

Nevertheless, four interesting periods of fifteen minutes were played. Changes of shirts and positions were abundant. The "selected" forward line gave cause for some concern, as their mid-play looked good but they were goal-shy in the extreme.

The final selection ensued, and the team to represent the Corps against the Thistles was chosen. The team was: Sergeant Webber (School of Signals); Corporal Coldwell (30th Regiment) and Major Hartnett (H.Q. Training Brigade) (captain); Staff Sergeant Brewer (School of Signals), Sergeant Scott (A.A.S. Harrogate) and Major Tripp (11th Regiment); Sergeant Hyde (8th Regiment), Corporal Banham (24th Regiment), Sergeant Foster (8th Regiment), Lieutenant McLuckie (School of Signals) and Sergeant Bayliss (School of Signals).

The central ground was in good condition for the match, which started at a cracking pace. The forwards, transformed from their trial display, moved the ball quickly and effectively and were duly rewarded after ten minutes' play, when McLuckie flicked a neat goal past Thistles' advancing 'keeper.

For a short time the defence did well to keep their eager opponents at bay, and a hard battle ensued, Tripp once clearing off the line. Shortly before half-time the Scots left wing tested the roof of the net to equalise. At the change-over one-all was a fair reflection.

The second half was on similar pattern, with the tempo even higher. Hyde had some good runs on the right, but the next goal was to come from Forster, who took advantage of a good reverse pass from McLuckie. It wasn't long, however, before the Thistles got the better of a goalmouth melée and it was two-all.

Steadiness in defence, with Coldwell shining, kept out desperate efforts from the Scotsmen to score.

The team did well to hold the Thistles to a deserved draw. The Corps record against this team is won nil, drawn four, lost eleven.

CORPS SPORTS RESULTS

Association Football

Royal Signals 5, Sheffield University 3, on 6th October. Scorers for the Corps: Signalman Hannah (2), Signalman Gordon, Lance-Corporal Clark (24th Regiment), Lance-Corporal Harvey (School of Signals).

Hockey

Royal Signals 2, Thistles (Scottish Touring side) 2. Played 25th September.

Golf

Royal Signals 5½, Ironsides 3½.
Royal Signals 6, R.A.M.C. 6.



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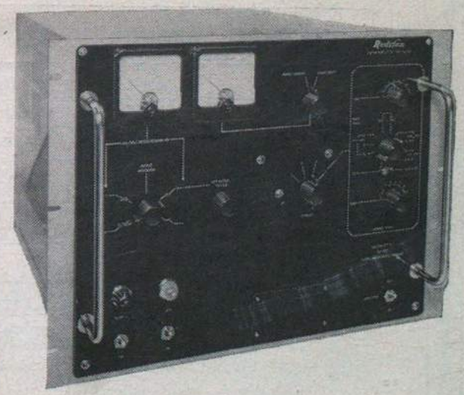
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

DECEMBER/JANUARY, 1965/6

Vol. 19 *(New Series)*

Christmas 1965

The Master of Signals sends his best wishes to all ranks of the Corps for Christmas and the New Year.

Editorial

This will be the last edition of THE WIRE for 1965, and, indeed, it will be 1966 by the time many receive their copy. We thank all who have supported THE WIRE during 1965. Unit correspondents—those sorely tried individuals—have done their best to furnish us with notes that are out of the rut—although that famous topic "the unit administrative inspection" still contrives to intrude its head shyly into our columns from time to time.

Very welcome has been the increasing number of stories of officers and soldiers getting "out and about" and doing interesting and exciting things. We are impressed by all the budding authors that appear to be in the Corps. We would make a special plea for as many photographs as possible (large and clear) to back up these stories so that they really live. Our special good wishes go to the small units of the Corps—those detached with other arms or in remote places—for it is in their ranks that we find the Corps spirit particularly manifest. Their encouraging letters and WIRE notes have given us much pleasure.

We must, of course, thank our printers, Messrs. F. J. Parsons Ltd. They have served us faithfully for many years. Their patience with all the problems we have set them, and the personal interest they take in THE WIRE is quite remarkable.

Finally, our sincere good wishes for Christmas and 1966 go to all our readers, including the many who borrow the other chap's WIRE or read the Mess copy. Perhaps in the prevailing spirit of seasonal goodwill they would like to complete one or other of the proformae overleaf.

Commander-in-Chief's Commendation



CORPORAL D. M. Pentland, whilst on detachment from 640 Troop to 213 Squadron, has been awarded a certificate of commendation by the C.-in-C. Middle East "for services beyond the normal call of duty during the Radfan operations last year."

The award was made by Major-General P. H. Man, G.O.C. Aldershot District, at a special parade on 22nd October at 30th Regiment.

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Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Medal

The Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., has written, as under, to two non-commissioned officers of Gurkha Signals, Lance-Corporal G. A. Abel, Royal Signals, 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron and Corporal Premsing Thapa, c/o Headquarters, Gurkha Signals, c/o G.P.O., Seremban, Malaysia.

In his letter, General Bradley says:

"I am writing to congratulate you on the award of the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Medal.

It reflects great credit upon yourself and upon the Corps that you have gained recognition of your services by his Highness The Sultan of Brunei."

Ex-Boys Reunion — 1965

A gathering of nearly 200 attended the very successful R.E. (Signals) and Royal Signals ex-Boys' reunion buffet supper, held at the drill hall of the 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A., on the 9th October. Principal guests were Major-General A. M. W. Whistler and the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

Colonel 'Jack' Piddington, aided by his very efficient committee, organised a memorable evening, and there can be little doubt that the new concept of a buffet supper (as opposed to a formal dinner) is very popular and should go from strength to strength.

All the ex-Boys should make a note now to attend, if at all possible, this very excellent gathering next year. Watch for a notice in THE WIRE in due course.

Obituaries

Just after THE WIRE had gone to press we were much saddened to hear of the sudden deaths of two senior retired officers of the Corps—Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. and Major-General F. J. Swainson, C.B., O.B.E.

Major-General W. A. Dimoline, who died at the age of 68, was one of the most distinguishd officers to serve in the Corps. He saw service in France, Iraq, North-West Frontier, Abyssinia and Madagascar, where he commanded 22nd (E.A.) Infantry Brigade, and in Burma, where he was G.O.C. 11th (E.A.) Division.

After the war he was G.O.C. in East Africa and later G.O.C. Aldershot District. He retired in 1953 when he became Secretary to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. He was Chairman of the Training Committee of the Army Cadet Force and Secretary of the Overseas Organisation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. A person of marked tact, organising ability and understanding, he achieved high success, not only during his Service life but also in the important and unique appointments he held after leaving the Army. He will be much missed in a very wide circle of friends. Our deep sympathy goes to his wife and family.

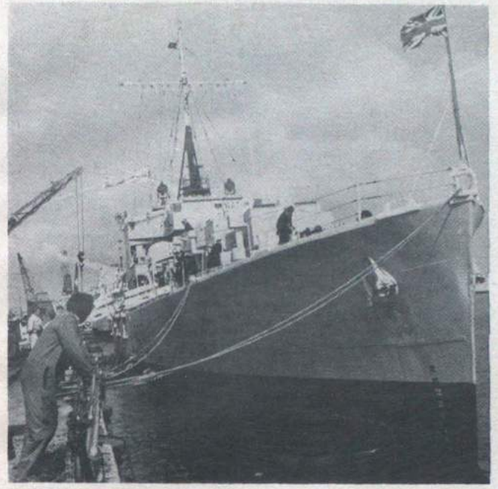
Major-General F. J. Swainson, too, has had a distinguished career. Starting his service in the ranks, he rose to be head of his Corps and a Colonel Commandant—a remarkable achievement. He held the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief from 1962, until ill-health forced him to retire early in 1965. In the February/March WIRE of this year we chronicled in his Vale the appointments and many qualities which led him to the high position he finally occupied. Sadly, now, we look back on a career brought to a sudden end just at the time when he should have been enjoying a well-earned retirement. His very many friends of all ranks will remember General Eric Swainson as a completely straight-forward, very fair and likeable personality. He was devoted to his Corps and never spared himself in its service. His standards were of the highest and to those who served under him he gave great support and understanding. He will be very much missed throughout the Corps—particularly as it seems such a short time ago that he was in our midst as a much-liked and highly-respected Signal Officer-in-Chief.

The deep sympathy of all will go to his devoted wife, 'Pip,' and his only son, Dick, in their sad loss.

[The usual memoirs will appear in the Spring issue of the Royal Signals Journal.—Editor].

A tribute and then farewell to an old friend

H.M.S. Meon goes to the breakers yard



H.M.S. Meon

THURSDAY, 8th July, saw the final return of H.M.S. Meon to England. After an adventurous commission of some twenty-two years she is now in the breakers yard. For the past eleven years there has been a close affiliation between the Corps and H.M.S. Meon. In 1960 this affiliation was made official and finally sealed by the presentation of a silver statuette of Mercury in March 1961.

At the Normandy Landings

H.M.S. *Meon* took her name from the river in Hampshire and her crest from the Coat of Arms of William of Wykeham, who founded Winchester School. The ship was laid down in 1943 and was completed in the same year. In February 1944 she was re-commissioned at Halifax with a Royal Canadian Navy crew. She saw service in the Atlantic and was present at the Normandy landings. *Meon* reverted to the Royal Navy in 1945 and served on the Home Station being based at Southampton, Sheerness and Devonport.

Royal Signals aboard her at Suez Operations

After being present at the Coronation Review in 1953 she was transferred to the Mediterranean Fleet as a Landing Ship Headquarters and as such leader of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron. In 1956 with her Royal Signals Troop on board she was present at the Suez Landings, where she wore the broad pennant of the Commodore in Command of the British Assault Squadron. Further, in more recent times she played a major roll in the Kuwait operation of 1961. During the initial stages of this operation 601 Troop and H.M.S. *Meon* provided the only rear link communications with Bahrain.

The Corps pays tribute

It was only fitting therefore that on H.M.S. *Meon's* return a final tribute should be paid by the Corps. A welcoming party consisting of Captain G. H. Morgan, W.O.II (Y. of S.) C. Heaps and Lance-Corporal B. Marsh, all members of the Corps who had previously served on board, were therefore present to see the ship finally "paid off." The party went on board with members of the crew's families and generally assisted the crew to disembark for the last time.

A cocktail party was held on board by the wardroom on the Friday evening and was attended by Colonel and Mrs. A. T. Burrows, Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. A. Collyer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner and Captain and Mrs. G. H. Morgan. It was very pleasing to note that all the Naval members of the wardroom were seen to disembark wearing the tie of the recently formed 15th Regiment.

Finally, to quote Captain M. W. B. Kerr, D.S.C., Royal Navy, once Captain Amphibious Warfare Squadron, on being presented with a souvenir by 601 Signal Troop Ship on his departure, "It is a particularly pleasing souvenir of times always interesting and sometimes stirring."

I am sure that these sentiments are shared by all members of the Corps who served on board H.M.S. *Meon*.

Marriage

DONNELLY—OATES.—Sergeant John Donnelly, of 215 Squadron, R.A.F. Changi, to Gillian Margaret Oates, only daughter of Captain (T.O.T.) W. Oates, 19th Regiment, at St. George's Church, R.A.F. Changi, on October 30th.

Day's Pay Scheme

The following record of what the Army did in 1964 is some indication as to why the regular Corps has been asked to support this scheme designed to help our less fortunate comrades in arms.

34,000 cases of need and distress, amongst soldiers, ex-soldiers and their dependants, not covered by State welfare, were dealt with directly by CORPS AND REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS in 1964. Many of these were survivors of the First World War 1914-1918 and their families.

●

£171,000 was spent by CORPS AND REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS in the above work.

●

£51,000 was given by the ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND in grants to the less well off Corps and Regimental Associations to assist them in the above work.

●

£105,000 was given by the ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND to help as a contribution to Combined Services Organisations such as S.S.A.F.A., Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts' Workshops, and the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League — to assist them in their work of caring for members and ex-members of Corps and Regiments of the Army and their dependants.

●

£45,000 in addition, was given by the ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND to a further 30 National Service Charities dealing with the specialised work of the care of the aged, training and care of the disabled, education, care of and assistance to the children of soldiers. For example:—Star and Garter Home, Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows, Royal Soldiers' Daughters' Home, and the Scottish National Institution for War Blinded.

Movements

Officers

ADDITIONS—OCTOBER LIST

Second-Lieutenant W. J. Armstrong To School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant M. J. Backhurst ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant M. J. Bowen ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant J.H. Fisher ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant J. E. Fitzgerald ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant P. M. Green ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant J. P. Hayes ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant C. D. M. Kemp ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant D. J. McLean ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant V. J. Reed ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant P. D. Smith ... ,, ,, ,, ,,
Second-Lieutenant C. J. Walters ... ,, ,, ,, ,,

ADDITIONS—NOVEMBER LIST

Captain (Q.M.) S. G. Barnes ... To 3 Base Ordnance Depot
Captain A. H. Carling ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Captain A. P. Thackray ... ... ,, Regimental Pay Office (RCT).

DECEMBER, 1965

Captain P. D. Alexander ... ... To 11th Regiment
Captain M. G. Adams ... ... ,, 65th Regiment (T.A.)
Major T. R. Blackwood ... ... ,, H.Q., Malta and Libya
Lieutenant J. Barrett ... ... ,, 4th Army Youth Team
Lieutenant (Tfc.) K. J. Bicknell ... ,, 644 Troop (UNFICYP)
Captain (Q.M.) F. Bergelin ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Captain H. M. Bonaker ... ... ,, 3rd Regiment
Major A. C. Bate, M.B.E. ... ... ,, 207 Squadron
Lieutenant P. C. Burns ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant R. B. H. Cox ... ,, 83rd Army Youth Team
Major E. A. Canham ... ... ,, M.o.D. (Signals 5)
Lieutenant I. S. Durrell ... ... ,, 59th Army Youth Team
Captain (Q.M.) H. R. H. Dunlop ... ,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant J. W. Easson ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Captain M. J. Flynn ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Captain D. C. N. Genders ... ... ,, 266 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant R. W. Hanbury ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major D. G. Handley ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. N. Haysom ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) W. J. Howard ... ... ,, 59th Regiment (T.A.)
Captain J. N. Hancock ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Captain J. S. Howe ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. Hazel ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Lieutenant K. B. S. Kent ... ... ,, 207 Squadron
Captain H. G. Mackinlay ... ... ,, 6th Inf. Bde. Gp. & Sig. Sqn.
Major G. J. K McIntosh ... ... ,, School of Artillery
Captain D. J. Milton ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Captain F. H. Pedley ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major W. H. H. Parkes ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) R. Pearson ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) A. Page ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) K. V. Risby ... ,, J.C.U., Borneo
Major C. M. Sinclair ... ... ,, 47th Regiment (T.A.)

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

DECEMBER, 1965

W.O.II (F. of S.) R. M. Mainwaring To 257 Squadron
W.O.II J. J. C. Finch ... ... ,, 58th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II N. Murray ... ... ,, 43rd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II (Y. of S.) D. H. A. Alborough ,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) W. G. Gwynne ... ,, 237 Squadron
W.O.II N. Salter ... ... ,, 4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.II D. G. Rowthorn ... ... ,, 257 Squadron
W.O.II G. J. Castle ... ... ,, 233 Squadron
W.O.II P. A. Williams ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
A/W.O.II F. H. Pemberton ... ... ,, 18th Regiment

Staff Sergeant J. M. W. Cairns ... ,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. S. T. Sparrow ... ,, 200 Squadron
Staff Sergeant K. Bunston ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. W. L. Crisp ... ,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. J. E. Bearne ... ,, 54th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant P. Dunne ... ... ,, 213 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. Horne ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. S. Allison ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. A. Sharman ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. Keeton ... ,, 501 Troop
Staff Sergeant D. W. M. Howes ... ,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Boiling ... ... ,, 30th Regiment

Sergeant D. Knox ... ... ,, 3 RTR Signal Troop
Sergeant R. D. McKechnie ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
Sergeant R. H. Sutcliffe ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant K. G. Jones ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant T. J. Reilly ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant A. K. Pilkington ... ... ,, 647 Troop
Sergeant D. Shrives ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant J. P. O. Winning ... ... ,, 654 Troop
Sergeant C. J. P. Bonwick ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant B. A. Cumming ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant A. Leary ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant C. F. Smith ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant J. T. Driver ... ... ,, Jun. Leaders' Regt.
Sergeant G. H. Johnson ... ... ,, 3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant P. G. Alford ... ... ,, 58th Regiment (T.A.)
A/Sgt. J. W. Brand ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Porter ... ... ,, 9th Regiment

Lieutenant (Tfc.) R. M. Sutherland ,, 252 Squadron
Captain W. H. Turney ... ... ,, 644 Troop (UNFICYP)
Major E. G. Thomas ... ... ,, 647 Troop
Major (Q.M.) H. Waterworth ... ... ,, H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps
Captain J. Westlake ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major L. A. Welton ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Captain M. G. H. Wise ... ... ,, 246 (Gurkha) Squadron

Promotions

OCTOBER

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	22515936	A/W.O.I	Armstrong, D. R.	750	450	
	2329498	A/W.O.I	Madley, L. J.	760	240	
	2548688	A/W.O.I	Bailey, A. J.	770	500	
	14461528	A/W.O.I	Hopewell, A. A.	780	820	
	14464300	A/W.O.I	Foster, R.	790	460	
To W.O.II	22190317	S Sgt.	Robinson, E.	3310	1860	
	22774871	A/W.O.II	McIntosh, W.	3320	1930	
	22541897	S Sgt.	Haywood, V. L.	3330	2110	
	2549730	A/W.O.II	Mann, E. J.	3340	1990	
	21005770	A/W.O.II	Bagent, G. M.	3350	1840	
	22523200	A/W.O.II	Tearse, S.	3360	2000	
To S Sgt.	22548897	Sgt.	Ayres, W. G.	3640	6430	(Op)
	22958871	Sgt.	Gooding, B. F.	3650	6250	(Op)
	22541007	Sgt.	Bates, E. L.	3660	1150	(Fd)
	22286333	A/S Sgt.	Bowers, I. P.	3680	1410	(Fd)
	2549589	Sgt.	Cairns, J. M. W.	3690	2080	(Tec)
	22904031	Sgt.	Partridge, D.	3700	1700	(Ad)
	21005280	Sgt.	Bresloff, R. S.	3710	6600	(Op)
	23311552	A/S Sgt.	Bloom, S. F.	3720	1750	(Ad)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.II	22775229	S Sgt.	Stanhope, J. L.	1780	1500

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	21005667	W.O.II	Caplin, M. J.	390	434
	22442394	W.O.II	Elliott, J. J.	400	660
To W.O.II	22465635	S Sgt.	Boddington, D. V.	1130	1170
	2549017	S Sgt.	Leech, W. J.	1140	1160
	23217455	S Sgt.	Little, W. A.	1150	1090

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22242105	A/W.O.I	Levins, M. J.	350	620	
To S Sgt.	23218577	A/Sgt.	Berriman, M. J.	1150	2110	(Ad)

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23473907	Cpl.	Fraser B. D.	5207	9940
	23528396	Cpl.	Maltby, B. W.	5236	9420
	23528524	Cpl.	Bruce, P.	5250	9440
	23320843	Cpl.	Westwater, S. K.	5255	4880
	23528530	Cpl.	Downton, K.	5270	9400
	23528431	Cpl.	Hodgson, P. J.	5280	9482
	23250245	Cpl.	Martin, N. D.	5290	8436
	23234397	Cpl.	Jeune, D. S.	5310	7080
	23957947	Cpl.	Smith, P.	5320	12980
	23762946	Cpl.	Higgins, G.	5340	9734
	23745045	Cpl.	Healey, P. G. W.	5350	9760

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	22569715	A/Sgt.	Richardson, J. H.	12650	22690
	22816386	A/Sgt.	Sheard, N. A.	12244	14494

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	23224911	A/Sgt.	Tuppenney, P. J. B.	4470	3770
	22288048	Cpl.	Robinson, G. E.	4480	3860

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	23373709	A/Sgt.	Brodie, R. C.	3000	3910
	22821060	A/Sgt.	Morris, N. H.	3010	3920
	22355929	A/Sgt.	Carroll, A. J.	3030	4120

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	270	290	300	310	320
W.O.II	190	540	620	840	1700
Sgt.	80				

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.II	1800

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

W.O.I	240	260

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.I	400

TECHNICAL ROSTER

S Sgt.	210	
Sgt.	3320	4630

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	470	7980	8320	10980	12430

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"D" Company the Glosters are deployed in Swaziland and were recently employed helping the civil authorities to control a bush fire. The C.O. made an air reconnaissance and dropped a message to the effect that more troops were on the way. The Company Command decided they were not required and quickly ordered his men to lie on the ground and, with their bodies, spell out the words "No more troops required." This method provides both speech and EW security. Bearing in mind the present state of the national economy I would like to suggest that perhaps radio sets for ground/air communications are an unnecessary luxury!

CAPTAIN RICHARD DAVIDGE
(Tfc), Royal Signals)

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

The Emerging Pattern

HARROGATE

The turmoil of the rebuilding programme has added to the air of industry that surrounds the School. Half completed buildings give a broken-toothed aspect to the skyline, with the ministering gantry cranes moving daintily amongst them putting in the fillings. School H.Q. moved into their new office block over the week-end 23rd/24th October, much to the despair of the Chief Clerk who is still wearing a rather distraught look. But it is a pleasant building and marks the pattern of the future, we hope.

This month has been as busy as always. The Signal Officer-in-Chief paid the first of, we hope, many visits to the School on 11th October, and saw most of the activities in trade, education and hobbies.

The 13th October saw our annual Administrative Inspection successfully concluded, but not without its note of sadness, as it was also the farewell visit of Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., G.O.C. Yorkshire District. At the end of the parade he spoke to all Apprentice Tradesmen present and impressed upon them the role and responsibilities that they will be expected to fill when they leave the School as qualified tradesmen.

Later, Phillips Squadron made an intrepid journey, in thick fog, down to our R.E.M.E. counterparts, at Aborfield, to play off the first round of the Army Youth Football Cup. Although they were beaten 3—2, an enjoyable time was had by all, and they were most appreciative of the hospitality shown by their hosts.

Tough Struggle with R.E.M.E. Apprentices

However, the real highlights of the month were the winter games against R.E.M.E. apprentices, but this time at Carlisle. They were held in what could only be described as vile weather. In particular, the soccer match in the morning was subjected to hail as well as rain. The spectators appeared to come out of this rather worse than the players, and at least one person was driven to purchase some gumboots during lunch.

Each game was much closer than the results tend to show, and while congratulating the shooting team, consolation must be offered to the rest, in particular the hockey team, who were very unlucky to lose. However, excitement was maintained right up to the cross-country match, because until then each team had won two games, drawn one and lost two.

Carlisle must be congratulated on their hospitality and organising ability. They overcame, with the minimum of fuss, all the dampening effects of the English climate at its worst. Perhaps they are used to it, but this in no way detracts from their well-deserved victory.

The results in the Winter Games against Carlisle were: Football, lost 9—6; rugby, drew 3—3; hockey, lost 2—1; basketball, won 46—25; shooting, won 1,528—1,499; cross-country, lost 47—33.

We go on into the second half of term, Graduation on 15th December, and we look forward very much to meeting the Inspecting Officer, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., our representative Colonel Commandant.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

Sport is the dominant note this month

This month has been one in which sport seems to have dominated the activities within the Regiment. Once again the Gymnastic Team has retained the Southern Command Junior Gymnastic Championships with, among other things, Junior Corporal Riddell winning the individual junior title and S.I. Dart the individual men's title in the Senior Championships. Our boxing team has now reached the semi-final of the Army Inter-Unit Junior Team Championships and is due to fight the Junior Leaders Company, A.C.C., in the near future. Perhaps our team will gain another bye and reach the finals!

