THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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Vol. 22 (*New Series*) **No. 1**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We felt it appropriate to link, in some way, the recent move of the School of Signals to Blandford, with our first pictorial outer cover. We have, therefore, taken as our theme, the Corps Band playing Retreat at the nearby market town of Blandford Forum believing that this will symbolise the steady build up of good relations between the Corps, in its new home, and the local community in the Blandford area.

Well, here it is—a brand new cover for THE WIRE.

The decision to depart from our old cover was not easy for it was both striking and dignified and the change will not be accepted by some without misgivings. Nevertheless, it has become increasingly clear to us for some time that there was a growing demand for a pictorial outer cover from many of our readers. A market research operation carried out for convenience within the Training Brigade, revealed a clear majority in favour of the new cover, and the Central Committee of the Association when they saw the original proofs, were immediately in favour of the change—and so it has come about.

The design of the cover has had to be dictated by expense as it is essential to keep down the number of basic colours to avoid heavy printing charges. We have, therefore, resorted to the well established, but simple, Corps motif of blue and white with superimposed red lettering. We are glad to report that this will result in a small saving compared with the cost of the old cover.

Each month we intend to offer the sponsorship of the outer cover to a different unit of the Corps and already several units have taken up this offer commencing with the February issue.

We will be getting in touch with other units as the year goes on, in each case giving three or four months notice of the offer. Thus it is hoped to achieve a good standard of photography spurred on by a little healthy inter-unit rivalry!

Occasionally we hope to publish a colour photograph if a suitable photograph subject comes to hand but it must be realised that heavy expenditure rules this out except for the odd occasion.

In conclusion we hope our readers will accept this change—and several other minor ones in our style of presentation—as indicative of our earnest endeavour to produce for them as good a magazine as we can devise from the resources available to us.

Special Mention

— *Lance-Corporal I. Connarty, 216 Squadron, Lance-Corporal I. Cutts, 30th Regiment, and Signalman D. Pellegrinetti, 2nd Regiment*

for gaining top rating in their class in the Army Boxing Association's Grading List for the season 1967/68. Lance-Corporal Connarty in the flyweight class, Lance-Corporal Cutts in the welterweight class, and Signalman Pellegrinetti in the heavyweight class; all shared first ratings in their respective division. Army boxing today embrances a wealth of talent, and the standard of skills is higher than ever—a very satisfactory achievement, therefore, for the Corps to win three divisions out of a possible ten.



"For what we have received . . ." Signalman Pellegrenetti (left) in a heavy-weight bout

— *Staff Sergeant Hall and Corporals MacMillan and Holden of the 7th Regiment*

for their truly remarkable long distance running achievements, both as individuals and as a highly efficient team. They have made their name, not only in Army circles, but even more so in local German athletics, where they have almost swept the board (see full unit write-up on pages 16/17).

— *Corporal F. Smith of 8th Regiment*

for winning the **first ever** Soldiers' Open Squash Competition when he defeated **Corporal Pearce** of the Parachute Regiment in the final played at Sandhurst on 8th December.

Corporal Smith started to play squash with a number of other soldiers in Episkopi (Cyprus) in 1964, when he was a technician with 259 (Comcan) Squadron). He made rapid progress, and not only did he become the leading light of 259's Squash Team which won the Inter-Unit Competition in 1966, but finished as runner-up to the Army champion in Cyprus.

Since he arrived at Catterick, a year ago, he has been given the utmost encouragement in his Regiment, and has continued to improve his game. Recently he was selected to represent Northern Command in the U.K. Command Championship.

The individual final was a very good match indeed. **Smith**, the cleverer player, kept his head and by skilful play defeated a very fit, determined and sporting player. I am informed from a reliable course that given plenty of competitive squash **Smith** should reach the top bracket of Army Squash in a year or two.