In the Soccer Junior Leaders Army Challenge Cup, we have not fared so well, and in the second round were knocked out 4—2 by the Junior Leaders of the Royal Armoured Corps. On the rugger field, too, we have had misfortunes as far as the Army Cup Permanent Staff Team is concerned; they were beaten 6—0 by 17 Port Regiment, R.C.T. On the other hand, in the Judo arena we have qualified for the Army finals by beating the Junior Leaders, R.C.T.

Parachute Course—Success of an experiment

For the first time ever, Junior Leaders attended a parachute course as an experiment, and, after a weeding-out process from the many volunteers, six members of the Regiment started the fortnight's course at Abingdon. The first week of the course consisted of toughening-up and then preparation, and then there were jumps from balloons and aircraft. It was most unfortunate that on the very first jump from the balloon, J/S.S.M. Madsen broke his ankle. However, all the other Junior Leaders completed the course without mishap, and there can be no doubt that the experiment was a great success and worthy of repetition.

Headmasters—"Favourably impressed by all they saw"

A party of headmasters and careers masters spent a full day touring all parts of the Regiment just before half-term weekend and seemed to be favourably impressed by all they saw. All were from West Country schools, and several Junior Leaders at present in the Unit came from some of their schools.

An account by one of the participants in Exercise "Slog On II" (a four-day exercise) appears below, and is more or less typical of the type of outdoor training carried out in the unit.

EXERCISE "SLOG ON II"

By Junior Signalman J. T. Haydock, of Alexander Squadron

Exercise "Slog On II" was planned by Major J. W. Joyner and was designed to be an endurance test on an "Outward Bound" basis and an exercise in map reading. It was solely for the benefit of fourth term personnel of the unit, i.e., those who had been Junior Leaders for just over a year. The term was split into groups of about fifteen in number and each group was supervised by a member of the permanent staff from the same Squadron as the boys. There were two groups from Alexander Squadron (my Squadron), and this account of the exercise is all about my group.

On the day before the exercise commenced we were issued with a map, compass, etc., and also "our home" for the next few days, which was a bivouac tent. We found that the bivouac proved to be rather small and crowded when Junior Signalman Calver and I were in it, together with all our equipment.

High spirits

The next morning, dressed in denims, we set off in A.D. transport for Pridhamsleigh to explore the caves there. Lieutenant Hampson led us and we were all in high spirits and singing some of the songs for which the British Army is famous. For most of us this was our first experience of pot-holing—such as being trapped hundreds of feet underground. However, as we entered the caves our fears subsided and we spent a very enjoyable morning. On return to the surface we were all so filthy that it was necessary to return to Denbury

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Camp for a shower and change of clothing and then, after dinner, we set off on foot to Dartmoor for our first pre-determined camp site for the night. During the march we took turns at map reading and the leader made all the decisions regarding our route. Nevertheless, Lieutenant Hampson kept a close watch just in case anything was wrong with the leader's decisions, and in due course we arrived at our destination, set up camp and cooked the first compo meal of the exercise.

A frosty morning

Next morning we awoke to frost on the ground and we washed hurriedly in the nearby stream. We were all glad to cook our breakfast—not so much because we were hungry, but more because we wanted to get warm by the fires. With breakfast over, we struck camp and set off again across the moors, taking it in turns to lead the group. We tried to avoid the many bogs and marshy parts of the moor and kept as dry as possible.

A night exercise

We made good progress and arrived at our destination at Great Mis Tor and we made camp and cooked our tea. By that time Lieutenant Tilson had arrived and Lieutenant Hampson left us to return to Denbury Camp. Lieutenant Tilson's first job with us was to brief us for a night exercise which was to be held that night, and we set about making plans for it. While we were discussing it Major Joyner arrived and we heard him say to Lieutenant Tilson that we were the happiest group he had seen.

The exercise went off without a hitch and we then climbed into our sleeping bags and left the world of the living for a few hours until seven o'clock the next morning. We then had breakfast, struck camp and set off again, but this time the going was not so easy because we could not avoid the bogs and marshes and also had to climb several tors. But, all things considered, we made good time and beat the other group which was also making for Willsworthy. We gave them a cheer when they arrived and then all settled down for the evening and night.

Last day

Next morning was the start of our last day, and we set off for our last destination at which we would find the transport waiting to take us back to Denbury Camp. We were all in good spirits, although our blisters were throbbing, and after a short rest for dinner, we reached our transport without mishap.

For us the exercise was over then and we were glad to have come through the ordeal without dying of food poisoning from our own cooking or freezing to death in the streams at seven o'clock in the morning. What we learnt on map reading, cooking, making a camp etc., was invaluable to us, because after all, as soldiers, we may be called upon to live out in the open for any amount of time, and our experiences on "Slog On II" will benefit us all, I am sure.

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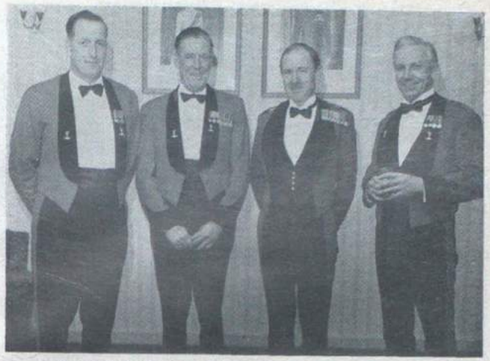
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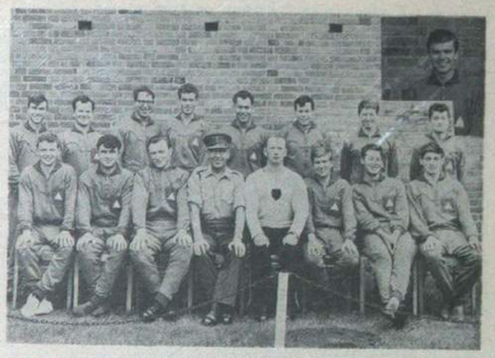
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SERGEANTS' MESS DINNER—27 OCTOBER, 1965

Left to right: The R.S.M., Staff-Sergeant Baker, the G.O.C. and the C.O.



A SUCCESSFUL SWIMMING TEAM

Back row (left to right): Signalmen Carse, Manderson, Lance-Corporals Elliott, Stewart, Powell, Signalman Stratford, Lance-Corporals Stanley, Smith. *Insert:* Second-Lieutenant P. J. L. Marshment—Team Captain, selected to swim for B.A.O.R. v. R.A.F. (G) at Berlin and recently awarded his B.A.O.R. colours. *Front row:* Lance-Corporal Read, Signalman Hunter, Second-Lieutenant Urquhart, Major (Q.M.) W. J. Howard, (O.i.C. Swimming), Staff-Sergeant Barnes, A.P.T.C. (Team Coach), Signalmen Pearce, Griffiths, Channing

1st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O., 32

The exercise season has now come to an end and we are settling down to Administrative Inspections and individual training.

The Comcen kept their heads above water

On exercise we took all in our stride and generally kept communications going, despite the usual problems of too few men, too little sleep and the constant urge to be on the move. We now feel we manage with ease a move every twelve hours and often much more frequently. In the paper battle, the staff finally admitted defeat in their attempt to flood the Comcen, who managed to keep their heads above water and celebrated their win with a lot of drawn faces and dark eyes. The only casualty being O.C. 1 Squadron, who swallowed a fly in the melée and retired to bed with visions of spiders, birds, cats, etc., etc. We are not sure whether the D11s have yet returned from the last exercise, since with the latest speed restrictions they are now talking of an overnight stop between here and the L.A.D.

On return from exercising, we settled down to prepare for the Rhine Army Hunter Trials, the Administrative Inspection, the C.I.V. and the individual winter training season.

The C.O.'s conference at times became rather confused in the allotment of tasks and even the O.C. L.A.D. was heard to declare that he was quite prepared to ride his horse to the C.I.V. for inspection if required.

The Hunter Trials in fact were a great success and the communications and P.A. were particularly good, ensuring a smooth and efficient organisation.

Swimmers do well

In the sporting world the swimmers acquitted themselves well by coming a close second in the Divisional inter-Unit team swimming championships and a creditable third in the B.A.O.R. championships at Berlin.

Much credit must be accorded to our A.P.T.C. instructor, S.S.I. Barnes, who trained the team to such a high standard in a remarkably short space of time.

We wish the team every success in next year's championships and look confidently forward to the B.A.O.R. and Army Cups being wrested from the Berlin Brigade at long last.

The soccer team have started the season very well and look all set to take the Divisional Cup. Our greatest rivals the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars were well beaten 3—1 after a very keenly contested match. We now look forward to meeting 20 Heavy Regiment in the second round of the Cup.

The Rugby team started quietly but picked up by a few good wins before taking on 1 Division Regiment R.C.T. in the first round of the Army Cup. Perhaps over-confident they never really recovered from a quick 6 points scored by the opposition. The final score of 27—20 says much for the open way the game was played, with Captain Seymour scoring five tries for the Regiment.

The Regiment is at present engaged on a keep fit campaign and can be seen twice a week disappearing into the woods in three ranks at the double led by the C.O. and Second-in-Command, who it is noticed has begun to limp—is this the beginning of the end?

Farewell to Major-General the Hon. M. F. Fitzalan-Howard, C.B.E., M.C.

Since the departure of our General there has been a very keen sense of loss within the Headquarters and Signal Regiment, such was the stature of General Fitzalan-Howard. The Regiment's official farewells commenced with a wining and dining in the Sergeants' Mess on 27th October. This was indeed an occasion which touched the heart of this very big-hearted General, and he was full of praise for a most excellent dinner and very pleasant evening. The organisation behind the whole evening had been in the capable hands of W.O.II Roy Simmons who again excelled himself. Sergeant Jack Bushby and his A.C.C. helpers were responsible for the feeding of the seventy-six diners. Later the R.S.M. presented to the General an album containing a copy of the many photographs taken during the evening. A photograph showing the General, Commanding Officer, Regimental Sergeant-Major and Staff Sergeant Baker (oldest serving soldier in the Division) taken at the dinner is reproduced.

During the General's dining out in the Officers' Mess on 1st November, which needless to say was another great occasion, he referred to the "rebellious loyalty" of the members of his Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment. The evening ended with the General being "drawn" in his Land Rover with senior officers acting as torch bearers to "light the way."

The following day the General left the barracks to the singing of "For he is a Jolly Good Fellow," and rousing cheers. All were unanimous that we had said goodbye to a friend.

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Commencing June 1966

Tg Tech	Class II-I	7th June, 1966
Lineman	Class II-I	7th June, 1966
R Op	Class II-I	*21st June, 1966
Dvr R Signals	Class II-I	7th June, 1966
Tg Tech	Class III-II	28th June, 1966
Swbd Op (WRAC)	Class III-II	21st June, 1966

* Two Courses

2nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 22

Summer has gone; Autumn, too, very nearly and with them the 1965 exercise season. Past members of the Regiment, some serving still, some reading at the fireside of their retirement homes, will be pleased to know that the season went well; perhaps as well as ever. The pattern changes only slightly as the personalities come and go and new equipment succeeds the old.

Hierarchical changes

Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Cubberley's 1965 team has shown a considerable number of hierarchical changes even from last year. Those whose time with the Regiment expired included Majors R. H. Borthwick (now C.R. Signals, 1st Division), A. C. Birtwistle, J. B. Atkinson and E. L. Rogers; Captains F. R. Fletcher, M. J. P. Vann, I. R. D. Shapter and H. R. H. Dunlop; Lieutenants M. K. Carson, P. J. K. Dickinson, R. R. Johnson and B. M. Cooke. The R.S.M., W.O.I J. Crich, is now commissioned and his successor W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. J. Wombwell is a well-established Regimental figure.

Who's who

The new arrivals have been absorbed into a slightly new organisation in which Major M. G. Panton commands 2 Squadron and Major C. J. O. Phillips, a dashing fugitive from the 3DG commands 3 Squadron as well as being P.M.C. of a largely unchanged Signals Regimental Mess at Bünde. Major D. H. Briggs, a lone survivor from the bygone days of ANTRC and ACT 1+3, continues to command a somewhat streamlined 1 Squadron. Major G. J. Curl exercises firm control over Headquarter Squadron at Lübbecke, some thirteen miles distant but strictly under Regimental command. Major J. A. J. Massey, M.B.E., the Second-in-Command, shares R.H.Q. with Major D. A. T. Butcher, late of the Buffs but now the Regimental Administrative Officer wearing Royal Signals badges still crisply new, Major W. G. Robinson, the Training Major and Boxing Officer, and Captain J. W. Swindells, the burdened and perspiring Adjutant.

In the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess the R.S.M. has the support of S.S.M.s R. W. J. Hammerton and W. R. D. Clark of 1 and 2 Squadrons respectively. Staff Sergeant S. R. Norris, now really getting on a bit in Regimental maturity, is acting-S.S.M. of 3 Squadron.

M.P.'s visit

In the real body of the Regiment the changes of face have been too numerous to detail but the high spirit is the same. This was a characteristic noticed by three Members of Parliament who visited the Regiment last month: Mr. Fletcher (Labour, Darlington), Mr. Shepherd (Conservative, Cheadle) and Mr. Kiljeddie (Conservative, Belfast West). They made a quick trip round the Regiment, looked over a demonstration layout of a divisional comcentre, laid on by 1 Squadron, and talked to a large number of voters (and potential voters). It was good to be able to show them how some of the taxpayers' money was being used and good, too, to be able to meet and talk to some of the representatives paid by the taxpayers.

Followed by Headmasters

Two days later a conference of headmasters (the correct collective term, one hopes) visited the Regiment. 2 Squadron turned on the technical and tactical heat by showing the layout of Main Divisional H.Q. However, it was really the day of the cooks for W.O.II D. Moran, A.C.C., and his assistants showed the Heads how they fed the troops. That impressed them! What impressed us was to learn that in their schools the Headmasters had to feed their boys on about twenty-four and sixpence a week, much less than the allowance for a soldier.

Then Scientists

Hot on the heels of the Headmasters came a party of four Scientists from the Royal Ordnance group of Factories. The C.O. hit on the clever idea of putting them on show to be questioned by us in a short Symposium, having first showed them how the Regiment carried out its field role. Each visitor spoke interestingly about his job and gave an honest view of what he had gained from his visit to B.A.O.R.



Mr. Kiljeddie, M.P., meets a line detachment of 1 Squadron. Staff-Sergeant P. Jackson, Corporal R. Stacey, Signalmen L. Collin, C. Parfitt and A. D. Hewson

Winter sporting season

The Regiment has entered the winter sports season with more gusto than last year. The Rugby team, stimulated by a lot of new blood and interest in its efforts, has had a very good start. In September all games were won with an aggregate score of 87 points for 15 against. October was not quite so successful.

Being able to call upon the might of the Divisional Headquarters and H.Q. Squadron, not only in Rugby but in other sports too, has made it possible to turn out a very reasonable first team for key matches and often two teams for more friendly fixtures.

The soccer team continues to be coached by Staff Sergeant P. Jackson of 1 Squadron and has won its way into the second round of the Army Cup as well as being undefeated in its League programme. Captain G. C. M. Newton is a fairly contented officer in-charge football.

The hockey team suffered its now traditional 9—0 defeat by 7th Regiment—away from home, of course. Flagellation of this severity so early in the season acts as a spur provided no metaphorical bones are broken and the team has won its three subsequent matches.

Boxing—pride of the Regiment

The real pride of the Regiment is, as is well known in B.A.O.R., the boxing team. Rhine Army runners-up last year, having narrowly lost in the final, the team is all out to make amends this year. In so doing it will be following the example of the cricket team which won the B.A.O.R. inter-Unit competition this summer. Major Robinson, the team mentor, is guarded in his optimism but seems not to lack confidence in the basic ability of his team. A guide to their form will be given in the match against a combined Bünde/Melle civilian team on 5th November, 1965, at the Stadtgarten, Bünde. Fireworks that night are assured no matter what the weather. The result will appear in the next issue of THE WIRE.

W.O.II (Y. of S.) P. V. Dixon, a well known member of the Regiment, shortly leaving for the Gurkhas, has drilled a competent and successful Basketball team. Beaten only once so far this season and with a fair amount of youth, like Signalman G. S. Davies of 1 Squadron, mixed with experience, like Staff Sergeant R. M. Sanderson of 3 Squadron, the augury is good for a large number of Regimental "baskets."

Congratulations

A word of public congratulations to Corporal V. D. Jinks of 3 Squadron who recently won third place from an entry of sixty-five starters in a motor cycle trial. The members of the Motor Cycle Club at nearby Wüsten were celebrating the club's tenth anniversary.

3rd REGIMENT, BULFORD

"Wire" notes from the Regiment usually produce a battle between your correspondent and his various reporters to get the news and statistics together in time for publication—or at least for despatch to "The Wire" Editor. This time, however—possibly full of "Joie de Vivre" after a holiday in the sun (actually exercising in North Africa)—the notes have come pouring in and I think the best thing for me to do is present them as they were written by each Squadron.

1 Squadron

After Block Leave the Squadron returned fresh in heart and body, and ready for anything the Regiment were likely to throw at us!

The first event on the calendar, the Divisional Exercise in North Africa, in which we can proudly say the Squadron were fully committed, even to the extent of having to borrow personnel from outside the Regiment. Need I say more when I mention 640 Troop and 30th Regiment and 645 Troop from Gloucester, old stalwarts and friends, and many old and new friendships resulted.

First away during August, Sergeant Blay and his boys set up the first link, and presumably to swim and sunbathe in the sunny Med!!

In the meantime hustle and bustle, freight to sort out, how much can we take, what does this weigh, what does that, load that vehicle, weigh it, when weighed unpack it, because something has been left out. Plenty of old soldier language, but everybody's joining in and more or less enjoying it. Air portability checks being carried out all over the place, documents to be checked, chalks to be filled, names in slots—the exercise is taking shape? but quite a few more grey hairs for some.

Back to the exercise—I think we can all say a lot was learned. Even the S.S.M., thinking he was on a good number(?), on arrival in El Adem found himself placed on watch in the Comcen (what a shock?); but like us, all buckled down to the job.



Corporal Richards, with an R.A.F. Technician from 38 Group carrying out a "Joint" repair of an A43 radio during a recent exercise in North Africa

The photograph shows Corporal Richards contemplating, with an R.A.F. technician, the best way to attack the repair in hand. This particular situation emphasises more than any other the necessary close co-ordination between us and the other Services.

Now we are all back and trying to clean up and check stores to be ready in time for the annual Administrative in December. One thing, I think we can safely say that there is never a dull moment in this Squadron.

Air Support Troop, in the capable hands of Captain Mackay who incidentally, helped to deliver his own child just before leaving for the exercise. What a wonderful experience — and Sergeant French were no sooner back from N. Africa than away again on Exercise "Pied Piper"; we think that they have earned their pay this month.

We thought it might be a good idea to get a troop view of life, so O.C. "B" Troop was persuaded to scribe the following:

"B" Troop (or the troop with life in it)

During the month of October, Brigade Air Head Troop was again called upon to perform another role to add to its many. This time it was a move to N. Africa to provide communications for a Brigade formed for the exercise.

Having arrived at the Brigade H.Q. area, a patch of very dusty desert, we set up our Comcen using a new type half-ton trailer alongside a tent GS. This trailer housed our cipher and comcen, instead of our usual tent.

Having set ourselves up, the Brigade Commander decided to go out into the desert and all those that could be spared were seen disappearing over the horizon—sun compasses at the high port, to return three days later very much sunburnt and the vehicles somewhat worse for their trip. But thanks to the L.A.D. of the 14/20 Hussars the vehicles were soon mobile again.

When the exercise started, we had to send a detachment to the 1st Bn. Green Howards, so, having brainwashed Lance-Corporal Cliff and detachment of Signalmen Ray and Derrick, we sent them to the other side, and from the letter of appreciation received from the C.O. they were a credit to the Regiment and Corps.

Mention must be made of the excellent hospitality afforded by 245 Squadron, not only to the fifteen members of the Squadron who spent three weeks with them but also to the 'weary worn' survivors from "B" Troop who called in one night after the exercise was over.

Signalman Lindsay, one of our new arrivals, was quite at home having just arrived from Aden, and with his bug key enjoyed working the CW Link to F.F. H.Q. and driving our three tonner when off shift.

2 Squadron

Back to N. Africa again! This year is no different from last; we always seem to spend October savouring the delights of places which bring back happy memories of sand, sun and dust. This year the Regiment was engaged on a major exercise comprising all elements of the strategic reserve, including those from the Navy and R.A.F. As usual 2 Squadron were concerned with constructing and running the tented Frontier Force Headquarters Comcen. Signalman Boyle and his 'merry' men are by now experts at erecting the Comcen tent and are always able to offer advice to other organisations who have to put up shelter tentage.

The F.F. H.Q. is a Joint Comcen and on this exercise we had the R.N. and R.A.F. personnel working with us, as well as reinforcements from our friends in 640 Troop. The only real problem was that the Navy and R.A.F. were not used to living in tents. But Joint working does work and all problems were ironed out as the exercise progressed. We even had a Naval stoker to burn our classified waste! The exercise went off well from the Comcen point of view, except for the teething troubles experienced with message handling techniques, which were being used for the first time.

As well as the Comcen, 2 Squadron provided line parties to assist 261 Air Formation Signal Troop and also established a Radio Relay link. The Radio Relay link worked from the beginning of September to the end of October.

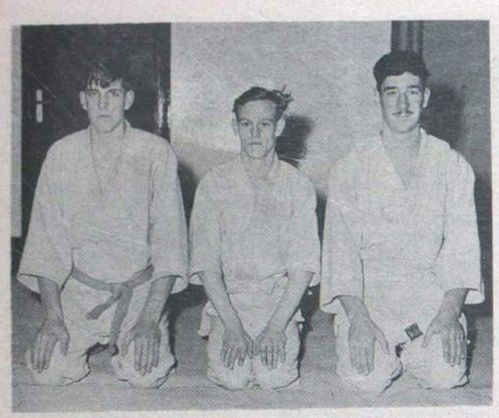
However, it was not all work and no play. Before the exercise began many took the opportunity to explore and to sun themselves on the 'golden beaches.' Many a sunburnt face is noticed in the Regiment now, and from the amount of sunburn you can work out the amount of work done or not done by those concerned.

Whilst the rest of the Squadron were in the sun the remainder of R.R. Troop spent their time doing other exercises. First of all with the Junior Leaders from Denbury on Exercise "Two Moors" and then at Camberley where W.O.I (F. of S.) Day and Sergeant Gwynne produced a Radio Relay link for the Staff College Demonstration. So none had an idle time even though the 1st XI were overseas.

3 Squadron

Having seen the majority of the Regiment, i.e. 1 and 2 Squadron, away on exercise we were left with the mundane tasks of keeping the Regiment and Divisional Headquarters functioning in Bulford. Not that we did not take part in the exercise. We contributed a number of drivers and an element of "M" Troop but the majority of us just had to dream of the sun and get down to preparing for the U.E.I. and Administrative inspections which are almost upon us.

Our sporting excursions have met with mixed success during the month. We were narrowly defeated by the School of Artillery in the Army Rugby Cup and later defeated them handsomely in a friendly. We were knocked out of the Army Soccer Cup by R.A.C. Depot Bovington and the hockey team were taught a lesson by Southern Command to the tune of 6—0, but it is only fair to add that we were only just able to raise a team due to exercise and other commitments.



4th REGIMENT JUDO — ANY TAKERS?

Left to right: Signalman Taylor (Orange belt), Private Godfrey (White belt), Signalman Golding (Novice)

4th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

In October, the last exercise of our 1965 training season took place during two weeks of glorious weather. Exercise "Double Deal" was an inter-Brigade exercise, with troops, the biggest to be held in B.A.O.R. this year. The Regiment built and administered Control Headquarters and provided control communications. We were delighted to have 207 Squadron with us to provide communications for Umpire Headquarters.

Visit of the new G.O.C.

As soon as we returned to Barracks we were plunged into preparations for the annual Administrative Inspection, which was held on 5th November. It was particularly important this year, as we were being inspected by our new G.O.C., who had taken over command of 4th Division only a few weeks earlier. He arrived at the arranged hour to find our barracks shrouded in thick fog, so that when the Commanding Officer reported the numbers on parade, his report had to be taken at its face value. Fortunately, the fog cleared in time for the march past, and the rest of the day was bright and sunny. The G.O.C. made three presentations to members of the unit. Herr Max Brozius received the B.A.O.R. Civilian Employees' Meritorious Certificate for 15 years' service. Many old members of the Regiment will remember Herr Brozius, who has worked in the M.T. and Q.M. (Tech.) departments. Sergeant Hardwick was presented with the Advanced Driving Instructor's certificate and badge, and Corporal Baynes (the Regiment's outstanding athlete) was presented with his Army Athlete's Colours.

Guy Fawkes was not forgotten

Immediately after the inspection had finished we were able to relax with the annual Guy Fawkes bonfire and fireworks display, and within 24 hours two parties were leaving the unit, one for a trip to Berlin, under the auspices of Miss Drew, the Regiment's W.V.S. representative; the other heading for the Moselle Valley to join the grape-pickers. So far, the Regiment has held its own in the various Army Cup sporting activities. At rugger we have reached the third round by beating 4th Division Regiment R.C.T. by 17—0, and our soccer eleven drew 4—4 with 32 Medium Regiment, R.A. The replay has not yet taken place. The attendances at our evening gym activities are steadily increasing, and it is now widley known that basketball, squash, badminton, judo, weight-lifting and high-jinks on the trampoline may be enjoyed most evenings in the week.

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . to be read by the Corps.

8th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Motor Cyclists do well

When mowing the grass has stopped, the Annual Inspection is over and the clocks have been put back (or is it forward?) then winter has returned to Catterick. One may seldom be absolutely certain that it ever went away, but we are positive it is now back! We have had thick fog for days on end and gales, which, opportunely, swept up most of the dead leaves and thereby saved some people some work. Nevertheless, we seem still to be able to keep going. In September, we are pleased to record that Sergeant Crutchley and his team of expert motor cyclists did very well in both the 12th Rossendale Enduro and the Dartmoor Trials. In the former, a technical disqualification deprived them of the award for the best Army team, and Lance-Corporal Flavell of the best Army rider award. However, in the Dartmoor event, they gained first place out of twenty teams entered, and Lance-Corporal Flavell and Sergeant Crutchley were first and second individuals respectively. Lance-Corporal Bellamy completed the team effort by coming seventh, and Sergeant Park, riding as an individual, came eighth.

Judo flourishes

Another infrequently reported activity is that of Judo. The Regiment now has a flourishing Judo Club with its own building and equipment. Although Captain A. H. Carling, who provided much of the impetus towards the current state of the club, has left us, his job has been taken over by Q.M.S.I. Sankey, A.P.T.C., ably supported by Corporal Nancarrow. In the recent Northern Command Championships, we came second in the inter-unit team competition. Corporal Nancarrow, 2nd KYU, and the light-heavyweight competition and came second in both the heavyweight and open competitions. In the special 4th KYU Competition, Signalman Burns was the winner. Both he and Corporal Nancarrow will be taking part in the Army Championships at Aldershot.

Cross-country team beats all-comers

The cross-country team has also been meeting with considerable success. Formed around the steady nucleus of Sergeant Cowell and Corporal Escott, it has won all its friendly meetings with other Service teams this season so far. In the civilian North Yorkshire and South Durham League, which meets regularly in many places in the north of England, we have a team entered as Royal Signals, Catterick, but consisting chiefly of our runners. They hold third place at the moment. Sergeant Cowell and Corporal Escott are to be congratulated on their selection to represent the Army against Wales and Loughborough College. We expect further honours for them later.

Out of the Army Rugby Cup

It is sad to have to report so early in the season that we are out of the Army Rugby Football Cup Competition already. Although we had an easy win over 24th Regiment, we found the School of Signals opposition in the second round not to our liking, to say the least, and we lost a very exciting match by the narrow margin of 11—12. We send the best of luck to the School for their success in future rounds. On the same day as this defeat took place, we also lost further interest in the corresponding Association Football Cup Competition, being beaten by A.A.S., Carlisle, by 5—4.

Hockey Prospects good

We now look to the hockey team to salvage our prestige, therefore! In the recent Yorkshire District Six-a-Side Competition, the "B" Team got further than the "A" Team, and were beaten into fourth place by a team from A.A.S., Harrogate. However, there is obviously a wealth of playing talent available and we hope to hear good things of the team when the competitions get started.

Night Marching Competition

We have been training hard for the Northern Command Night Marches, which are being held from 19th to 28th November. All our six teams have been selected to march on 22nd November, so we are hoping the fog will keep away on that occasion. In the Training Brigade Competition, on 5th November, we took the first three places, so we have high hopes of success in the main competition.

A putter for the G.O.C.

Last month we received a farewell visit from Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., who has been Commander of Yorkshire District for three years. Apart from being a most popular G.O.C., General Upjohn has been a familiar figure at all sporting events in the district, and on the golf course. He now carries in his bag (and may now have a little more leisure to use) a putter made for him in the Regiment, which was *NOT* presented to him with malice aforethought! During his visit he presented the B.E.M. to our Civilian Instructor and ex-Warrant Officer, Bob Frarey, who had been named in the Birthday Honours List earlier this year.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

The Amenities Centre

The old Corporals' Club building went into a state of suspended animation with the opening last year of our new Harewood Club, and it must have felt that life in the Regiment would pass it by in the future.

However, this was not to be so, for a need was established for an amenities centre, where Squadrons, the Wives' Club, and Regimental activities could hold a get-together, preferably in some seclusion.

The P.R.I.'s roving eye settled on the Corporals' Club. Here was a building complete with patio and already fitted out with the most important item for any party, a readily-accessible bar. So the old club was taken under the P.R.I.'s protective wing and re-opened as the amenities centre. Not the most inspiring name for a club, you might think. So did we. What was needed, as one of our budding advertising executives said, was "a title to project the right image."

A good deal of head-scratching went on until one day a voice was heard to cry "Eureka!"—he'd been attending the Education Officer's Greek classes—"as the centre is situated on the Bakerloo Line why not call it the Elephant and Castle!" So we did.

Mercury Theatre

The Mercury Theatre entry for the Cyprus Drama Competition, which took place in October, was "The Private Ear" and the "Public Eye" by Peter Schaffer. It consists of two one-act plays which together form a penetrating study of present-day city life, conducted in lighthearted manner. It was very ably produced by Jennifer Halliday, who returned from holiday in England to find herself chosen as Producer, and five weeks' hard work ahead. The stage Manager, Dave Mowry, worked wonders with a very limited stage, and provided a set for each play which gave the right background atmosphere for the actors.

Visit of S.O.-in-C.

Major-General J. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., visited the Regiment on 8th November. He was met at R.H.Q. by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel O. J. Peck, and inspected a quarter guard drawn from the three Squadrons of the Regiment and commanded by Staff Sergeant E. Cooper. The S.O.-in-C. congratulated the quarter guard on their very high standard of turn-out and drill.

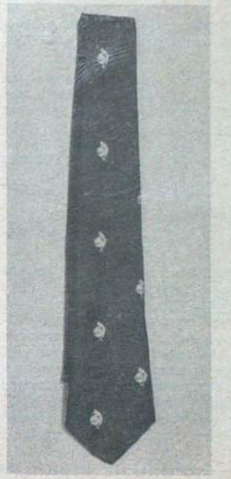
Major-General Bradley then presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to Captain (Tfc. Offr.) J. E. Gill and W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) C. A. Rushbrooke.

After an extensive tour of the Regiment, the S.O.-in-C., accompanied by the C.S.O., C.O., and Adjutant, were entertained to drinks in the Sergeants' Mess. After talking to practically every member in the Mess, no mean feat in itself, judging by the volume of sound in the lounge, the S.O.-in-C. and guests were asked by R.S.M. Hopewell to partake of one of the finest cold buffets yet seen in the Mess. The catering staff, headed by Staff Sergeant Alexander and Sergeant Scott, deserve every credit for their hard work, which was very much appreciated by visitors and members alike.

After a very short rest in the afternoon, General Bradley was entertained to tea in the Harewood Club by other ranks and their wives, during which time he visited each table and spoke to everyone present.

It was a particular pleasure for the members and their ladies to entertain the Signal Officer-in-Chief to drinks and buffet supper party in the evening.

10th Regiment Regimental Tie



A stock of the new approved Regimental tie has been received and it is felt that members of the old 10th Regiment and others may like to avail themselves of the opportunity to buy one.

The tie is in navy blue terylene patterned with a small silver 'cable bear' supported on a gold 'X.'

The cost is 20/- plus postage and may be purchased from PRI 10th Signal Regiment at Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow.

14th REGIMENT, GLOUCESTER

As always, we have had a month which, on the surface, everything has been normal, but when looked at again, reveals some interesting goings-on.

An imaginative exercise

Sixteen bright young Lance-Corporals assembled one bleak Monday morning for an MPC II Course under the eagle eye of R.S.M. C. D. Evis. Now we all know that there are varying degrees of courses, but these particular MPC Courses really do put the students through the hoop. As "light" relief for the course, the Second-in-Command organised an exercise in the Forest of Dean. This required pairs of men to move by night five miles across forest country through enemy patrols and then to attack a VP which was sited on the top of the highest hill for miles. 602 Troop, led by Captain C. R. Crew, provided the enemy, and a hard lot they proved to be! Prisoners were given no quarter and any resistance or truculence was dealt with abruptly. The Second-in-Command was slightly staggered when, in his capacity as umpire, he saw a Land Rover roar into the VP area and a group of desperados drag a fully-trussed body from the vehicle and toss it at his feet. One pair, namely Lance-Corporal Heslington and Signalman Rogers, proved, however, that the task set was possible, and their final dash over a wall to the VP almost trod underfoot the Second-in-Command and R.S.M. who happened at that particular moment to be in their line of advance!

At the end of 14 days, the sixteen Lance-Corporals, almost unrecognisable from those who started the course, went through an impressive passing-out parade taken by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Emley, who gave them his congratulations on a fine effort.

645 Troop go to 'foreign parts' . . .

645 Troop have once again been carrying out their allotted task of providing rear-link communications. This time on Exercise "Dazzle."

As a work-up for the exercise, a two-channel circuit was established during September between Gloucester, at Robinswood Barracks, and Malta; this proved to be most useful in ironing out the bugs and was very successful.

The circuit was closed down a fortnight prior to departure for El Adem, to enable equipment to be made ready for air move. The O.C., Lieutenant W. A. Price, and senior N.C.O.s, together with our line Corporal, left a week ahead of the main party, in order to set up the detachment ready for operation.

The main body then moved to Bulford, prior to emplaning, and thence to R.A.F., Lyneham, where the equipment was air-loaded; 5½ hours later we found ourselves once more in El Adem. No time was wasted in opening the circuit to Malta, and after a few teething troubles, we obtained a pre-exercise average of 75 per cent. traffic availability.

Conditions were somewhat worse than last year, troops being accommodated in six-man tents. Off-shift personnel found it difficult to sleep during the day due to a combination of heat and the ever-present flies. We then found that it rains in North Africa and our tents were awash in water for two days; this didn't cheer us up, but at least it drowned a few of the flies.

. . . And attain a high standard of circuit availability

During the actual exercise period, personnel were confined to camp limits, and had to carry weapons at all times. The S.S.M. had obviously got the Cook Sergeant on his side, for his cry of "no gun, no meal" became legendary. Off-duty personnel had to wear uniform and, as one of our number found to his cost, "flip-flops" are not regarded as part of normal working dress. On the technical side, things ran quite smoothly, and at the end of the exercise, we returned an average of 88% traffic availability, one day reaching 94%. We think these figures are pretty good and Lieutenant-Colonel Proudman, C.O., 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment congratulated the Troop on a fine effort.

Back home again

After the exercise finished there followed a long wait of six days for a plane home. They were relieved by trips to the beach club at Tobruk; one party actually going off to sun bathe in the pouring rain! Imagine then our feelings to find out that the flight back was in a Beverley! This took sixteen grinding hours flying time, with two stops.. The only relief being at the stop in France, where we received a Gallic welcome and were led off to a lunch of half-a-loaf and quantities of *vin ordinaire*, which at least made a change.

Now we are back in Robinswood Barracks re-adjusting ourselves to the English climate, and occasionally indulge in flights of fancy by dreaming that the planners might one day send us on an exercise to a tropical paradise.

Officers v. Warrant Officers & Sergeants

Over the past few months the two messes have been testing one another's strength in various forms of contests. Summer saw a cricket match at Bampton, which the Warrant Officers and Sergeants won pretty convincingly. The officers then put their heads together and come out with a challenge to battle it out in dinghies on the 2 Squadron "puddle" at Droitwich. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants thought this was a pretty heavily loaded challenge, but nevertheless picked up the glove. The contest took place on a perfect sailing day with the Officers fielding an "A" and "B" team against one from the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. This time the officers gained their revenge, their "A" Team scraping home by half-a-point!

The series has continued with a memorable games evening on 3rd November in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess; the latter were saved from defeat at the eleventh hour by their prowess in the "boat race," Sergeant Winning proving conclusively that it is easier to pour a pint down his throat than tip it on the floor!

Latest thoughts (pretty rash ones) are that the next contest will be on the hockey field!

Gurkha Signals

17th REGIMENT, SEREMBAN, MALAYSIA

Some three years have passed since the sight of operational communicating vehicles leaving Sikamat Camp was last seen. In the past three months, however, 4th (Field) Squadron, commanded by Major Colin Ridley, has been raised and trained, and has now completed its first CPX. Even R.H.Q. is talking about getting operational, but the Headquarters Adjutant claims he is L.O.B.

Farewell to Brigadier Blaker

Thirty-six officers of the Corps, Royal Australian Signals, Gurkha Signals and Malaysian Signals dined in our Mess on 11th October to say farewell to Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker. As a memento of the occasion, he was presented with a morse buzzer on which were mounted the badges of those attending, plus the badge of Singapore Military Forces Signal Squadron. We are not really sure whether or not this badge will reappear in his order of battle!

Our Mess was a suitable setting for such an occasion, being the only Officers' Mess in the Far East that belongs solely to a Signal Unit. On reflection, one wonders how many others there are world-wide, excluding Catterick; one feels very few, now that Divisional Signal Regiment Messes have become integrated.

Events in India have played havoc with our autumn leave airlift, but it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and 400 Gurkha soldiers and their families enjoyed a splendid five-day sea voyage in air-conditioned comfort on board the *Lancelot*. The remainder of the lift is also now due to be done by sea, but one doubts if the chartered vessels will be so comfortable.

Impressing the 'Jocks'

Just before Dashera we had the R.S.O. and four members of the Gordon Highlanders Signal Platoon with us for a course on the SR A13. Their last night coincided with 1 Squadron Nautch, which gave them an insight into our off-duty activities. Two 'Jocks' were most impressed by the 'dancing girls,' but were horrified to hear that they might have had a nasty shock had they attempted to date them after the party.

We have had some rapid changes amongst our British ranks. W.O.II (Y. of S.) Giles and Staff Sergeant Crisp have left, but we welcome in their place W.O.II (Y. of S.) Hayes and Sergeant Robertson, the latter being an old hand with us.

By strange coincidence, our two new education instructors are also no strangers to the Corps. Major Carl Rogers has joined us from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, although he is better known to us as an ex-8th Gurkha and an old hand at Gurkha education. Captain Bill Wayman's connections go further back to service with the K.A.R. Signal Squadron.

247 (GURKHA) SQUADRON

Tribute from the Kelabit children

These notes are written at a pleasant spot called Long Seridan in the heart of the 4th Division of Sarawak, an isolated community if there ever was one. Peopled by Kelabits, a delightful race, the nearest down river longhouse is three days away by long boat. Despite its remoteness, the village school, run by a well-spoken Kelabit of 22 years, has its own bamboo pipe band, and, in honour of their Gurkha Signals visitors, the children played an easily recognisable version of "Scotland The Brave," our Regimental March. It seems that the headmaster was taught the music by a New Zealander at Miri, a Sarawak coastal town. "Scottish Soldier" was in their repertoire and so our erstwhile O.C. came away feeling, and rightly, that his was still the master race.

The operational commitments of the Squadron are less now than they have been since the unit came to Borneo in February, 1964. This is a good thing, because it allows more training and more regular rest. The men have done well. Three names have come up in the recent honours lists, namely, Sergeant Ranbahadur Pun with an M.I.D., and Corporal Premsing Thapa and Lance-Corporal Abel with the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Medal, a Brunei award—all very well deserved and hard to come by. (*See page* 420)

Dasahra would have done credit to the London Palladium

Dasahra, which most laymen associate with head-cutting, is over, and in all modesty, there never was a happier and more relaxed evening. Gurkha Captain Harkabir Gurung, due in Britain, we hope, next year, was the man responsible. The entertainers, whether performing their folk dances, chanting their catching hill airs, or in the guise of performing bears, an Indian belle, a gross ration storeman, or the most decorated general ever, would have done credit to the London Palladium. Apart from a select company of close friends, Acker Bilk and his band were present in the later stages, and the Brigade Commander, Brigadier H. C. Tuzo, O.B.E., M.C., took the floor for Nilo Patuki. On his departure for the I.D.C., we would wish Brigadier Tuzo every success and say, as soldiers with a deal of service at brigade level, that it is doubtful whether we have ever had a more thoughtful or appreciative commander.

By now the Squadron is in the command of Major J. A. E. Hasell, fairly fresh from R.M.A., Sandhurst, and Towyn, with Captain J. E. Barnes as his aide.

In areas rarely penetrated by man

To go back to the beginning of the article, Long Seridan featured in a search for a suitable VHF re-broadcast site in the very extensive Brigade area. Tests continue in an attempt to find the most suitable places, and already results have been well worth while. It is all an interesting adventure. Already our efforts have taken us into dense, rotten jungle, smack on the Indonesian border in areas rarely penetrated by man and close to the enemy, and have involved us in landings at high altitudes under very precarious conditions.

For the moment we must wear the sphinx's inscrutable smile, but one day the story will presumably be told.

Word has just come in that Major Hasell, on a recce in a Sioux, has made a forced landing into a jungle-covered mountain at a considerable height. Fortunately he was able to make VHF contact with the local Gurkha Battalion and pronounce himself safe.

Return to Seremban



Major H. Mcl. Paterson has returned to Seremban and this picture taken just before he left shows him with the four remaining Squadron members who served with him in 48 Gurkha Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron in operational Pahang in 1950, when he was a second lieutenant and they were signalmen. Others in the picture are: Captain (Q.G.O.) Harkabir Gurung, Lieutenant (Q.G.O) Tanghum Limbu, and W.O.IIs Tulbahadur Rana and Dhanbahadur Limbu

22nd Regiment keep up their "Thrusting" Reputation

READ below of two 'thrusts' from this Regiment. One to the far mountains of Northern Norway and the other along 500 miles of the swift flowing Rhine. Their young soldiers certainly 'get out and about.'

Exercise Ski High III

By Lieutenant R. P. Shiner



Corporal Power and Signalman Linname before the final assault on the Kongen

I WAS looking forward to returning to Norway this summer, but owing to unforeseen circumstances, I was there sooner than expected and with a different party. The original organiser, Lieutenant R. Boden, was suddenly admitted to hospital and, with only three days to go before departure, I was casually told "It's all yours!" Immediately I handed back the Exercise "Langlauf II" file to Lieutenant N. A. Horler and picked up the Exercise "Sky High III" file.

What was it all about?

The object of this exercise was twofold; firstly to carry out radio tests with Lippstadt, and the other half of the exercise in Bavaria; and secondly to do some mountaineering in the Romsdal area of Norway.

Those last three days were hectic, but all the necessary vehicles, equipment and stores that had been earmarked for us were centralised and the loading and checking was completed in time for us to leave as planned. The party consisted of myself and 18 solders, travelling in two Land Rovers, two Austin 1-ton (D11/234) and a Bedford 3-ton towing a 2-ton Tasker.

Outward journey

We left Lippstadt on 1st August for the beginning of our four-day, one thousand-mile journey to Andalsnes in Norway. The first night was spent just inside Denmark, having crossed the border at Flensburg. The next day we motored north through Denmark and reached Fredrikshavn in time to embark on the s.s. *Cort Adeler* for Larvik. This was a night ferry and took ten hours.

On reaching Larvik the next morning, we were met on the quayside by Lieutenant Kaldestad, Norwegian Army Signals, who was to be our liaison officer for the remainder of our stay in Norway. He was soon to be of use, for we had only been travelling for about three-quarters-of-an-hour when our Bedford 3-ton ran on to the soft shoulder of the narrow road and careered into a strawberry patch—closely followed by the 2-ton Tasker.

Our vehicle mechanic, Craftsman Davis, R.E.M.E., assured me that the Bedford could be repaired alright, but it would take about three days!

The problem then was how to get all our stores and petrol up to Andalsnes. Immediately Lieutenant Kaldestad telephoned for assistance to the Norwegian Army School of Signals, at Lillehamer, where we were going to spend the night. They very kindly obliged by sending one of their own trucks to help us.

After a few hours' delay we continued our journey, leaving Craftsman Davis behind to repair the Bedford in a local garage. We reached Lillehamer late that night and were given excellent accommodation for the night by the Norwegian Signals.

The next morning, having expressed my thanks to Colonel Langaas, Commandant, Norwegian School of Signals, we set out on the last stage of our journey, still accompanied by our Norwegian truck. Our camp site was to be just outside Andalsnes, at a place called Setnesmoen. This is a Norwegian Army hutted camp, and at that particular time the Norwegian Signals were using it for their annual summer training. On our arrival we were yet again to witness the excellent hospitality extended by the Norwegians. Every assistance was given to us in choosing and setting up our camp site.



On top of the Kongen. *Left to right:* Lance-Corporal West, Corporal Illidge, Signalman Fletcher, Corporal Power, Lieutenant Shiner

Settling in

Our first full day in Andalsnes was spent setting up the DIIS, unloading the stores and petrol, and finding the most suitable shop in which to spend our ration money. I was also able to obtain some information on the surrounding mountains from the local people.

The weather, up until then, had been of the familiar B.B.C. pattern of "showers with some sunny intervals." Unfortunately, for the next six days the "sunny intervals" disappeared and the "showers" turned into continuous rain, with the clouds almost down to rooftop level. Although the communications side of the exercise started well, the climbing side was limited to familiarisation with the equipment and learning how to tie various knots.

Sky High—on rock . . .

Luckily, at the beginning of our second week, the weather changed completely and for the next seven days we had glorious sunshine. It was not until this change in the weather that we were able to see for the first time the beautiful mountains that surrounded our camp site. They looked inviting, and we were eager to "have a go." But, as Gaston Rebuffat, the celebrated alpine guide wrote in his book, "Mountaineering is one of the finest sports imaginable, but to practise it without technique is a form of more or less suicide." And so, with this well in mind, we began by practising ascending and descending with the use of ropes, slings and pitons, under the tuition of our 'expert,' Corporal Power.

Soon, however, we were up in the mountains trying out our newly-acquired skills. The official grading for these climbs was "easy," but a number of the party are known to have unofficially re-graded them!

. . . and snow

We also tried our hand at snow and ice walking. This proved popular, and at first appeared easy, but there are a number of hazards, as one party of four experienced.