It was particularly appropriate that the silver tankard prize for this competition was donated by **Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Furlonge,** of the Corps, still a very useful player and President of Army Squash. It was a pity that bad weather conditions prevented his arrival in time to make the presentation.

Incidentally the rules of the Inter-Unit Army Squash Championship next year will stipulate that one soldier must be included in every regimental side. The implications are obvious. Let's get cracking!

From our "In" Tray

A NEW BREED OF DOG?

Sir,

In case **Brigadier and Mrs. Pentreath** become smothered in requests for particulars of a new breed of dog perhaps an amendment to page 427 of October-November WIRE would be wise. Subpara 'Whitsun Camp' last line:

Labradors come in TWO colours. Black and Yellow and Benjamin is—

(a) Golden Retriever; or

(b) Yellow Labrador

but Golden Labrador—there is no such breed. Ask Crufts!

Yours,

T. A. Vaughan, M.B.E. (ex-R.S.M.)

Estb. Manager, NAAFI R.N. 15026,
Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld, B.F.P.O. 35.

THANK YOU TO AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SIGNALS

Sir,

It was my good fortune to be given an Indulgence Passage during the Army Commander's tour of Australia and New Zealand.

I am writing this with the thought that you may publish it and thereby give some publicity to the very great kindnesses I received from members of the Australian and New Zealand Signals. I have always heard what a strong bond there is between us, but I had not realised the wonderful association it is. It is to be hoped that we may be able to preserve these close ties at a time when our outlook is changing so rapidly —and perhaps our newly-sought friends will not prove so staunch.

Perhaps, too, this may be another way of expressing my thanks to those kind people I met.

Yours faithfully,

H.Q., FARELF,
c/o G.P.O., Singapore

GYNOR BRINDLEY,
(Wife of Brigadier A. D. Brindley, C.S.O., FARELF).



[*Photo: Courtesy of 'Soldier'*

PRESENTATION TO MR. F. CUMBERS, B.E.M.

At the Corps Committee Meeting held last November a cheque for 500 guineas was presented to Mr. Freddie Cumbers by the Master of Signals. This sum was raised by subscription from many officers, both serving and retired, as a mark of appreciation for all that he did during his long tenure as Mess Steward at the old H.Q. Officers Mess, Catterick Camp. Readers will recollect that Mr. Cumbers was recently awarded the B.E.M. for his outstanding services

Civic Honour for 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)



The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. T. Paterson, receives the scroll from the Mayor, Councillor J. Elliott Brooks, J.P.

On Wednesday, 13th December, the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant, Training Major, Squadron Commanders, the R.S.M. and Squadron Sergeant Majors of 31st (Greater London) Regiment (Volunteers) attended a reception given by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, following a Resolution passed by the Council granting to the Regiment the Freedom of the Borough.

The Mayor, in presenting a Scroll to the Regiment, said that this new Scroll confirmed the Freedoms previously conferred by the separate Boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea upon both 40th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A. and 41st (Princess Louises' Kensington) Regiment T.A. in 1959; the two Regiments now being represented by Squadrons in 31st (Greater London) Regiment (Volunteers).

In accepting the Scroll, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. T. Paterson,** Royal Signals, thanked the Mayor and Council for the civic honour and pledged the Regiment to defend the citizens of the Royal Borough against the Queen's enemies. The Commanding Officer then presented to the Council a Regimental Shield.

The regimental party then joined members of the Council in an informal gathering over drinks in the Mayor's parlour.

Present on this occasion were **Major-General B. O. P. Eugster, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** G.O.C. London District, **Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E.,** Colonel Commandant, **Brigadier E. McK Erskine, Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon, C.B.E.,** Secretary of the County of London T. & A.F.A., and the Regiment's own Honorary Colonel, **Colonel B. R. Wood, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.**

A buffet supper held in the R.H.Q. Mess at Hammersmith and the visit of the Colonel Commandant to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess proved a fitting conclusion to the proceedings.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

PUZZLE CORNER No. 2—WINNERS

The correct solution to the puzzle published in the October/November "Wire" was:

**ONE TRIED ALL THREE BEVERAGES
SEVENTEEN HAD WHISKY ONLY.**

The winner and runner-up, impartially drawn from a hat from those who gave the correct solution, were:

1st Prize of £1 10s. 0d.: Major H. H. Priestley, 217 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 20.

2nd Prize of £1 0s. 0d.: A/T D. Buckley, Phillip Squadron, A.A.C. Harrogate, Yorks.

Cheques have been sent accordingly.

Report from 59th Army Youth Team

Not only presenting an image of the Army but doing excellent work for the youth of this country in general

Lieutenant Mike Martin of the Corps writes:

Introducing ourselves

As none of us in the team knew of Army Youth Teams before our postings we feel it would be a good idea to put ourselves on the map and let others know of our unusual job.

A youth teams' charter is very broad in outline in that we have to give the true image of the modern Army (not just the Corps) to the youth (below 21) in our area, which is Wolverhampton and surrounding district.

The team comprises at present **Lieutenant Mike Martin, Sergeant Gordon Little, Corporal Joe Hanlon, Signalman Ken Towlson** and **Signalman Roy Walton,** so that friends who had lost touch may now locate them once more.

Making contacts

The way in which we get to know the youth of Wolverhampton while they get to know us and the Army, are as varied and interesting as we wish to make them for we are lucky in that we are left alone to get on with our work.

Since March this year we have concentrated on two approaches, one activities with youth at their meeting places, in the week from Monday to Friday and two, outdoor adventure work at the weekends.

The local youth officers, Scout leaders and ACF officers give us a lot of support, plus the other leaders of various organisations all too numerous to mention, in introducing us to their club members and so giving us the initial introduction and welcome without which a youth team finds it extremely hard to work.

Examples of what we do

To enable you to visualise the work we do we will summarise our work since last March.

The spring and summer are the best times for Army Youth Teams as we can get outside and achieve much better results with the youth in one's area. Therefore nearly every weekend in the spring and summer was spent on adventure training in Wales, and doing various oddities that crop up occasionally.

A typical adventure training weekend for a dozen boys starts Friday night by travelling to Snowdonia so that early Saturday morning we set out on a mountain walk lasting all day; this is when the boys begin to know us and understand what we are here for, especially when some hazard presents itself and with our help they overcome it, and feel that sense of achievement.

The Saturday evening after a meal either under canvas or in a mountain hut is usually spent with other climbers in some pub and a good 'sing song' often results and usually continues back in our hut.



YOUTH TEAM IN ACTION
Signalmen Walton and Towlson of 59 Army Youth Team on a night exercise with a youth club

The Sunday, weather permitting (we always seem to catch the Welsh rain), is spent on basic rock climbing before returning to Wolverhampton for that most refreshing hot bath and steak.

These weekends lead to a lasting friendship with a club so many visits usually result from them and two examples are a 60-mile charity walk in which we kept the walkers refreshed and in order for one weekend and carnivals and fêtes to which we are always asked in order to do some show or other.

A most rewarding venture

Our most rewarding venture was a month's camp which we ran for 50 under-privileged children in St. Davids, Pembrokeshire, for not only did all the kids enjoy it so much that all wanted to stay, but the people of St. Davids were most friendly and helpful towards all of us.

We had a delightful setting for our numerous tents in a large field five minutes from the coast, with a bracing wind and a fair amount of sun, so that everyone looked and ate very well.

To close our summer activities we ran an archery competition for all the clubs that had taken advantage of our training evenings through the summer which proved popular and something that we must include for 1968.

Winter calls for a different approach

Now that we have dark nights the weekends are restricted to films, talks, arms and judo displays or, as we often do, challenge clubs to soccer, basketball and badminton.