It was while they were descending a steep, snow-covered gradient. The leading man stumbled and fell, pulling down the other three, attached by nylon ropes. Before any of them could dig their ice axes into the snow firmly, they were on their way down the slippery path. After sliding for about a hundred yards, the end man managed to get his ice axe in and so they came to a halt. At first it was thought to be great fun, and obviously the quickest way down. It was then that they realised that only another hundred yards further on was a two-hundred-foot drop into a frozen lake! Slowly and quietly they continued their descent.

We conquer the 'King'

Near the end of our stay, a party of six made the highest ascent. Our objective was "Kongen"—the King.

In order to get to the lower slopes, we had to travel by Land Rover along the narrow Isterdal valley and up the Giants Road, the latter being a rapid ascent of eleven hairpin bends. At the top of this pass we dismounted and set off on foot.

This part was the most exhausting, as we had to trudge up a slope covered with large boulders of rock, before cutting across a steep, snow-covered slope. A mistake here meant a rapid and slippery descent into the frozen lake, which was beginning to thaw! Safely across this, we were now at the foot of Kongen.

Here we split up into two climbing parties of three and began our ascent. The first obstacle was to move along a narrow ridge and, although we all noticed the beautiful scenery to be seen down below, on both sides of the ridge, not one of us stopped to take a photograph! Nobody would admit it was fear, but rather that they were eager to get a move on. Although perhaps the easiest and most direct route was not taken, we reached our goal.

At the top we found a book with signatures in it dating back to the 1890s, and so, following this tradition, and the steps of Exercises "Sky High I and II," our names were added.

A meeting with "Jack Frost"

Whilst this was going on, Craftsman Davis, having previously successfully repaired and delivered the Bedford, decided he would like to see a little more of Norway. His destination was the Arctic Circle, and so, armed with a ground-sheet, a small pack, containing washing kit, a tin of rice, a packet of biscuits and a Union Jack, he set off. After covering 1,125 miles in 62 hours, with the help of 39 lifts, in an assortment of vehicles, he returned. Although tired, he proudly displayed the proof of reaching his goal—a certificate signed by "Jack Frost."

Communications as well

Although everyone was keen to get into the mountains, our communications were not neglected. We had daily schedules to Exercises "Langlauf II" and "High Fjord," both in Norway, and to Lippstadt and Bavaria. These links worked well using CW, and, on a number of occasions, we changed to RATT and SSB when working to Lippstadt.

Homeward bound

After three wonderful weeks at Andalsnes, it was time for us to take our leave and, for a few, to say our fond farewells. After packing up the camp site we set off again for Lillehamer. It was while on this stage of the journey that I swear our convoy was overtaken by a certain officer driving a Swedish-registered Volvo! Alas, no proof.

After an overnight stay at Lillehamer, we continued on our journey to Klofta, 30kms. north of Oslo. Here we stayed two nights at a Norwegian Army Transmitting Station, this having been arranged previously by our liaison officer. It enabled us to take in a day's sightseeing in the Norwegian capital and, although the weather was good, we managed to include in our tour of the city the world famous ski-jump, the Kon-Tiki raft, and the Viking ships.

The next day we said farewell to our liaison officer and, at Larvik, embarked yet again on the s.s. *Cort Adeler.*

It had been a wonderful experience and great fun.

Vote of thanks

Having met a number of officers and sergeants from the Norwegian Army School of Signals, I know that they take a keen interest in the activities of our Corps and that they read "The Wire" regularly. It is through this medium that I would like to thank the many of them that helped to make this exercise such an enjoyable one.

In particular, I would like to thank Colonel J. Langaas, Commandant, Norwegian School of Signals, Captain M. Spilde and O/Sjt. K. Sandoy, both of whom were instructors at Setnesmoen, and, of course, our Liaison Officer, Lieutenant Kaldestad.

Exercise "Rhine Thrust"

By Second-Lieutenant R. N. Haysom

DURING the August Adventure Training period, Lieutenant Bob Siderfin and I took a party of twelve men "down the Rhine." I commanded the canoeists whilst on the water. Lieutenant Siderfin commanded the shore party as well as having overall command of the exercise. The plan was for nine of us to canoe from Basel to Rotterdam, while the other six looked after the administration. Both Corporal M. R. Croot and I had qualified as B.A.O.R. Canoe Instructors at the 1 (BR) Corps Outward Bound Centre in Norway. We used the Margaretensee, a nearby lake, for basic training, and managed some sea canoeing during summer camp at Cuxhaven. All the "trainees" qualified as B.A.O.R. trained canoeists and on the 9th August we set off.

What ensued in the next three weeks was such great fun that our exploits would fill a book. However, here are a few incidents taken from the log.

Monday, 9th

Travelled from Lippstadt to Weil, just north of Basel. Camped by the Rhine at the 172km. marker. This is our start point. Lieutenant Siderfin not present, will meet him at Worms.

Tuesday, 10th

Spent the day checking our kit, buying food and re-fuelling vehicles. Canoes are all seaworthy. "Bert," a German canoeist arrived and I agreed to his request to stay with us. Temperature approx. 90°F.

Wednesday, 11th

Started early and were soon in rapids between the 175 and 180km. markers. Corporal Brittain achieved feat of "swimming" across a 12-knot current. Signalmen Williams and Bennan "shot" the rapids—by accident—not by design! The Land Rover could not reach the river for our lunch stop as planned. Lunch at 220km. marker. We beached canoes at Breisach. Camp was already set up by shore party and "char was up." A good meal and so to bed.

Thursday, 12th

Today went according to plan. Lunch was waiting at the 243km. marker. We had to wait at a lock for a barge to come along before we were allowed through. Beached tonight at Altenheim.

Friday, 13th

Unlucky for some—mosquitoes plentiful. Insufficient anti-gnat cream, so literally had to "jump it." Some looked as if they had the "plague." Beached at Greffern. During the evening the Canadians at C.A.F., Solingen, were good enough to let us use their showers and Airmen's Club.

Saturday, 14th

After a trip into Baden-Baden in the morning, we paddled on to the German Customs. From there to 363km. marker, where we beached the canoes. Spent the evening in Karlesrue—rest day needed. Sunday was spent "girding our loins" for the next stage of our journey.

Monday, 16th

At 09.45 the German Water Police arrived to escort us through Mannheim. A wise precaution. Traffic was considerable. Sea training proved invaluable, as we went through the waves rather than over them. Nevertheless, good progress made and have completed 266kms. Beached just north of Worms.

Tuesday, 17th

Started canoeing after lunch. Hailed by Lieutenant Siderfin while passing through Worms. Could not arrive at pre-arranged time in Worms due to problems in camp. Beached at Ginsheim. Sent back a vehicle for him and he joined us later on in the evening.

Wednesday, 18th

Full of confidence now and have reached St. Goarshausen. Passed through Maintz and Lorelei without mishap. Luckily no "Singing Maidens," but pleasure boats created almost as much danger! No room in the Camp Platz, so we took over adjacent football pitch for next 36 hours. No matches, so no problems!

Friday, 20th

"Bert" left us today, leaving with us kilometre-by-kilometre guide to the Rhine. Now called the "Good Book." Beached canoes at 611km. First rainstorm since we started—plastic anoraks excellent. Shore party have been working extremely efficiently. Especially as km. markers are not easy to find.



Lunch stop. Just before Koblenz

Saturday, 21st

Speed of 11km. per hour maintained. Have now reached Udesheim.

Sunday, 22nd

Current seems to be increasing. Passed through Bonn. River traffic a serious menace. Nowhere to rest—men feeling the strain. Signalman Brennen admitted to B.M.H., Rhinedalen—tonsilitis. Distance travelled 72km.

Monday, 23rd

Rest day. Some of the party not too well—suspect 'flu. "Medicinal" spirits worked wonders.

Tuesday, 24th

All very keen to carry on. Current was very helpful and good speed maintained. Passed through Koln—nearly rammed by steamer—Dusseldorf, Krefeld and Duisburg. We beached at Dinslaken Canoe Club in heavy showers, but club members very hospitable. They gave us almost free run of their club house. Naturally, we slept inside!

Wednesday, 25th

River was very choppy due to the high wind. We set off, but after 1½km. Signalmen Williams and Bysh capsized in their fibreglass canoe. Capsize drill was useless due to the rough water. Both men were taken ashore clinging to the instructors' singles and their canoe towed by Corporal Piper and Signalman Wilson in their two-seater Klepper. The canoes were removed by vehicle to the Canoe Club and the rest of the day spent resting.

Thursday, 26th

Windy again. The fibreglass canoes were left ashore—unsafe in high seas. Signalmen Williams and Bysh joined the shore party for the day. The remainder paddled on and were thankful to stop at Rees Canoe Club for tea before continuing to Emmerich Canoe Club. Celebrations ensued and a little worse for wear, we prepared for the last few days.

Friday, 27th

The river has lost its pace. We branched off on to the River Lek to escape the traffic. Very hard work, but reached Oosterbeck without incident.

Saturday, 28th

Have reached Coulomberg. Speed even more reduced, due to wind, which seemed to rise in force as we progressed. Lack of all kilometre signs made navigation almost impossible. Many canals we passed were not marked on our map.



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Sunday, 29th

The wind was now about force 6. Speed was reduced to 6km. per hour. Lieutenant Siderfin and Signalman Wright appeared at the 965km. marker. We came ashore for lunch and decided not to canoe again in the afternoon. We left the canoes with a local farmer and returned to Rotterdam. Yet another excellent meal was consumed and most of the party had an early night.

Failure

We planned to come back the next day and paddle into Rotterdam. There were only 35km. to do. Monday dawned and the wind was still high. Downcast, we collected the canoes and took them to Rotterdam by road. The rest of the day was taken up with packing, and on Tuesday, 31st, we came home. Sad on the one hand that we had failed, but proud to have paddled, driven and sweated down 500 miles of a difficult waterway.

Regimental Notes

Weatherwise, in Lippstadt, this has been a beautiful month so far, but now the early-morning frost and the beautiful autumn shades in the trees remind us that the winter is upon us.

This month, according to the Regimental Diary, was a time for us to pause from our normal exercise activities, make and mend and prepare for our busy programme in November. This, of course, did not mean that we were entirely free of exercises—we never are!

On the ranges

Leaving these aside, we were able to carry out another part of our annual range qualification during the period 11th-16th on the Brackwede Ranges. These are beautiful, well-kept ranges, banked in to exclude those difficult cross-winds, and to assist us, the weather was superb.

Out of a total of 198 firers, we produced 43 Marksmen, 52 1st Class, 67 2nd Class and 36 3rd Class shots.

A special mention must go to Signalmen Waite and Thomas, of 2 Squadron, who scored 64 and 60 out of a possible 66. We hear also that the O.C. of that Squadron is poorer by many marks (right, Stephen?).

Helicopter training

During the month the Regiment had its first organised helicopter training, involving first stage training and stores lifting.

Our "sticks" in the first stage were a little overawed initially, but successfully completed the drill. The whirling blades produced quite a stir as the aircraft came in, to the discomfort of many of the bystanders. All available officers also took part, the Quartermasters being specially concerned in the preparation and lifting of loads, particularly those concerned on re-supply to detachments. The loads of rations, petrol and the like were live, and apart from an odd jerrican damaged, the loads were prepared, lifted and re-stacked most effectively.

Sport

In the world of sport, we are settling down to the winter programme. We have high hopes of our hockey and rugby teams, though the rugby team lost in the first round of the Army Cup. We played our first round of Army Cup soccer on 6th November. The team, though they had not been doing too well early in the season, managed to beat the Carbineers 3—2, scoring the winning goal in the first few minutes of extra time. The Carbineers were a strong attacking team and we were very lucky to beat them; that we managed it at all, was largely due to the excellent goalkeeping of Moore, and a very solid game played by our young centre-half, Campbell.

Comings and goings

Belatedly, we must say goodbye to Major and Mrs. J. A. Dunbar, who have left us for the home country and "Bonnie Scotland." We welcome our new Q.M. (Tech.) Major R. N. Richmond and family from 245 Squadron (Benghazi) and hope he serves us as well as Major Jimmy did. We also say goodbye to Lieutenants Boden, Brookes and Horler, to Shrivenham, and welcome also, Captain L. A. Woods and family.

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

THE FAR EAST

as a Signalman sees it

SIGNALMAN J. Duggan, of 209 Squadron, writes of his impressions of Singapore and Borneo. His pen flows easily as he conjures up a very real picture of how life strikes a newcomer to these 'far away places.'

As I expected, I found a great many strange and exciting sights during my three-week stay in Singapore. Life itself assumed an entirely new pattern for me, a more varied and interesting one than I had enjoyed in the U.K.

A pleasant, lazy life

At first conditions were almost like those of a holiday camp. The food was well nigh excellent, accommodation was very good, and for two whole weeks there was no work. A little P.T. each morning before breakfast sharpened the appetite. After a satisfying meal, a parade and roll-call was held. Then two hours down at the fine swimming pool would be followed by half-an-hour's rest before lunch, which was another pleasant meal. Most of the afternoons were free, to be spent either lazing about improving a sun-tan or writing letters to the loved ones at home.

Singapore—lively, noisy colourful

My impression of Singapore is of a large, very lively, very noisy, colourful and cosmopolitan city. The tropical climate makes sightseeing very exhausting and, in most parts of the city, the crowded sidewalks make it difficult to move around. Window-shopping can be a wonderful experience in Singapore, but the tourist must be firm with persuasive Chinese shopkeepers. It is hard to resist being annoyed by their sales efforts and by the taxi-drivers. These individuals make full-throated use of their car hooters in attracting the customers' attention and showing their feelings for other road-users. After a few days I found that by completely ignoring them they ceased to cause annoyance. Contrary to what I expected, I found prices high and money did not stretch very far. Radios, cameras and watches were, however, much cheaper than in U.K. The tourist will find some very unpleasant aromas, not only in Singapore, but in most of S.E. Asia as well. These are especially strong in the evenings when the many "stall cafes" do their peak business in such delicacies as Chinese mee and Malay satay.

I found in Singapore a few reminders and some of the atmosphere of the British Raj era. Both the interior and the exterior of the splendid Raffles Hotel gives one an idea of the splendours and way of life of other days. Many of the great public buildings are built in 19th century style. Singapore is a city well worth visiting. There is a great deal to see, and for the visitor fresh from Europe, the entire scene is usually a source of great wonder.

Sunny days and moonlit nights

After spending nearly three weeks in Singapore doing very little, I felt relieved when our ship headed out of the Singapore Roads towards the open sea. I was anxious to reach my final destination, settle in and spend the tour of duty with the minimum of trouble. The voyage to Borneo was almost cruise-like. The days were sunny, with blue skies, and a strong, refreshing wind. By night, strange stars twinkled from the heavens and a bright moon traced a path of pale gold across a calm sea. In the quietness, peacefulness and beauty of the scene, a loving couple would have found a very romantic and idyllic atmosphere. I spent St. Patrick's Day at sea for the first and, I hope, last time. Some friends from Cork, living in Singapore, had given me shamrock, which I duly wore crossing the South China Sea. Thinking of other years, of the parties and dances on 17th March, made me long for my native land. I saw small lonely islands with their palm trees and the surf breaking in long white lines on the distant shore. I welcomed these specks of land in an empty waste of sky and sea, even the occasional ship or seagull made a change. I doubt if I would make a good sailor. I love the sights, the sounds and smells of land too much. However, the purity, the freshness and untamed power of the sea made a big impression on my landlubber mind.

Jungle growing down to the beach

On the second last night at sea I watched the long beam of a lighthouse and the dark outline of the land. So that place over there is Borneo, I thought. I wondered what it would look like, this huge tropical island, parts of it still unexplored. In brilliant morning sunshine, I watched the long low coastline grow larger as the ship drew near. For five hours she lay at anchor, waiting for high tide to travel the last part of the voyage, sixty miles up the Rajang River. From this position all that could be seen was the shore with deep-green jungle growing down to the beach. No houses or signs of human habitation could be seen. Lots of driftwood came floating down from the river's mouth. The heat and humidity became intense, and scarcely a breeze ruffled the brownish-coloured



Singapore's Tiger Balm Gardens



Signalman Duggan with Chinese friends in Singapore

water. It was a great relief when the anchor was hauled up and the ship moved forward once more.

Except for a solitary buoy, this part of Borneo must look much the same as it did ten thousand years ago. The river-mouth is very wide and the current is strong and fast. A small primitive village of huts can be seen on the left. I saw no people. The river has many channels, so I think this must form the delta. The stillness and unchanged character of the scene would make an ideal setting for a Rider Haggard or Tarzan film.

Colourful sunsets

As the ship moved further upriver the banks on either side drew closer. The jungle seemed to have been cleared in many places and inhabited villages began to appear more often on both sides. Small brown people ran down their little jetties and waved to us; some of us waved back. I thought that ocean-going ships must rarely come upriver, though I now know they come up most days. River traffic also increased, many boats having outboard motors. The most remarkable feature was the amount of timber and logs floating down-stream. The water looked very dirty and a dead hen passed close to the bows. Though I looked eagerly, I could see no alligators or crocodiles. Borneo has the most colourful sunsets; I shall long remember that first evening, the western sky was a kaleidoscope of colour, the mass of clouds forming and re-forming in unearthly shapes. As darkness began to fall, the bright lights from the riverside homes cast long slivers of light across the dark and brooding river.

Astonishingly modern

I must have been asleep for two hours when I woke to a silent, motionless ship. I ran up on deck to discover that I was now at journey's end. The ship was tied up to a small dock. Just in front, a small Panamanian-registered freighter shared the same berth. A few small craft chugged up and down the river. I looked long at this place to which I had travelled 8,300 miles, and where I would be spending the next eight months. It looked astonishingly modern and was in no way resembling what I had expected. The buildings were firm and well built. The place was well lighted, looked clean and orderly. This was Sibu, main town and port of Sarawak's Third Division. I knew straight away I was going to be happy here. As it was now quite late that night, we slept on board.

The morning was very disheartening, it was raining and a heavy mist hung over the area; it was very humid, too. However, we were too busy unloading vehicles to get preoccupied with the dreary scene. The dockers, small and brown, wore red scarves about their heads. Finally, the last vehicle landed on the dockside and we moved off to our new home.

A pleasant place

The drive through Sibu was very encouraging. I noted the numerous shops, cinemas, cafes and hotels. Most of the people seemed to be Chinese. There seemed to be no beggars either. The streets and roads were well surfaced. I decided Sibu was quite a pleasant place; large cities and towns have little appeal for me, I have spent much of my life in the country—a small town with reasonable amenities suits me admirably.

Our camp is situated alongside the one and only runway of Sibu's small airport. My first impression was a very bad one indeed. The rain during the night had made the chalky mud very soft, the vehicles churned this into a quagmire. The buildings, or "bashas," looked like large native huts with the sides open. The roofs were made of a thatch called "attap." The advance party had arrived a week earlier and they hastened to assure us that life was quite good. As I unpacked, I was still very sceptical. Dinner was very good and thereafter, food generally was better than in Colchester.

Chinese, Ibans, Dyaks and Malays

Sibu is surrounded by jungle. Road mileage here is very small. A road is being built through the "ulu," or jungle, so that road transport with West Sarawak can be possible. At the moment river and air transport are used. There is a good system of telephone communications. The population is composed of Foochow Chinese, Ibans and Malays. The Chinese are shrewd businessmen and work very hard to improve their lot. Though polite and friendly, they can be unscrupulous in business deals; without their drive and determination, Sarawak would be worse off economically. The Ibans or Sea Dyaks are the largest group of the original Borneo peoples. Formerly headhunters, they now live peacefully in longhouses on all the large rivers. They are the most charming, affectionate and generous people one could possibly meet. It is only recently that they have come fully into contact with Western civilisation. This has caused them to forsake much of their customs and dress. I do not know much about the Malays as yet. They dress very attractively—at least the women do. They are distinguished from the Chinese by a darker skin.

So I come to the end of this part of my account. The final analysis will be written when my Brigade leaves Sarawak and returns to its home base in the U.K.

Men of the Corps

go to the Norwegian Backwoods in

Exercise "Windy Ridge"

Second-Lieutenant M. Cartwright of the 2nd Regiment writes of a trek that he undertook in Norway during the summer. Accompanied by two sergeants and five soldiers from his Regiment, he climbed mountains and penetrated to the backwoods of Norway.

Another example of the interesting adventures that come the way of the Corps in its many overseas stations.

Crash!

There was a splintering crash and everything went dark. I felt myself falling, and thought that if this was the end of the world, then this was the obvious direction for me to be travelling! I fell into a pile of soft hay and realised that I was still on the right side of the styx. Lance-Corporal Doyle, who had accompanied me on my fall also fell into something soft and said something that can't be printed here. Up above us, Sergeant Emsley offered words of comfort: "I told you this barn wasn't safe."

"Windy Ridge"

"Windy Ridge" was a series of treks in Southern Norway, carried out by various units of 2nd Division during the summer. A party consisting of an officer, two sergeants and five soldiers from 2nd Regiment went to Norway in July.

After a long, but uneventful journey, we arrived in Kristiansand, a large port in Southern Norway. We were met by one of the permanent staff of the Army Outward Bound Centre, who were to supply us with transport to and from the trek area, and a guide. We went first to the Outward Bound Centre, where we were briefed and introduced to our guide, Sergeant "Jock" Jones, who was one of the instructors at the centre. We then left for the trek area, which was some 90 km. north of Kristiansand.

We reach the trek area

Our time in Norway was split into two phases, the first being a period of orientation, during which we were to get used to the country and the maps; the second phase being the actual trek.

The maps that we were issued with had an "olde worlde" look about them—all black and white and no grid-lines. They weren't terribly accurate, either.

After three days of orientation, we arrived at the starting point of the trek. Base camp was a disused railway station called Byglandsfjord. We were to start from here without our guide, so we scrutinised our route on the map very closely and discovered that there was a large portion of route off the map. Yes, the guide said, he realised this, but if we stopped at the farm on the edge of the map the farmer would let us look at his map.

Going too fast

It was very hot that first day, we seemed to be climbing up hill all day. Early in the evening we were climbing up a

(*Continued on page 438*)

ATTACKING...



COMMANDING...



RECONNOITRING...



RETALIATING...



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Royal Yacht BLOODHOUND

By

Lt.-Col. E. J. Bardell, O.B.E.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL Eric Bardell, O.B.E., writes another "sea saga" for "The Wire." A Royal Signals crew have the pleasure and privilege of sailing "Bloodhound" westwards towards the Scillies and then on to Southern Ireland. Eric Bardell's descriptive writing brings the trip into vivid reality, and his short survey of a past era in the history of the Scilly Islands will have an interest for many. All will be pleased to hear that Eric Bardell has recently had an article published in the Geographical Magazine.

The crew — "three experienced watchkeepers and three hefty foredeck hands" — were Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Bardell, Colonel Max Sawers and son, Ian, Major Lee Edinger, Lieutenant Bob Brewis and Second-Lieutenant Peter Crane.



Shipshape and a sailor's delight. Colonel Max Sawers and Ian on watch

"Jimmy" at the masthead

One day during the latter part of the summer, *Bloodhound* was lying at her moorings at Gosport. Her normal dress is the White Ensign with the burgee of the Royal Yacht Squadron, but on this occasion she was wearing the Red Ensign and "Jimmy" was flying proudly at her masthead. A kindly touch by Merryn Fairbank, her sailing master, to welcome aboard Royal Signals. We had been invited to provide a crew to ferry her to Eire. As it was the Fastnet week, we planned for heavy weather in the Western Approaches and the crew had been picked accordingly—three experienced watchkeepers and three hefty foredeck hands. We arrived off the morning train from London, having assembled from as far afield as Krefeld, Catterick and the Isle of Anglesey. Shortly after midday we got under weigh to make the most of the easterly breeze and the west-going tide through the Solent. With the help of Francis Drake, the bosun, the newly-joined crew soon found their way around the boat and had everything hoisted and pulling well; the main and the mizzen, the huge white spinnaker and the mizzen staysail. While the *Queen Mary* passed us sedately through the haze on her way to Southampton, the hovercraft ferry crossed our bows in a flurry of spray bound for the Isle of Wight. Bob Brewis took the helm and we went below for lunch. By 3 p.m. we had the Needles abeam, the sun was warm, the breeze strong, and the occasional whitecap slapped against the counter. A good start for the cruise. We zeroed the log and decided to make the most of the good weather. Torbay or the Scillies was to be our first port of call Time was of little consequence as we had eight days in which to complete our delivery.