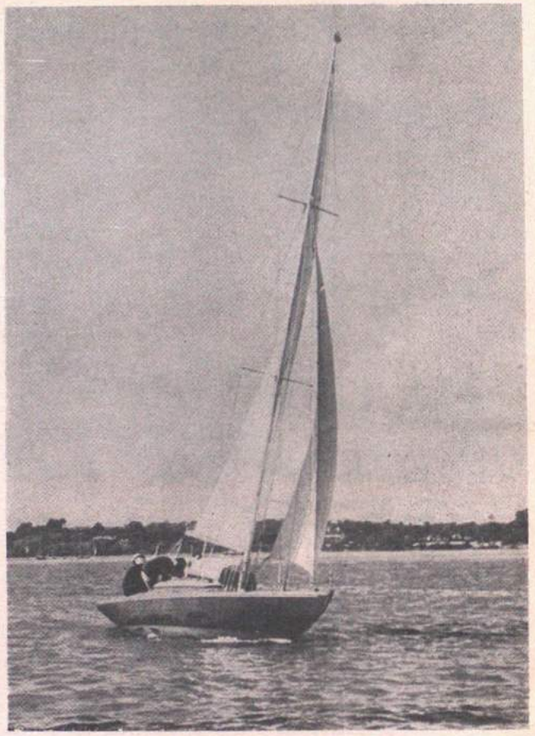
The weekends can still be used to get out of doors and we bravely broke the ice with canoes this December and SLR shooting and the assault course continues to be popular with everyone.

As our inter-club archery competition went so well we have a ·22 shooting league in its second round and this has attracted over sixty teams, most of which have only begun to fire with our youth team, so that come Spring we should have some youth clubs capable of challenging Regular Army shots.

Planning in advance and new ideas are all important to maintain interest in a youth team so that for the summer of 1968 we are hoping to take a party to Norway and teach them our present outdoor activities, plus ski-ing for three weeks. However, more news of that in our next letter, with a report (foot and mouth permitting) on our ski-ing course in Scotland.

Postscript

Major Bill Fill, Royal Signals, Second-in-Command Wolverhampton A.C.I.O., has asked the writer to add what a help he considers the A.Y.T.s to be in the way the A.C.O. employs them. The number of recruits are well up in his area compared with other areas without or with only one A.Y.T. opposed to three. For, although we do not recruit, it is by our image that we encourage people to ask about the Army.



THE LAST OF THE YACHT 'CITO'

Royal Signals Yacht Club announce with deep regret the death of Yacht 'Cito,' off Salamis, Cyprus, on 15th October.

Yacht 'Cito,' formerly the German 'Germane,' came into possession of the Corps in October 1946 as a 'windfall.' When handed over she was noted as 'of recent construction' but her actual 'date of birth' is not recorded. She was originally described as a 6-ton 30 square metre vessel, but she was in fact nearer to 4-ton.

For some years she was based on the Lymington River, before being moved in the early '50s to the Gun Wharf at Portsmouth. In November 1955 she was transferred via Malta to Cyprus. In recent years she had begun to show signs of wear, and steps were already in hand to effect her replacement when news of her demise was received. She was driven on to a lee shore in a fresh wind, and the following day when a party went to retrieve her, they found that she had broken up in the heavy seas.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

All will join "The Wire" in congratulating the following who received awards in the New Year's Honours as follows:

O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Armour
Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Polley
Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh

M.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier
Major D. J. Reid, T. & A.V.R.
W.O.I A. G. Maxwell
Staff Sergeant R. Goodman
Sergeant J. A. Scrutton

Royal Signals Demonstration Team

- **After a busy year now absorbed into the School of Signals**
- **Mr. Magnetron still going strong**



THE TEAM SWING INTO ACTION
Sergeant Home supervises setting-up. Note new parasol tent—a great improvement

DEMONSTRATION Team 30th Regiment has been elevated to the title of the Royal Signals Demonstration Team and has passed from under the wing of 30th Regiment into the clutches of the School of Signals as a part of SI Tactics 'B' Division.

Driven into retirement?

The last year has been as hectic as usual and we have driven two O.C.s into retirement: **Majors (retired) Ainsworth** and **Bartlett** are still to be seen in Dorset inns, telling tales of our past successes and crises.

The bi-annual tri-service demonstration UNISON 67 held at Camberley and Chobham taxed our resources heavily but with the able assistance of those part-time demonstrators (we suppose they do have something else to do), the Trials Squadron, we survived. Trials Squadron also did the International Radio Engineering and Communications Exhibition with us. As usual, with our typical modesty, we can but say it was the best stand there just as we have the best Corps mobile display on the road. Trials Squadron departed to the School under the happy illusion that their demonstrating days were over—they have just been passed the Mons Demonstration!

One hundred and sixty thousand people came to see the Aldershot Army Show in June, where Magnetron held forth and our teleprinters withstood the onslaught of thousands of small boys. Other Corps had a bigger acreage but the equipment in Quicksilver's newly purchased blue and white striped tent showed the public what the Corps has to offer and the team showed them just how intelligent and forward thinking you all are.

New tent a success but has its moments

Our new tent replaces the heavy shelters used in the past; it is easier to carry and easier to erect. We expected that fewer vehicles would be needed out on tour but somehow when Quicksilver set out the same number of vehicles left camp, all loaded to capacity and well down on their springs.

The tent was duly christened by heavy rain in the first two shows. At Leicester where the ground had appeared to be firm and dry the display was almost washed away. **Signalmen Perret** and **Glennon,** who were on guard, were found one morning ankle deep in water bailing out. The tent hadn't leaked but water had come up through the ground as the site was between a lake and a canal!

After covering the Southern Command area Quicksilver returned north and here it was noticed that despite the uniform age of the vehicles that some seemed to go better than others; how the 3-tonner drivers **Signalman Jackson** and **Corporal Filson** always got to locations before the other vehicles remains something of a mystery.

Rock and roll with Signalman Ball

The trip to Scotland was not without incident as **Signalman Ball** rolled his 3-tonner over on the way to Kilmarnock; fortunately neither crew nor vehicle being much damaged. The locals said it was the fourth vehicle to go off that bend in a fortnight! Ball is now writing a Paper entitled "Round the Bend with Quicksilver."

Later at Liverpool the team had the pleasure of seeing another Corps' parasol tent, less well secured than ours, fly up into the air and go bowling off into the distance; the team are smug to this day.

We would like to express here our sincere thanks to the four W.R.A.C. girls who came out with us all summer and did much to brighten our lives. Also to the apprentices who were attached to us and suffered that mysterious Quicksilver liquid that no one can identify as tea or coffee but is suspected to contain mercury.

The personal side

We bid farewell to **Staff Sergeant Rodrigues,** veteran of three tours, and we wish him an enjoyable retirement, also to **Lieutenant Hetredd** who having just got married and bought a house is of course posted to Cyprus. We welcome **Staff Sergeant Miller,** who is now being briefed on how to bring tears to a

landlady's eyes with the sad story of the paucity of soldiers' allowances, thereby enabling them to spend the balance on wild living in such hot spots as Dagenham or Dundee.

No mention of Demonstration Team is complete without tribute to the only carpenter in the Corps, **Sergeant Fisher,** and his gallant band of a driver and GD assistants who continue to turn out immaculate stands from a few pieces of plywood and the O.C.'s sketch which has to be disregarded anyway.

We look forward to the arrival of our new O.C., **Major D. A. R. Elliott, M.C.,** and to 1968; the Staff College Demonstration, for which we revert back under the 30th Regiment) and our next tour out. We will spread the Corps gospel in many barren areas and interest as many young men as we can. Some of the team also like to interest young ladies, but not the married ones of course—wives please note!