. . . Surging down the wave fronts, rolling at times . . .

Striding down Channel; two Argosy's flew low overhead and a small coaster was hard put to overtake us as we creamed along at 9 knots and more. We split ourselves into three watches of two, each watch doing three hours. After supper and the weather report being favourable, we decided to lay a course for the Scillies. Before nightfall we took off the spinnaker, the mizzen and its staysail, so that the watch on deck would be more comfortable. During the night we passed south of the Eddystone Light, going well under our twins—the mainsail with a foreguy rigged to starboard and the genoa set to port on the spinnaker boom. We surged down the wave fronts, rolling at times. It was exhilerating and thrilling under the bright moon and mackerel sky. *Bloodhound*, for all her 34 tons, has tiller steering and one feels the power of the wind and sea in the darkness, with the wave crests hissing by as they break and roll forward urging the boat on and on towards the west.

A 'Soldier's' Breeze

By eight the following morning we were off the Lizard, the wind fell light and to seaward we saw several of the Fastnet fleet beating their way to Portsmouth and the finishing line.

At noon we were hoisting the spinnaker when suddenly through the haze loomed the mass of the Wolf Rock Lighthouse with the Atlantic swell breaking against its foot. Twenty-four hours since leaving Gosport and some two hundred miles and more on the log. Truly it had been a soldiers' breeze. We circled the Scillies to the north and took the narrow channel between Tresco and Bryher, down past Cromwell's Castle, to drop our anchor and fifteen fathom of chain on the beautiful silver sand a little south of Hangman's Isle.

A glorious afternoon was spent in the sheltered waters off New Grimsby learning the intricacies of the outboard motor and the management of the large rubber dinghy in a tideway. These craft are now being introduced into the Lifeboat Service for inshore work. "Be bold" was the cry and there was much amusement and several pairs of wet trousers before the trainees were passed out as competent dinghy handlers under power. A walk ashore after supper for a pint at the local. Its thick walls are covered with the photographs of all the wrecks on the islands since 1880. Square-rigger and steam, they make a sorry sight on the rocks. We were told of the clergyman on St. Agnes who on being informed of a wreck whilst in the middle of his sermon, announced it from the pulpit. On the next occasion of a wreck he said nothing, but walked to the door of the church and from there made his announcement, adding, "This time we all start fair."

Felons and Pirates of days gone by

The history of the Scillies has been harsh and at times the justice rough. The XIVth century records John de Allet and Isabella holding the islands. Convicted felons were taken to the rock on which the Bishop Lighthouse now stands and there they were left with two barley loaves and a pitcher of water "until by the flowing of the sea he is swallowed up."

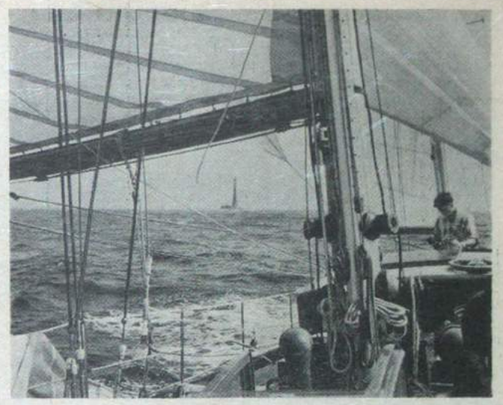
During the reign of Richard III, the islands were worth forty shillings in time of peace and in time of war—nothing. The latter value was recognition of the difficulty and danger of holding the Scillies in times of trouble.

The first Elizabeth, however, was made of sterner stuff and she bade Sir Francis Godolphin fortify them against the coming of the Armada. In the State Papers of the period—Sir Francis writing to Lord Burghley on 6th August, 1593—we find a sentence reminiscent of Sir Winston Churchill speaking of the next invasion attempted some four hundred years later . . . "so much has seldom been performed at such small charge, and with so few hands in so short a time."

The island inhabitants were frequently molested by pirates and we read of captures being made by the Turks three or four leagues off the Scillies. It was not until 1816 that the Turk, the Moors, and the Salles Rovers were finally supressed and the seas around made safe. Sir Edward Pellew took a combined fleet of British and Dutch ships to Algiers, bombarded the city, and destroyed it. The seas off the Scillies were finally at peace and only the hazards of storm and her rocky coast were to bedevil the inhabitants.

Unexpected but very welcome visitors

We spent the week-end exploring the islands, feeling our way across the sandy flats and through the rocky channels. As we went into St. Mary's to water and fuel alongside, so saw



The Wolf Rock Lighthouse with Major Lee Edinger on watch. Over two hundred miles in a day



Cromwell's Castle with Hangman's Isle in the middle distance. An expedition returns from Tresco, our anchorage in the Scillies



Landing on Amnet, the Bird Sanctuary in the Scillies

(*Continued from page* 436)

track through a thick pine wood when a tiny wizened old man passed us. He looked over his shoulder and told us in perfect English that we were going too fast. Then he raced on up the track. He was the farmer who was to show us his map, and said later that he was 65 years old and did this journey twice a day. His farm was about 1,700ft. above the nearest road.

That Barn

On the second day we set out into the uncharted area armed with a map drawn on a brown paper bag. We travelled over some very rocky and striking country. It rained very hard that day, and it was a wet and tired, and not particularly happy party that arrived at the second bivouac point—*that barn.* However, everyone managed to raise a smile when I fell through the floor.

It was at this point that we noticed how hard the mosquitoes were biting. There seems to be a particularly vicious breed of mosquito in Norway that thrives on a certain well-known brand of insect repellant. The trek lasted another three days.

Return

We had half-a-day in Byglandsfjord to clean up ready to go back to civilisation and then we had to return to Kristiansand via the Outward Bound Centre. We had had several days of wonderful weather when the rest of Europe seemed to have been under water, and we had crossed some very exciting country. We were very sorry to leave.

"Some kinda nomads"

On the quayside at Kristiansand a group of "trekkers," dressed in a variety of anoraks and jeans were squatting around a hissing primus stove, advertising the fact that the British soldier cannot survive for any length of time without tea. A group of travellers looked on with a mixture of amusement and astonishment. "Maybe some kinda nomads," said an American tourist, moving in with a battery of cameras.

Major-General "Ginger" Moberly and his daughters who were there on holiday. We were delighted when he accepted an invitation to lunch aboard and spend the afternoon cruising through the islands. It was appropriate that the signature of a Colonel Commandant should be included in *Bloodhound's* Visitors' Book at the time a Royal Signals crew was aboard. We anchored close in to Annet, the bird sanctuary, and went ashore to see the puffin nests. The birds, of course, had flown. One could imagine the beauty of the scene with the nests below the spring cushions of thrift with their masses of delicate pink blooms and those ridiculous clowns of the sea, the puffins, tumbling over their fluffy young. Then to St. Agnes, and the site of one of the oldest lights in the British Isles. The original was a coal fire set in an iron brazier at the top of a seventy foot tower. Peter Crane went for a swim in the crystal clear water and came out purple. The Gulf Stream was a little cool this year!

Our first task on Sunday morning was to send birthday greetings by radio phone to Princess Ann cruising in the Royal Yacht *Britannia* at the opposite corner of the British Isles, off the north coast of Scotland.

Fair winds deserted us as we left Tresco for southern Ireland; they blew from the north-west and promised to blow harder as the days passed. We donned our oilskins and wrapped up warmly for the night watches. Our cook, Peter Anstey, came up to his cordon bleu rating during the crossing by producing roast turkey and all the trimmings. From the log I note that it was served at 19.00 hours, we were averaging 9 knots through the water and the angle of heel was thirty degrees. On the second evening we made our landfall; the small red light on the headland leading to Castle Townsend.

Ireland is so Irish

For the next three days we cruised the beautiful Irish coast; we shot the rapids out of Loch Hyne in the dinghy; we explored the long sea caves under Bullock Island; bought lobsters straight from the pots; watched a seal take salmon for his breakfast in Kinsale Harbour and juggle them until they went down head-first. We rounded the Old Head of Kinsale where the wreck of the *Lusitania* lies and we entered Glandore Harbour. Here, in good Irish fashion, the local sailing directions tell you that "for a safe entry you must avoid Adam and hug Eve," the two rocky islets in the entrance. Local knowledge is also of value in obtaining supplies. The source of any item is not always what one would expect. From the butcher came eggs, butter and even lettuce, but perhaps the best example was salmon from a bicycle shop.



Major General Moberly and his daughter aboard for lunch talking with Colonel Max Sawers and Major Lee Edinger

Finally we sailed to Crosshaven which lies on a delightful stretch of river just inside Cork Harbour; the home of the Royal Munster Yacht Club who entertained us so royally. The following morning *Bloodhound* was given her usual scrub down but to this was added a fresh water wash and leather to the water line. We had completed our task in good order and were six proud and happy members of the Corps.

Postscript

We returned to England on the night packet boat, the *Innisfallen*. We had imagined on booking our berths that the boat was much the same as the cross-Channel ones—all second class and a few special cabins. But not so. We were directed down the after hatch, down and down into the steerage compartment, past C deck to E deck, below the waterline and alongside the propellors. Packed like sardines in our dormitory, there was no chance of moving to more normal accommodation even if it had been available. Still, all were friendly and cheerful, many slept on the stairs and were most apologetic about being sick over our shoes. At 3 a.m. we arrived alongside the quay at Fishguard. A heaving grey sea and a foggy mist.

Greetings from the Outer Hebrides

A Report from 632 Troop

THE O.C. recently received a letter from an N.C.O. due to be posted to the Troop. A precis of his letter could well be: "Never heard of it; what do you do; why do it up there!" Remembering his own reaction to similar news, it is hoped the following information will rectify this state of affairs. We could put ourselves on the map by bribing one of the visiting units to point a missile the other way, but as yet we don't feel too fashed about it.

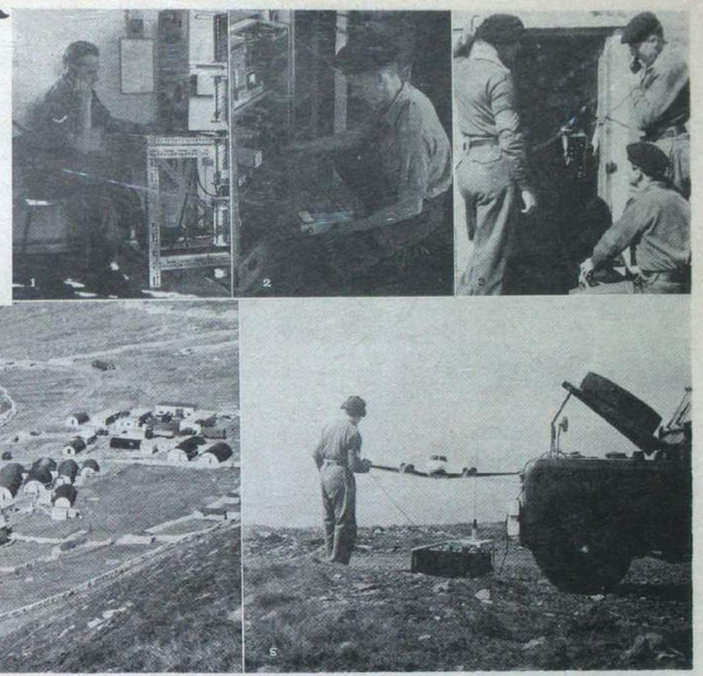


The old Manse at St. Kilda—now the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess

This article continues on page 441

The World in Pictures of 632 Troop

In the Outer Hebrides



1. Lance-Corporal Liddel operating the Marconi Fulmar (ship/shore) radio. (He's a cable jointer!). 2. Sergeant Blagg with his cherished AT & E 800 Radio Relay. 3. Sergeant Snow, Corporal Wood and Signalman Savage testing back. 4. A view of the camp and village bay St. Kilda. On the top right remains of the old village. 5. Sergeant Pete Gray operating the B.E. 201 to the air-drop plane

How to find us

Any reader who has never heard of the R.A. Range, Hebrides, should obtain a map of U.K. and look at the West Coast of Scotland, where the Outer Hebrides will be shown. The Army lives on Benbecula and the Rangehead itself is on South Uist. We must not forget St. Kilda—50 miles to the west—for without them we would not know the conclusion of the launching from Rangehead.

Small, but the Corps Spirit is there

We are about 30 in number, seven of us are on St. Kilda during the firing season and three during the remainder of the year. In order to qualify for the St. Kilda tie, one has to spend a minimum of six weeks there. Apart from the occasional visit from the Navy and the odd trawler with injured crew, the Army are the only human inhabitants.

The Job

Communications between the two complexes are radio relay, HF radio, ship and light aircraft. The latter being a chartered Cessna, which drops mail and other items, whilst the ships or RCTV**Mull,** carry heavier items and bodies. It is not unknown for the weather conditions to be so adverse that, having gone for two days, one ends up by almost qualifying for the Kilda tie!

During the firing season the pace is quite hot, as some NATO armies use the range in addition to our own Gunners. The fact that the Corporal missile is going out of service shortly dispels much of the apprehension felt towards the start of a new season. To see one of these explode on the pad is quite exciting; to see one proceed like a pogo-stick across your front leads to an excess of adrenalin (and other things!).

A posting for fishermen

In the odd moment of no activity, most of the Troop take to a boat and do their level best to denude the Atlantic of fish. The O.C. is not allowed to go out, as it appears he must have angered the gods before arrival here, and his appearance on the pier leads to high seas and Force 8's! This was manifested when the C.S.O., Scottish Command, paid a visit. Despite the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture in providing the loch and boat, all the C.S.O. caught was the O.C.'s trace and flies and then went over his waders. Had it not been for two snipe that evening this Troop would have had a new O.C.!

Domestic

Congratulations to Signalman and Mrs. Thewlis; we hope that they will find a happy start to their marriage with us in the Hebrides. The telegram sent by the Troop was sufficient to cause any girl to have second thoughts about the place.

Congratulations also to Corporal and Mrs. Fleming on the arrival of their first-born—Christopher Michael. Incidentally, the lack of television and the long drawn out winter evenings have not as yet produced any alarming increase in Part II Order births column. This is contrary to the popular belief that these factors, plus the abundance of "Bootee raw material" makes this a good posting for the raising of one's income tax code.

By the time this goes to press, Sergeant Blagg and his family will have left us on posting to 8th Regiment. (At the time of writing these notes he is aboard the **Mull,** returning from an unsuccessful bid to reach St. Kilda).

Christmas is almost upon us at the time of writing. We hope that St. Kilda will feature in the B.B.C. programme prior to H.M. The Queen's broadcast. To all our friends therefore:

'NOLLAIG MHATH AGUS BLIADHNA MHATH US'

Expedition to Lundy

☆

14th Regiment establish first ever 'Ham' Station on Lundy Island and log 520 contacts in 136 hours.



The Lundy Pioneers embark. In the group can be seen Corporal McInnes, Sergeant Rowe, Corporal Graham (G3UOU), Staff Sergeant Conway (G3INE), Signalman Lunt (G8ALD), W.O.I. Evans (G3LQC) Lance Corporal Sweetman and Lance Corporal Larkin

The S.S.M. is inspired

Winter in Bampton is usually the season for inspiration. It was in fact last February when 3 Squadron radio club members gave thoughts to wanting to do something out of the ordinary. An idea, perhaps to attract a world-wide interest from the far spread amateur fraternity. Not to miss an opportunity, our gallant S.S.M., overhearing the discussion, suggested Lundy Island as a possible and unusual location. "You're joking, of course," someone remarked. The S.S.M. is no fool, he quickly saw the possibilities of getting them out of his hair at least for a few days!

As time slipped by, the idea of going to Lundy began to appeal to club members, interest and enthusiasm quickly grew —so much so that the unlicensed members knuckled down to some serious study in order to take the next qualifying examination.

Lundy is a name one hears often mentioned on B.B.C. shipping and weather forecasts, and really means little to the normal soldier.

This is not surprising, since this tiny chunk of terrain, usually enveloped in mist, lies due north and south across the Bristol Channel, and some 24 miles off the Devonshire coast.

A fortunate introduction

The owner of Lundy, Mr. A. P. Harman, perchance was an old school friend of the C.S.O., Brigadier Horsfield, who arranged an early introduction to Mr. Harman, who gave his permission to use this small island for the exercise. Now that this was achieved, planning could go ahead. At this stage, it seemed almost certain we could land a small party.

Not the first military landing

It is of interest that the Vikings were the first armed troops to set foot on Lundy. There is also evidence of military occupation during Henry III's reign. The barrel of an ancient gun, supposed to have been hurled into the sea from the battlements of Marisco Castle, by a French raiding party, lies half way up the beach road. It was moved to this position about 300 years after its sudden change of location. Marisco Castle is now in ruins, but parts of it are estimated to be at least seven or eight hundred years old.

Six months of planning, clouded by difficulties and setbacks, made us all the more determined the exercise would be launched. At last the light was beginning to dawn and it was agreed "Lundy Gannet" would start on 18th September, 1965.

The object of the exercise

A party of eight members, led by W.O.I Ray Evans, assembled at Bampton for their final briefing. Their mission was to establish an amateur radio station on Lundy. Contact was to be made with as many countries as possible working CW, Voice and RTT. The station had to be operational for six days on continuous watch. A further requirement was to maintain a daily RTT schedule with Bampton.

The weather, as forecast by the weather men at Bracknell, was to be wet with no sign of improvement. This gloomy outlook made no impression on the team, who were zealous right from the start, and were only too eager to get going.

A force 10 gale

Immediately following the briefing, all stores and equipment were quickly loaded on to the vehicle. (How we managed to have a pay load of a ton and a half remains a mystery!) An early start from Bampton was essential if we were to reach Bideford Quay, some 160 miles away, by 9.30 a.m. on 19th September. On arrival at Bideford, the m.v. *Lundy Gannet* was seen to be alongside and no time was wasted in unloading and transferring everything to the boat. The weather then took a turn for the worse and nothing we said could persuade the skipper to risk his boat in a force 10 gale blowing in the Bristol Channel. Incidentally the *Lundy Gannet* was originally a fishing boat and still bears its Hull registration H57.

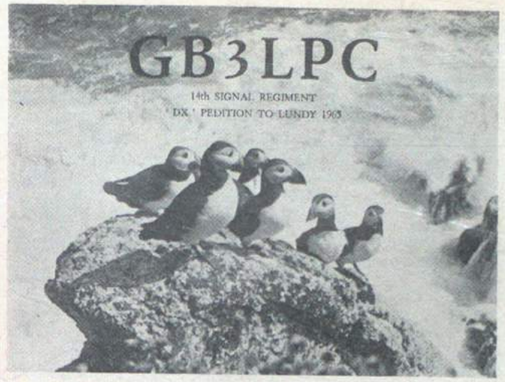
First impressions

Twenty-four hours later the weather having eased we weighed anchor and set a course in a WNW direction. Seeing Lundy for the first time gave the impression of its being a rugged forbidding mass of rock. Only a few buildings were noticeable. We were told later that observation over a number of years shows that Lundy captures the imagination of many more than it repels. After six days on the island we were inclined to agree.

There is only one way to get ashore, passengers and cargo are transferred to small boats and ferried to the only accessible beach.

Siting problems

We went through quite a performance in unloading awkward boxes and our two small generators. When everything was safely



The unique Lundy Island QSL card. Possibly a collectors item in days to come

on the beach, the stores were loaded a trailer and tractor which pulled the lot up the very steep, winding track to our location. This was the Old Lighthouse, together with its accommodation, with a long stone shed on the west and seaward side. Built in 1819, this lighthouse is now the headquarters of the Lundy Field Society. Quick reference to the great circle map showed that the rotary aerial—a 3-element beam provided by Mosely Antennas—would need to be located in such a position as to put the lighthouse on the south side of it, there being no countries to the due south.

After the strenuous climb of 400 ft. from the beach, our first task was to erect aerials and set up shop in the shortest possible time. An "antrac" mast was used for the 3-element beam, and this was prepared for erection by G3LQC. The next consideration was power and the siting of the PE75 Briggs generators. Since prevailing winds at Lundy were at this time south-westerly, the best siting was the other side of the north wall. Power lines were laid to the shack and connected to a step-up transformer by G8ALD (Signalman Lunt). One fuel tank on these generators only gives two hours running, but with the aid of an alarm clock in the shack we managed to maintain continuous operation. Corporal McInnes and G3UOU (Corporal Graham) had, during this time, been making domestic lighting arrangements.

At last we were inside and time was pressing on. The equipment, consisting of a Racal RA17 and a transmitter DX100U by Heathkit, had to be running first so that we could get on the air with CW. The Racal gave no trouble, but signals were weak. The fault was quickly traced and found to be a broken wire in the aerial coupling and switching unit.

First call from Lundy

Everything was now ready and G3INE (Staff Sergeant Conway) took the first call. This came after gentlemanly gestures by all, but as G3INE founded our club back in 1956, the first ever amateur radio signals were transmitted from Lundy by him using the call sign GB3LPC, and contact was established with W1ULH Rhode Island and K2AGU New Jersey. To mark the event the Squadron pennant was hoisted to the masthead, to remain flying there for the rest of our stay. G3UOU followed and had equal success with VO1BD Newfoundland. At 23.55 G3LQC took the key and by then the countries worked by G3INE stood at sixteen. By the following morning we had pushed up the countries list to twenty.

Exploring the countryside

When not on watch or sleeping, time was spent in exploring the countryside, all three and a half miles of it. Apart from the 200 acres under cultivation, the remainder is rocky and rough, but it seems to suit the sheep and wild deer. We saw wild ponies and red deer, and a variety of sea birds. Much to our disappointment, the puffin, perhaps more commonly associated with Lundy, was not to be seen, apparently they are gradually diminishing in number due to many being killed through becoming coated with oil discharged from tankers.



Corporal Graham on watch

We continued operating CW until the Thursday, then realising that time was running out due to the late start caused by the weather it was time to try a new mode of operation. We quickly tuned up on SSB and the results were so good that we added more countries to our list, including the Azores, Puerto Rico, Monaco, Lebanon, Gaza Strip and Australia. A break through on 21 Mc/s the previous evening gave G3LQC the chance of adding Angola, Zambia, Equador and St. Vincent dependancies. This was the only time that this band became open.

RTT contacts

Teleprinter working was tried only once, as with the loss of Saturday and Sunday, which is the peak activity period, we knew we would not be able to make a show of it. However, we were called on CW by W3KDF Pennsylvania and he asked for a RTT contact. We met him on 14090 Kc/s and it wasn't long before we were invaded by some more keen RTTers. Signals were taken from W2BSA Mobile in Connecticut! FG7XT Guadeloupe and W8CQ Detroit. Apart from our daily schedule with Bampton, this was the only time RTT was used.

The night before we closed down, a small gathering in the Marisco Tavern was arranged. Here we met Mr. F. W. Gade, Mr. Harman's agent, who manages local affairs. We presented to the islanders our pennant as a token of appreciation, also as an emblem to signify "we were there."

'Through' to the last moment

The final morning came and it was time to pack up. Determined to keep GB3LPC going as long as possible, G3UOU took over on AM voice. A temporary aerial was rigged up and we joked over the air of our "Top Loaded Lighthouse." This consisted of 90 feet of odd pieces of wire dropped from the top of the lighthouse and "end fed." We concluded by working Eire, Scotland and many counties in England with good reports. The station was finally closed at 09.46 hours GMT, after 136 hours of operation.

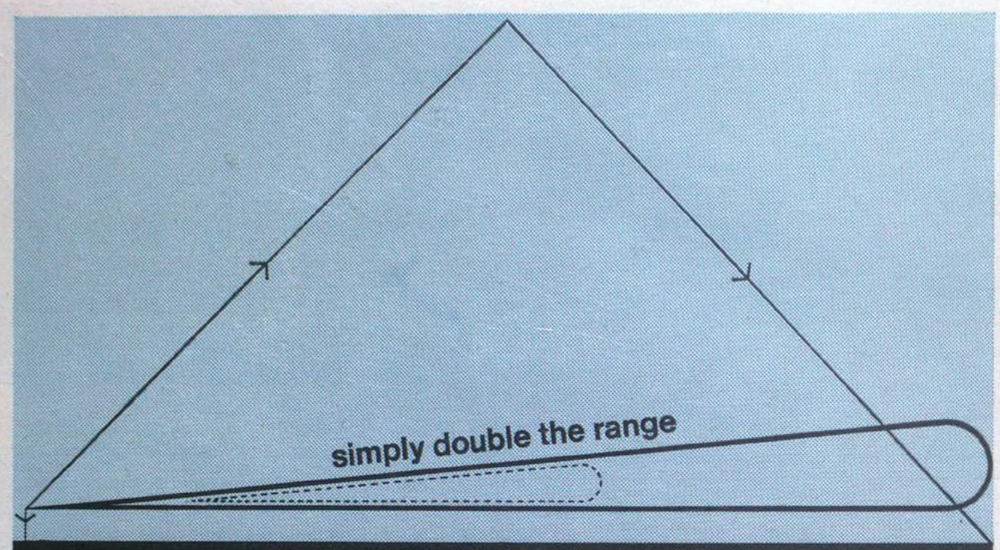
Earlier forms of communication to and from the island was by a Post Office cable laid between Lundy and Croyde in 1892. This was not very successful as the cable suffered several breaks and become too costly to repair. The system in use today is a radio telephone link between the island and Hartland Point coast-guard station. Conversations on this system can be overheard by the locals on their transistor sets.

An interesting footnote is that just before we left, Mr. Harman told us that a group of Belgian amateurs had written to him to ask permission to be the first amateurs to transmit from Lundy, but Royal Signals were there first—AM, SSB, RTT and CW had all been successfully used and GB3LPC led the field!

The results

The results achieved, after 136 hours of continuous operation, were most rewarding. Our summary from the log book shows:—

(Continued on page 445)



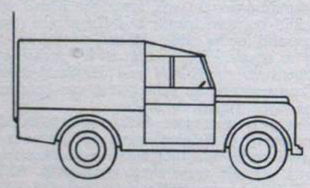
of military mobile HF radio stations

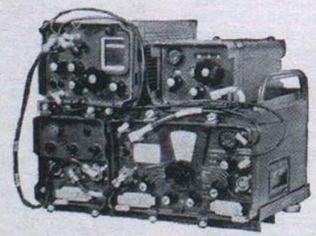
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Inside the old lighthouse. W.O.I Evans, Staff-Sergeant Conway, Corporal McInnes



Loading stores at Bideford Quay

QSOs (contacts)	...	...	520
On CW (key)	...	...	457
SSB Voice	...	...	40
AM Voice	...	...	17
RTT (Teleprinter)	...	...	6

Total countries worked on all amateur frequency bands was 70, of which 11 were Russian States. For the expedition we produced a special 'one off' QSL Card which illustrates the 'Puffins' on Lundy Island—we like to think that these will be collectors' items. (See photo.)

CLUB MEMBERS		*ASSISTANTS*
W.O.I R. C. Evans ...	G3LQC	Corporal R. McInnes
Staff Sergeant R. Conway	G3INE	Lance-Corporal P. Sweetman
Corporal S. Graham ...	G3UOU	Lance-Corporal R. Larkin
Signalman M. Lunt ...	G8ALD	

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Victoria Road, Farnborough, Hants.

Another River Epic

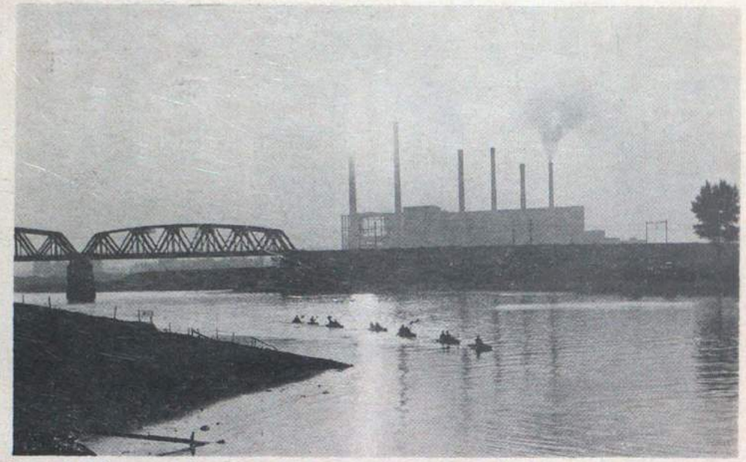
Exercise "North East I"

A canoeing adventure through France, Belgium and Holland on the River Meuse.

BY

SERGEANT W. O. GREEK, Royal Canadian Signals.

WRAC CREW MEMBERS EARN MUCH PRAISE



Season's end . . . a setting sun and the river strikes chill. Like flighting duck the canoes come silently gliding home. An autumn scene at Roermond on the Maas

SINCE my arirval at 13th Regiment in June of this year I have been an eager participant in the new Corps sport of Royal Signals, namely canoeing! Notwithstanding the last adventurous trip on the turbulent waters of the Rhine, I struck out once again to achieve recognition in canoeing from Charleville-Mezieres, France, to Roermond, Holland, crossing the width of Belgium by the River Meuse (the Maas in Holland).

After a short "Get Fit" training period the party, consisting of one instructor and the rest mainly novices, including two W.R.A.C. girls), began loading two Mini buses for the road journey to Charleville-Mezieres. Upon arriving at the starting point we spent the last few hours of daylight assembling our canoes and checking our kit to ensure there would be no delays in an early morning start.

First day on the river

We awoke early the first morning only to find that the weather had changed from a glorious Indian Summer to a wet and cold fall day. The first thought was to crawl back into the pit until the sun came out, but, as in all trips of this type where time is limited and an early start is important, we broke camp and were on the river by 08.00 hours. After going about 2 km's we came across our first weir which meant "out of the water" and a portage over it. Upon completing only 28 km's we had already encountered no less than eight weirs. As a result we decided to call it a day and find a camping site. The only conversation throughout the party at this stage was the hope that the following days would be less strenuous and more satisfying.

Going is hard but steady

On the second day and throughout the remainder of the trip the weather returned to its welcomed summery appearance and morale reached a new high. As compared with the turbulence of the Rhine, the river Meuse was slow, with hardly any current. The lock-keepers were very obliging in letting us through and in all cases we pitched in by helping to open the gates. The going continued to be steady. After the third day we had completed the first 100 km's with a bit of experience beginners to show throughout the party.

Excitement through small events

By now all were enjoying the daily routine of an early rise, a few hours canoeing, lunch, and finally making camp. I felt sure we would complete the trip without any mishaps, however, I was soon proven wrong. On the fourth morning while my bowman, Lance-Corporal McHale, and I were attempting to launch our canoe over a ledge, my foot slipped off and in I went. Not more than five minutes later one of the W.R.A.C. girls also slipped and put herself in before her canoe. During the day one of the passing barges slowed up and threw us a long rope with the idea of giving us a tow to the next lock. However we were no sooner on our way, for what I believed was to be a pleasant hour or two, when suddenly the dreaded cry "capsize" went up and off we went to the rescue. Luckily it was one of the singles coxed by Signalman Collins and after hearing his description of the line suddenly twisting around him and overturning his canoe we set off once more. Again during the afternoon we closed in on a slow moving barge and were given the signal to catch on to the side and get a free lift. With four canoes on one side and three on the other we started pushing on towards the next lock.

Our free ride was brought to an abrupt end by another capsize, surprisingly enough the same canoe. From then on it was decided that a tow line or hanging on to the side of a barge was out of the question—there was no easy way down the Meuse!

We found ourselves plagued with early morning fog and in one instance after a good start, we were suddenly closed in to nil visibility. Travelling a further km or two with no sign of the fog lifting we pulled in to the bank and waited for the sun to break through. Only after it had lifted did we realise we were about one half a km from another weir, and a big sigh of relief went up.

Final few days

One of the highlights of the trip came on the ninth day when, after a long day's canoeing, the party dug out their best pull-overs from their waterproof kit bags and set off to the nearest Gast house to celebrate a job well done.

On the final day we were met by a gathering of enthusiastic spectators, and were soon back in camp.

In my opinion each and every member of the party put forth a first class effort, especially the two W.R.A.C. girls who, as pioneers in this field, proved to be as competent as the rest of the canoeists. It was an adventure and an experience that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Participants from 13th Regiment: Second-Lieutenant G. W. Pearson, Sergeant W. O. Greek, Corporal A. Rains, Corporal C. R. Johnson, Corporal C. M. Eastland, Lance-Corporal M. J. McHale, Lance-Corporal A. F. Helliwell, Signalman I. E. C. Corrie, Signalman D. P. Collins, W/Private A. M. Burt, W/Private G. M. A. Usherwood.

"Can I Canoe You Down the River?" — Is a popular question in the 13th Regiment



1. Signalman D. Collins studies the map—no more towing please! 2. Corporal Rains (left), Second-Lieutenant Pearson (right). Consideration of the route. How far have we done today? 3. Private Aileen Burt, W.R.A.C., Bowman (Bowwoman?) of double kayak "Sahib." 4. Private Gina Usherwood, W.R.A.C. "tops-up" her life jacket. 5. Gently does it! Signalman Corrie has something to say to himself about this one. 6. Corporal C. M. Eastland (left) and Private G. Usherwood, W.R.A.C. come ashore (Corporal Rains on extreme left).

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

There have been a number of changes since we last appeared in print. Major (T.O.T.) Leslie Pettifer retired from the Service last month and he and his wife are now living near Cambridge where he is studying for ordination in the Church. We wish him and his family a happy future and hope he can cope with his bicycle. Major Martin Hogan, his relief, and family have arrived and settled in. Major John Cross determined to avoid the fog and snow has left us for Kenya and Captain David Insall to talk and chalk at Catterick. R.Q.M.S.s Robinson and Johnson have both left on promotion to R.S.M. and we welcome the new arrivals who include Captains Senior and Hughes, R.Q.M.S.s Turner and Handley and S.S.M. Williams. To complete the upheaval, Staff Sergeant Brown arrived from Aden as Chief Clerk, replacing Staff Sergeant Jays who goes to 2nd Regiment as O.R.Q.M.S.

There is no slackening of work on the airfields and digging continues. The winter trade courses have started with linemen, cable jointers and drivers busying themselves with upgrading. As we have a change of command next month the unit is being combed for deficient and "surplus" stores.

In a day on the golf course the honours went to Captain Kennedy, Major Oddie, our paymaster, and Staff Sergeant Bowers. The wooden spoon belongs to either Major Bryson or Major Sweeney. There were even suggestions that perhaps they were playing with it.

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT, BORNEO, B.F.P.O. 660

'Signals' are certainly getting well established in Borneo. The following notes show that at both work and play there is no lack of initiative and energy—the true secret of enjoying Service life. We are not surprised to hear that some members of the Corps are reluctant to leave when their time is up in this active service area. A happy feature of the Joint Communications Unit is the 'joint' aspect, where representatives of all Services work and play together efficiently and in harmony.

Our man in Tawau—*By Sergeant Wise*

The unit detachment in Tawau, although small in number, is regarded, by us, anyway, as the elite of the Joint Communications Unit.

At present the detachment is manned by Sergeant Wise, four telegraph operators, Signalmen McManus, Stevenson, Dawe and Thompson, a technician, Lance-Corporal Burnett and last, but not least, Lance-Corporal Drew, the electrician-driver.

Where is Tawau?

Tawau, on the north-east coast of Sabah, is a small, but interesting town. The local industries including a cocoa and rubber plantation and an interesting factory where hemp rope is manufactured. The island of Sebatic is four miles to the south; half of this island belongs to the Indonesians and the other half to Sabah—an interesting state of affairs which keeps us on our toes!

We have formed many affiliations with other units, mostly to our own advantage, I might add. 10 Port Squadron (R.C.T.) in particular, are very kind. They have arranged a number of trips to the Kalabakan or Wallace Bay area. These are one-day outings, and one passes close enough to see the Indonesian soldiers guarding their coastal waters.

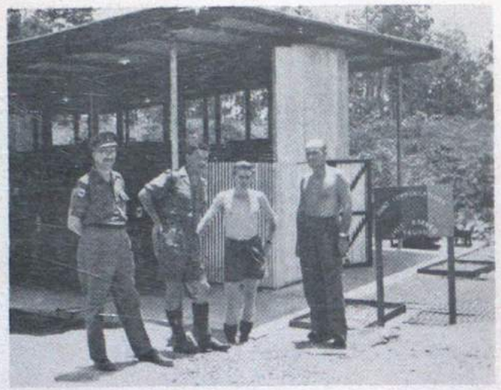
Our other activities include water ski-ing, this I learnt with the Unit Ski Boat Club while stationed in Labuan, and now a thriving club exists here—kit supplied by courtesy of the Special Boat Service (Royal Marines).

Lance-Corporal Dutch and the bosun's chair . . .

Finally we would like to say goodbye to Lance-Corporal Dutch and thank him for all he has done for this detachment. This includes going up a 78ft. mast in a bosun's chair, our Land Rover supplying the "muscle" and the members of the detachment the encouragement with remark such as "If you fall, cross your legs and we will screw you out afterwards."

"M" Troop

"M" Troop is jointly manned by Army technicians, R.A.F. fitters and mechanics. R.A.F. aerial riggers, and R.A.O.C. Stores Sergeant, and to complete the picture, a Clerk Tech.



Tawau Detachment visit by T.O.T. and F. of S. Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Ribchester, Sergeant Wise, Lance-Corporal Burnett, F. of S. Kelly

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Kelly has the job of keeping up with them, and they see to it he's on his toes. Being a cross between a COMCAN/CAF relay station and a field unit, there is plenty to do, which makes life interesting, and morale is high. Busiest people at the moment are Corporals Hawthorne (transmitters king) Crow (ciphers) Jones, R.A.F. (5 Unit equipment) Worsley and Morris (installations) and J/Technician Canning, R.A.F. (receivers). Corporal Downie is preparing to move into our new workshop, a pearl in the ulu, with pale blue walls and yellow doors. This will have all mod. cons. including a screening cage and surely the most test equipment this side of Suez! (In fact all fully used).

The operators can sleep now on night-shift!

Due to the fact that the unit is still settling down, we have had a lot of installation work during the last few months, transferring equipment from vehicles to static locations and 'consolising' the Comcen. Corporal Willby (now in Catterick on his Class I course) spent many an hour building a system control fully fitted (more or less) to craft requirements with facilities for quality control. Consoles, obtained from Hong Kong (thanks to C.R. Signals, Hong Kong, and particularly Captain Ted Barrett) have been installed in the Comcen. It's so quiet now the operators can sleep properly on night shift! The permanent transmitter building is not yet completed, but (to those in the know) Army and R.A.F. transmitters have been repositioned at one site by Flight-Lieutenant Tom Oliver and his merry men.

On the maintenance side things are pretty well as one might expect, but as Pace got underway Sergeant Bellamy, R.A.O.C. (the Op DEM kid), had a fright and made a hasty reappraisal of his scales in the Expense Store.

Not all work—our sport is 'devastating'!

However let it not be thought that it's all work, "M" Troop finds time to play, too, with devastating effect on the soccer field. So far we have won both 'Tighe Cup' competitions this year without losing a match, including the one thrown in against the rest of the Unit laid on "to cut us back to size." Mind you this cost the T.O.T. a crate but it was worth it. Water ski-ing is very popular with the technicians and fitters who may be seen "crashing the waves" whenever they can get away.

On the indoor games side Corporal Davies, R.A.F., one of the aerial riggers, led the darts team to victory in the Inter-Troop Competition in the Carousel Club. The final was very exciting, especially for Lieutenant (Tfc) Hill (I'm the greatest). When he thought he was about to whitewash Lance-Corporal Pither (Training Technician) and lost. I'll not say what happened to Staff Sergeant Waumsley.

Night life at 'Surrender Point'

To complete the picture a word about night life, or part of it. Lance-Corporal Gemmell and S.A.C. Doyle are the



Corporal Worsley (right), Sergeant Bell, Corporal Hartnett discuss the new tape factory. S.A.C. Vatcher and Lance-Corporal Philips working at the new consoles

guiding lights and decor by Corporal Blake and his E.D.s. These tend to be grand affairs besides the tropical beaches and swaying palms at Surrender Point with plenty of 'barbecue.'

Finally we wish all readers a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year, particularly if you are about to join us.

200 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 41

"We were such good boys" last year!

We are now back in barracks after our autumn training, working towards our C.I.V. and Equipment Inspection. Fortunately, we have no Administrative Inspection this year, and we like to think that perhaps this is because we were such "good boys" last year!

Autumn training culminated in Exercise "Double Deal." In this exercise we were defending with 4th Guards Brigade attacking. A successful exercise ended with 20th Brigade counter-attacking, so the movement was not all one way.

We have just said farewell to our Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. E. Ward, D.S.O., M.C., who has left us to command 1st Division. By way of a formal farewell, the Squadron paraded for him on 4th November. The Commander addressed all ranks, saying some very complimentary things about the Squadron. The final march past went very well indeed, much to R.S.M. Horby's relief, as he considered us to be somewhat short of practice, and thanks to the Band of the Royal Dragoons, who very kindly played for us.

Below we publish the first report by Sergeant Llewellyn of our recently re-formed Ham Club. We will be happy to receive cards from other units and "make a date."

The Ham Club Visits the Koterberger

Taking out an Amateur Radio Club for four days presents only one major problem; how to provide genuine interesting contacts on the air, and to maintain a steady flow of such contacts over the entire period. "Fixed," or pre-set contacts are all very well, but then one could use the telephone just as effectively (and delete the QRM!).

The Squadron Club left Detmold at approximately 08.00 hours on Friday, 22nd, October, bound for the Koterberger. This is a beauty spot situated some thirty miles or so from Detmold, and towers up to a height of some 1,300ft. above sea level, giving some excellent panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. There is a permanent U.S.A.F. radio relay station, manned by a crew of six men, who are stationed there for three years at a stretch. They were glad of our company, as the invitations to watch television and play "peanuckle" showed!

The Land Rover arrived at the Koterberger around ten o'clock, followed by the one-tonner some few minutes later. Picture our radio relay sergeant's face when he found that his trailer had parted company with the truck somewhere on route 239. A demonstration of how to lose a well-packed trailer in one easy lesson! It pays tribute to our MT organisation to say that three hours' later, with FMT 3 completed, our new trailer was at site, we were fed, teed-up, and on the air.

Our antennas consisted of dipoles for the regular ham bands, and a home-made 15-metre rotary dipole, which was perched on top of one of the 36ft. masts.

Friday was spent working at our leisure into some interesting locations and explaining the amateur procedure to our boys in the club. Our club is quite representative, as the trades of the members show: Sergeant Llewellyn (DL5XE) is our cipher operator, while Sergeant Bendall and Signalman Pete Shotts are radio relay. Lance-Corporal "Lofty" Woodhall is a radio operator, and Signalman "Tich" Goldstraw and Bill Widdowson are drivers in the Squadron. Due to heavy training commitments, this was the first time that the club as a whole had been able to get together and practice the hobby. We worked along quite happily until nearly midnight, when while working into Scotland on 80 metres, we found that we were on the brink of the annual World Wide Voice Contest, and the looks on the faces of the lads were really funny when they experienced for the first time, thousands of stations all trying to work to each other, ALL at more or less the same time, with NO "net control." As usual, the contest developed into a fight with no holds barred. DL5XE working as a club station, gleefully went into the fracas and chalked up a respectable number of contacts in the log.

Working into twenty-three countries

The interest was certainly supplied for us, and we took full advantage of the opportunity, working into 23 countries on 80 metres and 19 countries on 20 metres. As the contest continued throughout the week-end, we settled into a pleasant routine of working new countries and getting the occasional long chat with a station.

We were delighted to receive a visit from our Radio Officer, Lieutenant Cruickshank, and our Pay Sergeant on the Saturday, while Sunday brought our O.C., Major R. L. Stonham, Mrs. Stonham and family. It is always nice to have someone come right back to your call on occasions like this, and fortune paid us another dividend by supplying a Belgian and a German mobile station. The German mobile paid us a visit shortly afterwards and we saw that his equipment was mounted in a Volkswagen with power supplies under the back seat. His antenna was 10ft. of "F" section into which he radiated more than 100 watts. Sunday also brought visits from four other amateurs, and many visitors who had come to admire the views came into the shack.

Our packing-up on Monday was hampered by a whole coachload of young ladies from Bremen, but, as our club members agreed, we had all the afternoon to pack up!

Our next project is the World Wide CW Contest at the end of November, and the club really intends to enter for this one seriously. We hope to report that the CW portion was half as successful as the Koterberger trip; if it is, then we shall all have had a wonderful time.

209 SQUADRON, COLCHESTER

As these will be our last notes from Borneo this would be a good time to look back and review the results of the past nine months.

Adaptability

Possibly our main problem has been one of adaptability. Arriving here in Borneo, trained as an airportable brigade Signal Squadron we soon found that the task in front of us was completely different. First and foremost we became part of a static headquarters and we had to provide all those extra sophisticated requirements that develop. This calls once again on the adaptability of all members of the Squadron whatever Corps or regiment, and we are glad to say that we think we have once again risen to the occasion. Radio Operators have become expert Teleprinter Operators, Radio Relay Operators have become excellent Comcen Operators and in one case a Radio Relay Operator has become a Comcen Supervisor. This proves that today's young soldiers are just as capable of rising to the occasion as their predecessors. *(Nice to hear. Trade versatility is essential in an efficient Corps.—Editor).*

(*Continued on page 450*)



Corporal Thorne, Signalman Brindley compare notes with a local friend



Signalman Frost operates an efficient rear link

Defence Platoon

Being an integrated Squadron, we administer and control our own Defence Platoon. These soldiers whose unenviable task is to defend Brigade Headquarters have become experts in the building of field defences and our latest 1965/66 model bunker leaves little to be desired, containing as it does all mod cons and a delightful view.

Drivers have a busy time

The drivers have driven many more miles than they ever did in Colchester, even though there is only 20 miles of road. We have felt on occasions of calling the M.T., Thornborough's Luxury Coaches Ltd.—transport provided at all times for all service visitors to Sibu.

Tactical H.Q. goes places

"A" Troop now has Second-Lieutenant Cox at the helm and he and Sergeant Dicker steer the troop through the variety of communication hazards they meet daily. Tactical H.Q. is deployed at least once a month to various locations. One is 120 miles away and to reach it from Sibu involves a trip in a light aircraft of the R.A.F. or A.A.C. However, once deployed, conditions there are not too rugged. Another is approximately 60 miles from Sibu and is reachable by a light aircraft or river boat. As the pay load for our trip to the second location is rather large we always go by Chinese launch, involving a river journey of some 12 hours. These times and distances will give one an indication of the time and distance problem which is applicable to all tactical movement in the second and third Division of Sarawak. Of course, the distances involved also test one's ability to communicate by means of H.F. radio, and Borneo is certainly a good training area for all Telegraph and Radio Operators.



Tac. H.Q. in typical jungle environment. Note small recruit

Linemen gain valuable experience

"J" Troop is now really sophisticated and is running a comcen and tape relay centre on a three-shift system with our two subalterns earning their keep as DSO's—no comment from the Y. of S.! The linemen are responsible for all local lines but because of the performance of our stay in Sibu all D10 cable is being replaced by poled quad and all field telephones by P. & T. telephones. Hence the linemen have gained valuable experience in building permanent lines and in coping with internal wiring of telephones.

Interesting breaks from routine

As can be imagined life in a Brigade H.Q. under these static conditions can become very routine for a very large number of soldiers. To overcome this we operate a 'Change



Where have all the soldiers gone? — Gone to U.K. everyone

of Air' programme which ensures that everyone gets a change of employment and a break from routine. Possibly the most interesting task was the clearing of a helicopter landing pad and storage area near the frontier. This started life as a dot on the map but thanks to Second-Lieutenant H. A. Culley, representatives from the Defence Platoon and the Royal Military Police the site is now a thriving re-supply point for the forward locations. To make this possible our party cleared an area of jungle and built two small store bashas over a period of 14 days. Malay troops were used for local protection. Other 'Change of Air' activities have included construction of pathways for local longhouses and visits to Dyaks who have rarely seen security forces. These change of air activities have proved very popular and well worth the slight disadvantage of rearranging shift rosters, etc. On a similar vein all members of the Defence Platoon have been on detachment to 1 RNZIR and have been on patrol into enemy territory. One patrol was blooded by firing at Indonesians they could actually see. One can imagine the 'war stories' on their return.

Entertainment and sport

Life is not all work and we have had the benefit of the visit of two C.S.E. shows. Namely Frankie Howerd and Shirley Abicair and also the Acker Bilk Paramount Jazz Band.

Naturally sport is very popular and we have been quite successful particularly at soccer. We entered two teams, 209 'A' and 209 'B,' in the local amateur league. 209 'A' emerging victors, being beaten only by the runners-up 3 Royal Malay Regiment. We had a scare at the final match of the 'A' team when at half-time the score was four goals each. Our fears were unfounded as we eventually won 12—4, which is just as well as the shield had already been engraved in our favour! Signalman Shilton scored 11 goals in this match. Corporal Flitton should also be mentioned for his 'forceful' captaining of the 'B' team.

Return to U.K.

Now we are beginning to think of our return and in retrospect despite our difficulties it has been a very rewarding nine months. Naturally, we will all be delighted to be reunited with our families but 209 H.Q. and Signal Squadron is a better operational unit as the result of our nine months stay in Borneo. (*Glad to see our sunburned warriors back!—Editor*).

210 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

Well, that's the end of the hot season. Time to write some more notes, I suppose. Strange how the circulation of THE WIRE in the unit has gone steadily up without them. (*Your words—my italics.—Editor.*)

Communications with a difference

You might say that the most important event of the period since our last entry was the Administrative Inspection, at which we managed a 'very good.' It all seemed to go incredibly well; stage management has always been one of our strong points. The thing that we enjoyed most was the communications race: one message being passed along a chain of different systems by two teams finishing up with a man with a cleft stick. We were most impressed by the potential of this last method—have the Hobart team forgotten this completely reliable system requiring neither AC, DC nor even skilled manpower?

Exercise "Mixed Crop" was really something . . .

Undoubtedly the most memorable event was Exercise "Mixed Crop." This started off as a simple exercise with H.M.S. *Albion* and 45 Commando; the Squadron contingent of 13 or 14 vehicles motoring up 250 miles of beach to the exercise area. As the date approached the size of the convoy escalated and eventually it set off 54 vehicles strong.

The O.C. had very cleverly gone off on leave to Kenya and Captain Mike Spence found himself increasing his fund of military experience at an alarming rate. Some of the vehicles of other units added to the convoy at the last minute found motoring and navigation on soft sand rather difficult. The simple process of 'bogging in' takes on a different aspect when you also have to consider the tide coming in!

As a result the S.S.M. and four strong swimmers spent a happy day rescuing five Land Rovers that were being washed out to sea. (Don't worry, Staff Sergeant Jones, wherever you are, none of them were ours).

. . . but there was 'real catastrophe'

The real catastrophe however, was the separation of the beer truck from the main convoy. Captain Ron Saville and his recovery group never quite made the exercise area; the debate still rages as to whether this was because of the breakdowns they were handling or because of the beer that they were consuming. At any rate, it has taken weeks of patience and kindness to get the beerless linemen and technicians back to normal. (Corporal Goddard was never normal). Communications of course were 'perfect.'

Meanwhile, in Africa, the O.C. and six other 'layabouts' were on 'adventure training.' This must have been very onerous, particularly when the other six were stranded in Nairobi for an extra week. Lance-Corporal Pearson, the only one who hadn't been before, has now joined the Kenya Bore Club ("Now when we were in Kenya . . .") and hopes to be out of debt by Christmas.

Cricket with a sparkle

Sport is fairly limited in the hot season but the cricketers have kept the flag flying. For a long while they were neck and neck with the powerful 5 Innis DG (the Skins) side, both teams having a 100 per cent record. Alas, we lost by eight runs to 19 Light Regiment R.A. despite an excellent 50 by Corporal O'Donnell and finally saw our championship chances disappear in the last match of the season by seven wickets. Still we were comfortably second, not a bad effort for a minor unit with a lot of 24 hour duties. (Full marks to all those standers in). Final record including friendlies—played 22 won 20 lost two.

There were some very exciting finishes and the most impressive thing about the team was that someone always came off when things were difficult. The best win was probably 174—7 scored at great speed against the Sappers (Lance-Corporal Pretty 75) closely followed by some even faster scoring to score 140 against H.Q. Company (Lance-Corporal Pretty and Major Butler 53 for first wicket in seven overs and match finished by Corporal Walker and Major Butler with 28 off eight balls).

Corporal Fitzgerald led the side very well and had an extremely good season with bat and ball. Lance-Corporal Pretty was the most prolific batsman, and when Major Butler was able to play, they always gave the side a good start. Corporal Goddard also came up with some useful innings and Lance-Corporal Wadham and Signalman Radford were the best ten and eleven in Mideast; the former taking some brilliant catches. Corporal O'Donnel and Signalman Manifold took most of the wickets.

Other 'goings on'

Of course, there were lots of other things going on despite the temperature:—

Our Ham club has been very successful and seems to have had contacts in most of the United Nations. Sergeant Vasper is the leading light, though he is lucky to have such a patient wife; he spends the rest of his spare time running the beat group.

Then there are the boat builders; we have probably the largest per capita fleet in the Corps. What with Corporal Garside's coracle, the very impressive and expensive cabin cruiser that "A" Troop put together and then take to pieces each week and the fibre glass dinghy, we look forward to a regatta when the sailing season starts at the end of October.

Oh, and of course, we mustn't forget the go-karters. After a faltering start they have started to win races and the names of Corporal Hughes and Signalman Love were prominent at recent meetings. We even have some cups. Mind you with all the equipment that we have purchased for them, they ought to be ready for the Le Mans.

Ah well, there will be a flyout exercise and the start of the football season to talk about next month. Till then, I think that I will just pop along to the club and bolster up those fabulous profits. I was on guard last night so I can't be on again till tomorrow.

Royal Signals Malta and Libya



The S.O. in C. arriving at 235 Squadron

Visit of the S.O.-in-C.

The S.O.-in-C. arrived in Malta during the evening of 1st November, and left on the morning of 4th November. During this short period he saw at close quarters the work of H.Q., Royal Signals, 234 Squadron and 235 Squadron. He met many families, visited both Sergeants' Messes and had discussions with the G.O.C. Malta and Libya and Joint Signal Committee (Malta) and the Royal Signals representative of HAFMED (Lieutenant-Colonel F. G. G. Rapsey). On each evening he dined with people who formed a cross-section of Maltese service and civilian life, and on the morning of his departure he was kind enough to say he was sorry he was unable to stay longer. It was a dreadfully full programme, but throughout, his genuine interest in us all never flagged, and he contributed many ideas for our future guidance.

The work of the Corps in Malta covers every aspect of signalling, with the exception of radio relay, and the S.O.-in-C. expressed his pleasure with the cheerful spirit in which commitments were being met. The quality of all ranks, British and Maltese, was commented on in particular, and it was gratifying to learn from the S.O.-in-C. that our own standards were no lower than the very high standards he had encountered in his tours of other theatres where the Corps was serving. He was especially impressed with the length of loyal service given to the Corps by the Maltese civilian linemen and technicians. The enthusiasm of the U.K.-based civilian technicians of 235 Squadron also earned the admiration of the S.O.-in-C.

In spite of a very full programme, the General was able to visit Mrs. Sylvia Halliday, the artist widow of Colonel G. Rivers Halliday, mother of Major (Retd.) Nigel Halliday and mother-in-law of Colonel D. R. Yearsley, and this occasion gave him the greatest pleasure.

From our point of view the visit was timely and enjoyable, and will inspire us in our future work. On leaving Malta, the S.O.-in-C. flew to Cyprus via Tripoli and Benghazi airfields. At Tripoli, he met senior representatives of 219 Squadron and at Benghazi those of 245 Squadron. The General was most sorry not to be able to visit these Squadrons in their barracks, but movement arrangements could not be made to allow this to be done in an economical period of time.

With his departure from Benghazi, the S.O.-in-C.'s tour of Royal Signals units in Malta and Libya came to an end, and his encouraging comments will inspire us all in our many and varied duties in the days ahead.

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR COPY OF THE WIRE?

235 SQUADRON (COMCAN) B.F.P.O. 51

Inevitable changes

The past three months have resulted in the inevitable changes. We bade farewell to Captain Valerie Palmer, W.R.A.C., in August. It was unfortunate that ill-health caused her early departure. We were pleased to welcome two temporary replacements from Cyprus in the attractive forms of Captains Margaret Paterson and Pip Scott, each of whom stayed with us for a fortnight.

Captain Janet Hill arrived in September from the Army Aviation Centre in Middle Wallop, as our permanent W.R.A.C. Officer. We hope that a happy tour will compensate for the loss of your blue beret.

Perhaps not so noticed was the arrival of Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Jim Jenkins, joining us on commissioning. He has taken over the SWS chair from Captain Leslie Churchill, now departed for pastures new in B.A.O.R.

We also welcome the recent arrivals of Staff Sergeant Bob Montgomery, Sergeants Malcolm Calvert, Bill Davison, Audrey Penfold, W.R.A.C., and record the departure of Staff Sergeant Duke Cairns, wishing him and his family a happy tour in Catterick.

Sport—fine swimming achievements

The outstanding achievement in our sporting calendar was the fine performance of Signalman Phillips in the Inter-Services Swimming Championships. His efforts in the relay races contributed to a victory for the Army. He came a very close second in the 110 yards free-style.

The excellence of Malta's swimming opportunities is again shown by the recent results of Squadron members who attended a Royal Life Saving Society course. Between them they earned five distinctions, six bronze awards, five silver awards, five gold awards.

It is worth noting that, of the seven, five were from our W.R.A.C. element.

Our congratulations to them all.

A newly-formed darts club, under the guidance of W.O.I (Y. of S.) Paddy Stringer and his wife, Phyl, is training in the Sergeants' Mess for the forthcoming local league. They would do well if they include the ladies in their team. The Officers' Mess were once challenged to darts by the Wives' Club and it would deflate one's ego to record the result in these notes!

The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes challenged the Squadron team to a football match quite recently. The challengers' star player, Captain Janet Hill (W.R.A.C.), declined to play, so our Quartermaster, Lieutenant Desmond Spence, had to brush aside the encumberance of age and dazzle all concerned with his exceptional ability. He was eventually rewarded by two goals, which made the Squadron team score of twelve look a little less impressive!

Sergeants' Mess

Members of the Sergeants' Mess continue to enjoy themselves. On one social occasion, Sergeant Bill Davison gave an expert demonstration of the "limbo." His "tearing" success was heard by all. After a hasty departure to the kitchen he reappeared in a loin cloth to receive an ovation from his sympathetic audience. When you've patched up your trouble, Bill, the Mess would appreciate the return of the tablecloth!

Courses

Under the capable wing of Sergeant "Geordie" Brown, another MPC I course has been successfull completed. The pass-off parade was taken by our Commanding Officer, Major C. S. Galbraith. We publish the group photograph taken after the parade (page 453).

Weather

Summer in Malta is almost at an end, and heavy storms are not uncommon. It was during such a storm over Zonker Transmitter Station that the two technicians on duty, Corporal George Ramsay and Mr. Terry Dorothy, were introduced to the attendant frightening effects. Their hair-raising account of the incident was in some way supported by their very drawn and frightened appearance. There is, however, no proof to the rumour that they have since 'gone to ground.'



MILITARY PROFICIENCY COURSE CLASS I — SEPTEMBER 1965

Left to right, standing Corporals Nickols, Wyness, Clarke, Lahany, Ikin, Chambers, Brooks (all of 235 Squadron). *Left to right, seated:* Corporal Palmier (234 Squadron), Corporal Hedges (219 Squadron), W.O.II S.S.M. McIntosh, Major C. S. Galbraith, Royal Signals, Sergeant Brown, Corporal Hazelgrove (219 Squadron), Corporal Roberts (235 Squadron)

Cupid's bow

Cupid continues his watch over our Squadron and, as a result of his arranging, we announce the forthcoming marriage of Corporal John Matthews and Corporal Vicki Gurr, of the W.R.A.C., both of whom leave us shortly to return to the U.K.

253 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 1

The last few weeks have kept us more than busy with visitors and the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting.

Farewell to the C.S.O.

On the 14th and 15th September, C.S.O., FARELF, visited us. Unfortunately, this was his last visit to Hong Kong, as he is leaving FARELF and the Army on retirement. We would all like to take this opportunity to wish him all the best in his retirement.

Not long after the C.S.O.'s visit, on 21st September, to be exact, we braced ourselves for the annual Administrative Inspection by the Garrison Commander. This went off extremely well, but nevertheless, we are glad that it is now behind us; at least for another year.

Although we did not win the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting, we did quite well and came second to 246 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron. The S.M.G. team did particularly well and won the Parachute Cup.

Some impressions of "The Ark Royal" and . . .

Recently the Aircraft Carrier H.M.S. *Ark Royal* came to Hong Kong, and Sergeant Heacock, who had the good fortune to look over her, gave us his impression of what such a ship is like.

"I have never visted a ship of this size before and for me it was something of a unique experience. Because the ship is so large she had to anchor outside the harbour of Hong Kong. A ship of her size requires at least two berths and naval berths are limited in the harbour.

Ark Royal is a magnificent ship to see, but for a ship of her size, her armament seemed inadequate. The flight deck of such a ship is without a doubt the most interesting part. Standing on the deck, it certainly makes one wonder how aircraft manage to take off in such a short distance and more amazingly still, how they ever manage to land again without dropping off the end.

Below decks everything is like a rabbit warren. Narrow passages run in all directions with innumerable doors opening on to them. Between decks there are steeply angled ladders to be coped with. For anyone not familiar with the ship it would be easy to get lost.

The method of stowing aircraft was most interesting. Their wings are folded back, they are then wheeled on to an enormous lift, which takes them down into the bowls of the ship, where they are neatly packed away in hangars. It was a pity that during the ship's stay in Hong Kong its aircraft were away being serviced at Kai Tak and also the catapult system on the flight deck was being repaired, hence no planes were able to fly. All in all, the visit was most interesting and unusual."

. . . A look at a cable ship

The Squadron has had a good share of visits to ships recently. The cable ships *Monarch* and *Cable Enterprise* met in Hong Kong prior to laying the Hong Kong link of SEACOM from Hong Kong to Guam and while they were here fourteen members of the Squadron were invited on board.

An ex-apprentice gives his "first impressions" of a visit to a cable ship.

"Trying to cover in detail the wealth of technical and general points of interest would be quite impossible in the space allowed. So I will just give a broad outline of the actual cable laying.

One of the ships will pick up the end of the cable one mile off shore and joint it to the cable to be laid. The jointing takes ten hours to complete and in the meantime the second ship is on its way laying the cable.

The cable including the repeaters is prejointed and stored in large tanks. The repeaters are inserted into the cable every twenty-six miles. The cable is layed over the stern of the ship at a speed of eight knots and it will take approximately thirty days to complete this section of 850 miles.

It would be most interesting to spend a month on board while the ship is laying cable but to use an old expression, time and tide will wait for no one, and it is hardly likely the O.C. would give his permission."

Considerable changeover

The changeover of personnel has been considerable in the last few months and we would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to W.O.II Rankin, Sergeant Stewart, Sergeant King, Sergeant Walker, Corporal Gaffney, Corporal Davies, Corporal Shaw, Corporal Greenall, Lance-Corporal Bond, Lance-Corporal Machin, Signalman Wood, Signalman Flanagan, Signalman Tuplin and Signalman Heightley.

At the same time we would like to welcome W.O.II Freeman, Sergeant Patient, Corporal Barr, Corporal Frankyn, Lance-Corporal Davies, Lance-Corporal Dawson, Lance-Corporal Cowley and Lance-Corporal Weld-Richard.

In closing we offer our congratulations to Major and Mrs. Petheram on the birth of their third boy, and to Sergeant Major and Mrs. Chu on the birth of their seventh child, a boy. The Squadron is led to believe that each is competing with the other to form the first all in family football team. At the moment Sergeant Major Chu has a good lead. Congratulations also to Signalman and Mrs. Napper on the birth of a son.

262 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 53

The time of writing sees a very pleasant change in climatic conditions on the island. Thundery weather has brought a distinct drop in previously somewhat tiring sunny heat and introduced a more active spirit to all. Perhaps now the rather large local canine population will sleep instead of bark all night having expended their energy during the now cooler hours of daylight.

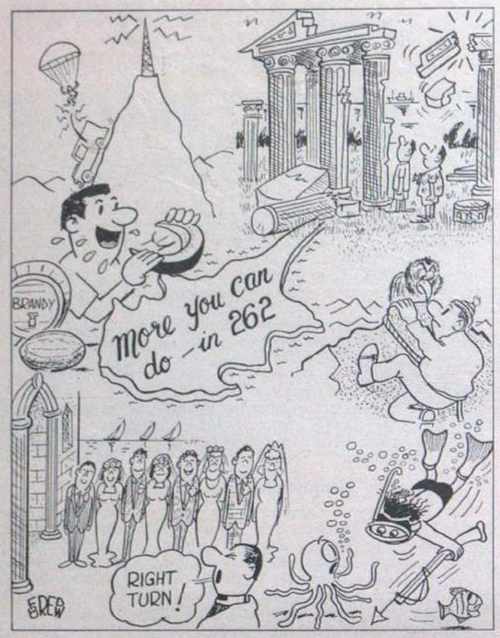
Once again thanks to the artistic qualities of our Mr. Fred Brew's (UKBC) pen we record some more activities available to members of this Squadron.

Antiquities. In the top right of our picture we show a possible hazard of ruin-ous pursuits. There are varied sites covering many different periods of ancient history.

Rock-Climbing. There are limited opportunities available. The major problem is the crumbling dangerous nature of most rock faces on the island. Various clubs exist, however, and find Cyprus a handy springboard for Services-sponsored trips to the mountains of the northern mainland areas of Turkey and Persia.

Skin-Diving. The ardent followers of this fascinating sport carry on all year round and of course aqua-lungs are used by the experts. The octopus season is upon us and there is a good variety of other fishy harpoon targets.

Weddings. Laws exist which discourage any attitude which may be taken as "Sporty" in this field of activity. There have been as the cartoon accurately depicts, sufficient marriages in August to justify reference to same as an activity. Cyprus, is



of course, referred to as "The Island of Love" and boasts connection with Aphrodite in support of this claim. Marriages which took place were:—

14th August: Lance-Corporal Sylvester, W.R.A.C., to Lance-Corporal Maclaughlan, 48 Command Workshop, R.E.M.E.
20th August: Pte. Flowerdew, W.R.A.C., to Lance-Corporal Cummins, Royal Signals.
21st August: Lance-Corporal Read, W.R.A.C., to Signalman Allen, Royal Signals.
28th August: Pte. Kirby, W.R.A.C., to Lance-Corporal Collins, R.M.P.

After such a run of social activities the month of September seemed a little dull, but two more weddings are on their way we understand.

V.S.O.P. The writer, being strictly T.T., cannot enlarge on these initials which are to be found on brandy bottles, but there is no shortage of this medicinal liquid which brings joy to the heart and travail to the S.S.M. The water melon season has closed but local variety of fruit abound almost continuously and people large and small enjoy plenty of good, cheaply obtained, vitamin C.

Work. Our previous cartoon showed a Land Rover going up the hill. This month we confirm its return but point out the normal method of Freefall Parachuting is available and there need be no fears in this direction if you join us.

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512 TROOP, B.F.P.O. 628



Signalman "Tiny" Corr passes a message over the Battalion Rear Link (Brigade Command Net) under the close supervision of Corporal "Jock" Paton

From the tropical paradise of South-East Asia comes this somewhat belated report on the progress of a less known troop — namely 512 — formerly of 209 Squadron. "The Wire" always welcomes news from our small Troops and Detachments where the Corps spirit is invariably very strong.

Having accompanied the 2nd Green Jackets, K.R.R.C., to such far flung outposts of civilisation as Libya, Norway and British Guiana (not to mention Stamford and Salisbury Plain!) it was with some speculation that we were transferred to 3rd Green Jackets, The Rifle Brigade. However, this speculation was terminated rather abruptly when we were whisked away three days later—much to the disgust of the Troop's married personnel!)—on a twelve-months unaccompanied tour of the Far East.

Hong Kong—and P.T.!

Our first stop was Hong Kong where all dreams of a peaceful life were rudely shattered when we discovered that the Battalion (including attached personnel) were to participate in early morning P.T.—*before* reveille! Sergeant 'Ted' Brant, our N.C.O. I.C. Troop, was heard on many occasions to exclaim rather feverishly that 'screaming around the thoroughfares of the New Territories at dead of night, clad in P.T. shorts and boots and carrying telegraph poles at the high port was downright uncivilised, unhealthy and unnatural.' This view was very strongly supported by Signalman 'Tiny' Corr, our fifteen stone example of the most relaxed muscle anywhere.

However our time was not altogether wasted as we carried out many successful exercises in the colony, mainly supplying an HF and VHF Rear Link to Brigade for our own Battalion, and, on one memorable occasion supporting the Durham Light Infantry as well.

From the aspect of sport, the troop was well represented by Corporal 'Jock' Paton, who played several games of Rugby for the Brigade and who also won a place for himself in the Battalion's soccer and athletics teams.

Our title—Jungle Bunnies

Our next stop was the Jungle Warfare School in Kota Tinggi, Malaya, where we earned the covered title of "Jungle Bunnies" for the active part we played in the local training programme.

We also carried out numerous experiments with our communications and antenna, all of which attained a very high degree of success, thanks mainly to the able assistance of our two radio technicians, Sergeant John Dew and Lance-Corporal Bob Micklethwaite. Extensive research was also made on the local brew, but unfortunately the results achieved in this particular field were somewhat blurred!

Presently situated in the heart of the Sarawak jungle, and approximately ten thousand yards from the Malaysian-Indonesian border, we are now at the climax of our tour. We support our Battalion with two rear links to Brigade and on odd occasions have even supplied our rifle companies with an operator or two for combat patrols.

Corporal "Joe" Lody, our expert in the battery shop and 'unusual pets corner' and whose responsibilities range from several bubbling twelve volt 75's to a Malayan Honey Bear called Alpha, seems to be growing younger each day although he took part in the Arnhem drop and also fought at Dunkirk in the Second World War. Although Joe claims furiously that he celebrates his twenty-first next week, there are others amongst us who believe, more truthfully perhaps, that it is his twenty-first twenty-first, that he is in fact, enjoying!

Bringing the troops tally to nine are Signalmen Jim Boyd, Terry Corran and Jan Ozog, who, together with the rest of us eagerly anticipate the arrival here of our sister troop—514—(attached 1st Bn. Durham Light Infantry), whose very welcome presence will mark our extremely hasty but organised withdrawal, during the first week of the new year, to the relative tranquility of Colchester and 209's weekly 'CPX's' in Friday Woods.

633 TROOP (BRITISH HONDURAS) B.F.P.O. 12

Cable and Wireless complaint

On 19th October, Mr. R. F. Downe, who was at one time an officer in the Corps and is now the local manager of Cable and Wireless, telephoned me. He had just received his copy of the July/August WIRE, and was not too pleased about Lieutenant-Colonel Lyske's comments on the local telephone lines. It should be pointed out that the lines in question did not belong to Cable and Wireless.

V.I.P. Visit

The biggest event this month was the visit by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who came to see for himself how this new nation is emerging. Despite a very busy programme, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Greenwood came to see us at Airport Camp, and this was appreciated. As far as Royal Signals are concerned, the visit was a huge success, and no excuse is made for including an extract of a letter addressed to the Garrison Commander from His Excellency the Governor of British Honduras, Sir Peter Stallard, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., M.B.E., M.A.

"I am writing to express my gratitude for the splendid service given by the Yeoman of Signals and his staff during the visit of the Secretary of State and Mrs. Greenwood.

I was very glad that the Secretary of State was able to convey his thanks personally. You will be glad to know that he was most impressed by the Garrison."

Although 633 Troop took the credit, it was really a Corps effort, as we had received first-class co-operation from 607 Troop (British Guiana).

Future Plans

At last, our new equipment is on its way. Although we have ambitious and enthusiastic plans for the D11/R234; no one (least of all the Yeoman) seems to be concerned about the final resting place for our 53 sets. Any offers?

Naval Visit

No one here can recall with any certainty the events of the last two days of October. However, it can be said that we enjoyed the visit of the French Naval vessel, the **Commondant Bory.** The Troop maintained ship-to-shore communications and found language was no barrier. Thank goodness we weren't monitored.

New Pattern Corps Ties

At a recent meeting, the Corps Committee approved modified versions of the Corps tie to meet a demand for a tie more in the modern trend.

These ties are as follows:

PATTERN D. — An open-ended tie with diagonal stripes and conventional cut but considerably narrower in width.

PATTERN E1. — A straight-cut tie of narrow width throughout its length with square cut ends and horizontal stripes.

These ties are in terylene and can be ordered from Association H.Q., price 8/- each, post free.

When ordering, it will be sufficient to refer to them as Pattern 'D' or Pattern 'E1.'

Note: Owing to heavy demands, some delay is being experienced in obtaining these ties from the manufacturers.



Major J. Bennallack-Hart, T.D. presents the cigar box to Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D. Lieutenant-Colonel E. O. Smith, M.B.E., D.C.M., looks on

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

Promotion for former C.R. Signals

All ranks extend their congratulations to Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D., on his promotion and appointment as C.S.O. (T.A.) 44 (H.C.) Division/District.

After a farewell dinner, held at the Officers' Mess, 36th Engineer Regiment, R.E., Invicta Park, Maidstone, officers of the Regiment presented Colonel Seys-Phillips with a silver cigar box engraved with the Cinque Ports galleon.

The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Sir Henry d'Avigdor Goldsmid, Bt., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., M.P., was present. The guests included Mrs. Seys-Phillips, Sir Derek Greenaway, Bt., T.D. J.P., who is to be our next Honorary Colonel, and the new C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel E. O. Smith, M.B.E., D.C.M.

Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, a regular officer, joins the Regiment from Muscat, where he was Brigade Major to the Sultan's Forces. We wish both him and our new Training Major, Major G. Fleming all success in their tour with us.

Sir Robert Menzies and the Cinque Ports

On the appointment of Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the following congratulatory letter has been sent to him by Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips.

My dear Sir Robert,

I and all the members of the Regiment were delighted to learn of the great honour conferred upon you by Her Majesty in appointing you Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. On behalf of the Regiment I would like to send you our congratulations and express our loyalty.

For centuries past the Cinque Ports have been protected by volunteer units, and we are immensely proud that since 1961 we have been part of the volunteer force in direct line of succession from the original units.

We trust that on the occasion of your installation and thereafter we may exercise our privilege of attending upon you.

M. H. SEYS-PHILLIPS...

To which Sir Robert Menzies replied:

My dear Colonel,

May I thank you most sincerely for your letter of 15th October, with your personal congratulations and those of your Regiment on my appointment as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. I am very grateful for such an expression of loyalty from one of the volunteer units guarding those Ports.

I am deeply conscious of the honour accorded me and feel the selection of an Australian for this position so steeped in British history is a fine demonstration of the close family bonds of the British Commonwealth.

I look forward very much to meeting you on the occasion of my installation.

Yours sincerely,

R. G. MENZIES,
Prime Minister, Canberra.

47th REGIMENT T.A. MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

After Paris—Scarborough

Somehow, two months have elapsed since our last contribution, now at last, conscience has overcome all else, so here goes.

For the second time this year, we set off for Annual Camp, this time to the more conventional type of camp at Scarborough.

Despite having sent the bulk of the Regiment to Paris in July, a further 150 were taken to Scarborough where a very pleasant fortnight was spent.

The Regiment were indeed fortunate to have the expert services of Staff Sergeant (Y.O.S.) Dixon from 228 Squadron to unravel the mysteries of life in a Comcen; his instruction proved a real boon to all concerned.

Our recruit Squadron, benefited probably more than others by having a continuous fortnight's training, culminating in a first class "pass-off" on the final day of camp. We were visited by the C.S.O. London District at Camp and also Lord Shepherd, the Government Chief Whip in the House of Lords.

Following on immediately after camp was the Eastern Command Royal Signals T.A. Shoot, which we had the task of organising this year. Despite a few anxious moments at the start, the day went remarkably well, particularly as the Regiment wound up by winning the Team Rifle Championship and being runners-up in the S.M.G. Team event. The C.S.O. Eastern Command kindly presented the trophies to climax a most enjoyable day.

Plunging into a hectic round of varied activities

October showed us plunging into a hectic round of varied activities, commencing with a ¼-ton vehicle rally, in which, despite no practice, we ended up in fourth place, due mainly to the stirling efforts of Lieutenant A. R. Maxwell.

Each year the T.A. Association county of Middlesex hold a Tough Training Competition, which includes marches, cross-country driving, map reading, bivouacing and obstacle courses. Our Regiment has made a habit of organising and running the communications for these tourneys as well as, hopefully, entering teams, despite stiff competition, from many Infantry and Airborne units. This year our hopes finally materialised when the team from "C" Squadron finished as runners-up and they certainly earned our heartiest congratulations.

S.O.-in-C. at 'Lafone Day'

To climax October, came our Annual Regimental Day, "Lafone Day," when the Regiment commemorates the death of one of its Yeoman, Major Lafone, who fell in Palestine in 1917 whilst gaining the award of the Victoria Cross. This year we were honoured by the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General P. E. J. Bradley, D.S.O., O.B.E. Two hundred officers and men paraded before the S.O.-in-C. and 100 guests on a gloriously sunny day to show their paces. Right royally did they perform and judging from the many generous comments received this opinion was shared by many. High spots of the parade included the appearance on parade of the Turkish Military Attaché, to pay his respects to the Lance (presented by a generous Turkish Government as a mark of respect to Major Lafone). He greeted the Regiment in the manner of a Turkish Commander and was answered by the whole Regiment in the traditional manner. Following the S.O.-in-C.'s inspection, certain personnel of the Regiment, who had received honours and awards during the previous year, were presented to him. The Regimental Sergeant-Major, W.O.I M. J. P. Giles, due to be commissioned in November, had his sword (respectfully donated by the Officers and Senior Ranks of the Regiment) presented to him by General Bradley. The S.O.-in-C. then took the march past as the Regiment proceeed to the Chapel of the Royal Hospital for the memorial service to the stirring music of the Regimental Band.

To conclude, a word of praise for the continued splendid performances by the Regimental Band. Under the guidance of W.O.I (Bandmaster) E. J. Tamplin, M.B.E., they go from strength to strength and they take with them our every wish for success when they take part in the Music Festival at Reading in November.

65th (CITY OF LONDON) REGIMENT (T.A.)

Highlights of a successful annual camp



The Honorary Colonel The Right Honourable The Earl of Malmesbury, T.D., V.L., presenting the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal to Staff Sergeant K. R. Holdaway at the Regimental Parade

We all went home feeling that annual camp had been a success. For the first time the Regimental base was not established at Poundon, in Oxfordshire, but at Crowborough Camp in Sussex. As usual, we had detachments, this year in B.A.O.R. and Malta, and Towyn, Arbroath and Folkestone.

With so much to remember, only the highlights can be recalled. Foremost was the visit to Crowborough Camp of Lieutenant-General Sir George Cole, K.C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command, who had asked to meet informally as many members of the Regiment as possible. This he managed to do, with great success. We were very pleased to have a visit from our Honorary Colonel, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Malmesbury, T.D., V.L., who also made his customary tour of our U.K. detachments. During his visit to Folkestone, the Honorary Colonel turned the tables on the trainee drivers at St. Martin's Plain, by demonstrating his prowess in a Champ. Other visitors whom it was a great pleasure to welcome included Brigadier M. D. Price, O.B.E., C.S.O., Eastern Command; Brigadier J. W. Berridge, M.B.E., C. of S., London District; Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch, C.S.O., London District; Colonel M. D. M. Humphery, D.D.W.R.A.C., Eastern Command; and Lieutenant-Colonel J. Rankin, A.D.W.R.A.C., London District, all of whom showed great interest in our activities. Major D. C. Newman, our Commanding Officer designate, also spent several days with us getting to know members of the Regiment.

For some it was B.A.O.R. . . . and torrents of rain

The B.A.O.R. detachment, a party of Royal Signals and W.R.A.C., set off on Friday morning to emplane at Abingdon. Arriving in B.A.O.R., the male element were taken to 17 Rear Vehicle Depot, R.A.O.C., and the W.R.A.C. to 29 Company, W.R.A.C. The detachments were made most welcome by the host units and everything possible was done to make their stay enjoyable. The following morning a base station was set up and two mobile units set off in good heart, but drenching rain, to the training area, where they arrived damp in body but not in spirit. Communications were established, reception was very good and traffic flowed steadily. At the week-end the men made good use of the facilities that Rheindahlen and Munchen Gladbach had to offer, while the W.R.A.C., a little more adventurously, made their way to Holland and stayed in Amsterdam for the night. The following week brought torrents of rain, shared by many on holiday this "summer." After packing and farewells to friends in Rheindahlen, the detchment flew back to join the Regiment at Crowborough for the last three days of camp.

For others, Malta . . . and brilliant sunshine

The furthest flung detachment of the Regiment flew to Luqa Airport, Malta, on July 2nd. In contrast to the party in Germany, they had sunshine all the way, with temperatures averaging 82-86 degrees. 234 Squadron made the detachment most welcome at Floriana Barracks and ensured that the stay was interesting and enjoyable. The detachment reciprocated by increasing the canteen profits for soft drinks to an unmentionable level, and by the W.R.A.C. element raising male attendance at breakfast! Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Burrell, M.B.E., C.R. Signals, Malta and Libya, visited the detachment. Communications were slow off the mark to start off with, but after a night exercise, things went very smoothly.

After landing in B.A.O.R. and Malta, all Hastings aircraft were grounded and there was some anxiety (or was it wishful thinking?) as to how the detachments would return to base. With the uncertainty peculiar to air travel, the Malta party were given seven hours' notice to move after being told that they were to stay on the island for a further three days. So the Malta detachment returned to a gloomy and rain-sodden Lyneham Airport and, shivering and damp, but cheerful and sunburnt, joined the remainder of the Regiment at Crowborough in time for the Regimental parade.

52nd (LOWLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.), GLASGOW

Extension to our Drill Hall opened

"No one could want to have an Army entirely without links with the civilian population."



[*Courtesy: Glasgow Herald*
Brigadier Sir John Spencer Muirhead opening the extension to the Drill Hall

These were the words of Brigadier Sir John Spencer Muirhead, when he opened an extension to our drill hall at 21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, on 2nd October. The new accommodation provides two comcens, lecture rooms, administrative offices and a Corporals' Club. The new premises have also allowed 1 Squadron to "join" the Regiment under the same roof for the first time since 1961. Everyone worked extremely hard to get equipment installed and working. Incidentally, the new comcen and training rooms were wired by T.A. personnel.

Wives and sweethearts—the reason why they get neglected!

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Johnston, decided that wives and sweethearts should have an opportunity to see why they had been neglected more often than usual. An open day was held on Sunday, 3rd October. The attendance by families and friends and the interest shown was reward enough for the Regiment. Tea was served in the respective messes, followed by the Honorary Colonel's (Colonel T. M. Niven, C.B., T.D., D.L.) parade, when he presented Captain T. Blance (W.R.A.C.) with the Territorial Decoration and Sergeant A. Newman (R.E.M.E.) with his T.A. Efficiency Medal. Five other senior N.C.O.s also received meritorious certificates. We do not claim any records, but R.Q.M.S. C. S. Lowe and S.Q.M.S. J. McMenemy both received their second certificates. These five N.C.O.s between them have 108 years' service (active National Service and T.A.). The Regimental Pipes and Drums ended the official programme by beating Retreat. Thereafter everyone retired to their respective messes. Needless to say, the cup that cheers was filled with more than tea! It should be mentioned that a Regimental dance was held on the Saturday evening and, judging by the hangovers, it must have been a huge success.

The Adjutant is whisked off

While all the preparations were going on, we, unfortunately, said goodbye to our Adjutant, Major G. C. Beadle, who was whisked off to Aden. Captain A. G. Wilson is a more than able deputy. Having "launched" the new premises, we are making full steam ahead with training, including a very successful Officers and senior N.C.O.s' study week-end, Exercise "Order Group." We also had a very enjoyable social during this week-end, when our wives very appropriately joined our Order Group.

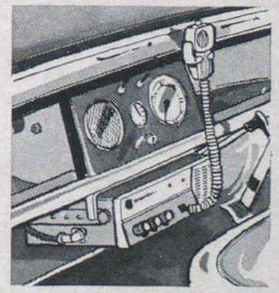
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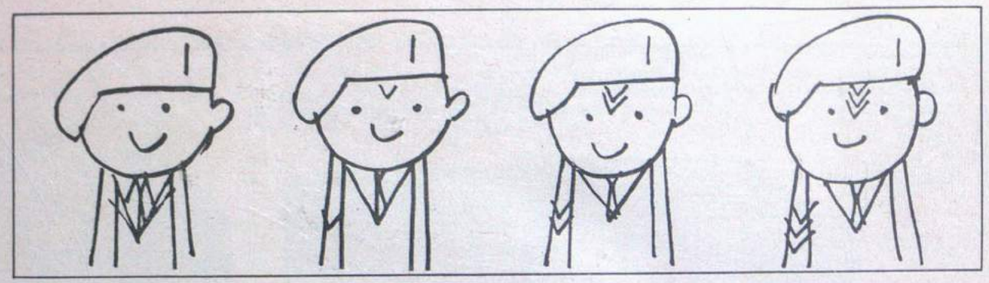


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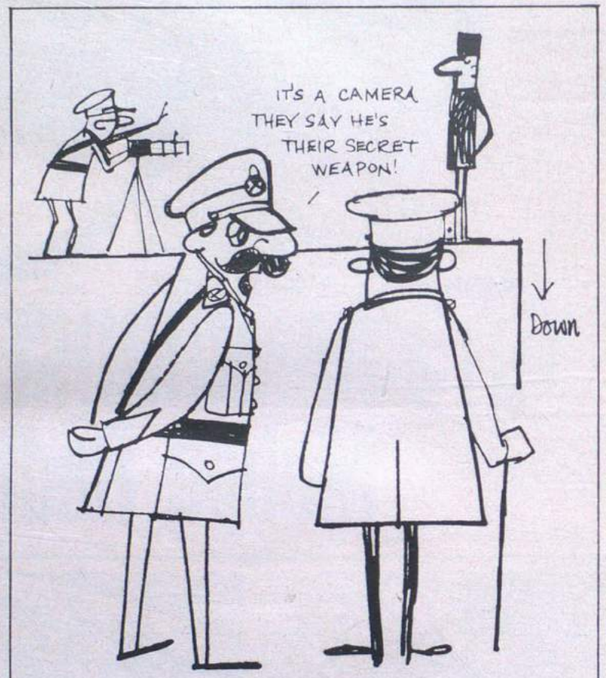
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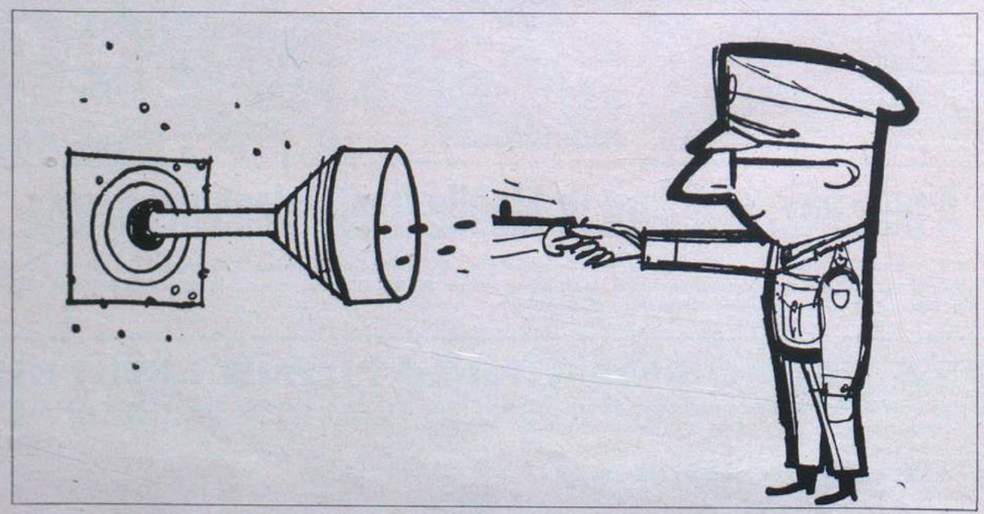
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SMILE PLEASE!
from
"Private Wire" Magazine of the 45th. Essex Signal Regiment (T.A.)
But what else happened at Camp?







Ashtead Major receives AER decoration


Major Smith receiving the award from Colonel L. Hill, Commanding Officer of the Regiment

During the two weeks' annual camp at Blandford in Dorset of 85th Regiment, A.E.R., the Regiment's training officer, Major Rodney Smith, was presented with the Clasp to the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration.

Major Smith, who served in Royal Signals during World War II, saw service in the Middle East and Germany. He joined A.E.R. in 1952 and was recalled to regular service for the Suez operation in 1956.

For the other fifty weeks of the year Major Smith is a chartered electrical engineer working on telecommunications equipment at The M.E.L. Equipment Company Ltd., Crawley, Sussex.

Corps Sports Results

Football
R.A.O.C. 5, Royal Signals 3.

Rugby
Special Team Royal Signals 3, Welbeck College 11.
Corps 9; Royal Artillery 3.
Corps 17; Royal Engineers 0.
Corps 14; R.E.M.E. 3.

Golf
Royal Signals 3, Staff College, Camberley, 5.

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24th Divisional Signals, (1914-1919) Reunion

About 80 members of the 24th Division with relatives were present at the Ceremony at the Divisional Memorial in Battersea Park, London.

The 24th Divisional Signals were represented by: Major-General R. F. B. Naylor and Messrs. T. H. Croft, E. H. Elliott, P. H. Fowler, T. Higgins, H. J. Kiberd, R. F. Mackie, S. T. Peet, A. G. Raby, W. J. Smythe, D. W. Ward, W. J. Wood.

General Naylor in welcoming those present, made special mention of relatives attending, and expressed his satisfaction at such a good turnout; 46 years after the Great War. He then traced the activities of the Division from Loos onwards to the Armistice.

A short Service of remembrance followed conducted by the Rev. Royle, M.C., Padre to the 11th Division 1914-1919, and Chaplain to the 8th Army 1939/45.

Wreaths were laid at the foot of the Memorial by members of the various units. Two minutes' silence was observed. Trumpeters of Royal Tank Corps sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

The Memorial is still kept in excellent condition including the surrounding Lodge and approach.

After the ceremony members made their way to the Chevrons Club for tea. Here General Naylor expressed pleasure at meeting those present, in particular all were pleased to see Mr. Elliott and Mr. Higgins again after an absence of many years.

Letters with messages of good wishes and remembrances from the following members were read, who regretted their inability to be present, owing to illness or other reasons. Several enclosed contributions and hoped to be present in 1966: G. Bell, A. Arnold, T. Ballantyne, W. S. Clucas, B. Downs, G. H. Elwick, A. G. Gill, E. Haydon, S. E. Hayward, H. Hursh, G. L. Olver, T. Parkinson, A. C. Skinner, C. A. Smith, A. E. Winton, A. Wadsworth, C. A. Wilkinson, C. Yarroll, D. Ware.

Tribute was paid to five members who died during the past year, namely: P. G. Curnew, G. W. Critchlow, A. V. Smith, W. Heather, D. W. Howie.

The next Reunion has been fixed for Saturday, 1st October, 1966, 3 p.m. Battersea Park, 4 p.m. Chevrons Club. Apply to A. G. Raby, Hon. Secretary, 9, Gog Magog Way, Stapleford, Cambridge.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during October, 1965:

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	30	0	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	5	1	6
224 Squadron	22	15	0
14th Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	7	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	4	10	0
205 Squadron	9	4	6
243 Squadron	2	3	6
638 Troop	2	4	3
Junior Leaders Regiment	29	0	0
Signals Wing R.M.A. Sandhurst	1	10	0
Signal Training Wing R.M.	5	5	0
43rd Regiment T.A.		13	6
57th Regiment T.A.	1	5	0
327 Squadron T.A.		3	0
402 Squadron A.E.R.	2	0	0
47th Regiment T.A. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
H.Q. Allied Forces Northern Eprope		12	0
1st Regiment	85	10	2
2nd Regiment	251	0	5
13th Regiment	19	0	0
16th Regiment	24	18	4
21st Regiment	25	0	0
225 Squadron	16	6	
7 Armoured Brigade Squadron	21	13	7
H.Q. Advanced Base B.F.P.O. 21	9	0	0
C.R. Signals Welfare Fund, Hong Kong	47	17	0
234 Squadron		19	6
235 Squadron	4	2	2
235 Squadron (Wives' Club)	1	17	6
9th Regiment	1	0	6
Various Individuals Donations	17	0	6
Total Receipts	£627	10	5
Expenditure during October 1965 (Includes: Rent and Rates, Beds and Bedding, Furniture, cots and prams; general assistance).	£297	19	2



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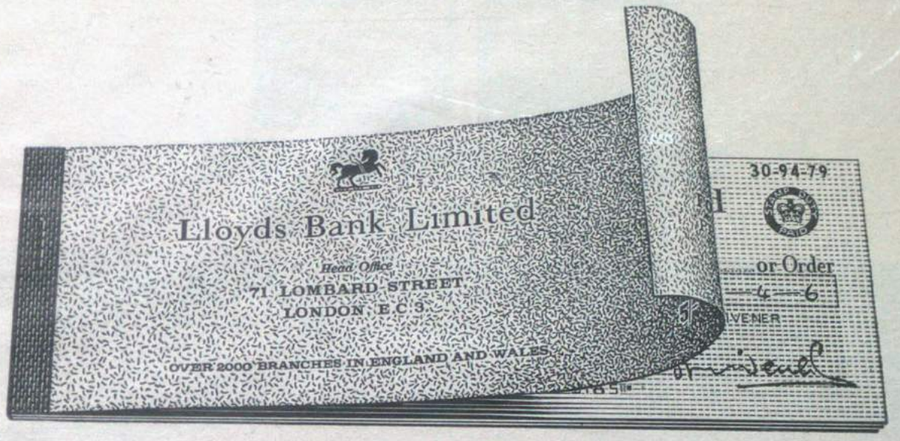
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