Facing up to some problems on an out of the ordinary job

Providing Radio Communications for the N.A.T.O. Symposium

By Sergeant D. J. Tanner, 10th Regiment

What the job entailed

IT was early in June when I was summoned to the Second-in-Command's office and was informed that the Troop would be required to carry out the radio communications for the N.A.T.O. Symposium. **Major Dale** informed me that high ranking officers from all the N.A.T.O. countries would be arriving in this country for the symposium, which was to take place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th October.

It was our job to provide radio communications at the following locations: Wellington Barracks, which was to be the car park for the 120 staff cars; Charing Cross Pier, this was the boarding site for the three civilian launches which would take them down the River Thames to the meeting place, Trident Hall at Greenwich Pier. There were two other radio locations, and each launch was to be equipped with radio equipment for their trips up and down the river.

We would provide the information to Wellington Barracks from Charing Cross Pier when the staff cars would be required to take personnel back to their hotels in the evening, this meant that 150 senior officers would be arriving off each launch at 15-minute intervals, and Charing Cross Pier would be packed with cars if radio communications failed or everyone concerned with the operation failed to function 100 per cent.

The first trial—and problems mount up

In the next few days net diagrams and instructions were prepared and **Major Dale** made arrangements for the first trial. It was decided that the new Pye equipment would be used for the event, so at the end of June we went out for the first trial in the London area. **Lieutenant Falla, Signalman Long** and myself were to go down river in the Admiral's launch for the first trial. So bright and early we reported to the Navy at *H.M.S. Chrysanthemum* and after formal greetings we boarded the Admiral's launch. On that trial, I can honestly say that we moved the Pye Cambridge and a 12 volt 22 amp battery from one end of the boat to the other, and you can believe me, some parts were quite tricky. Communications on parts of the river were hopeless, so, after a run up and down the river to Greenwich Pier, we decided another trial would be required.

Down river on the launch—and radio communications perfect

In July we had another trial. This meant another trip down river for myself, this time accompanied by **Corporal Milne,** who felt sick as soon as he saw the river. I told him he would be required to move up and down the sides of the launch carrying the radio equipment; he almost deserted his post and cried on my shoulder that he couldn't swim. This time down river the radio communications were perfect, but the launch caused so much trouble it had to return to H.M.S. *Chrysanthemum,* where, on inspection, it was found that something was fouled up round the propeller.

Prior to the trial on the river we had modified the master station, which increased the power input from approximately 10 watts to 60 watts and caused **Corporal King** and **F. of S. Noakes** more trouble than all other problems they had encountered the whole year put together. After the modification it was found that nine out of the eleven Pye sets had no "receive" on them. We took down the antennae at Horse Guards numerous times, with no luck, so the Foreman called in Pye to check the equipment, and it was found that the extra RF blew the local oscillator transistors. With the trouble cleared up, we have now displayed in a prominent position on the set the distances that are safe for the equipment to be taken away from the master. This trouble came only two days before the actual event, and one can imagine the concern it caused.

On Monday, **Lieutenant Falla** had a final inspection of No. 1 dress and a briefing for the next morning, which was to be an early start. We left on Thursday morning at six o'clock, arrived, set up, and checked communications by 07.45 hours and were ready to begin and make a success of the next three days.

But all's well that ends well

Signalman Nadin, who was on the radio set at Wellington Barracks, had a busy and difficult task, which he performed to the best of his ability, each vehicle arriving on time and in the correct sequence. On the first day **Lieutenant Falla** and myself were driven down to Charing Cross Pier to see the first launch fill up and make its way down river. Cars seemed to come from all directions. Admirals, Air Marshals and Generals boarded the launch one after another until the launch was full. Radio communication was opened on the first launch and off they went down river to Greenwich Pier to be disembarked by the efficient handling of **Corporal Gardener** and **Signalman Long.**

In the afternoon cars turned up speedily, but I'm afraid not too efficiently, the Naval personnel controlling the vehicles at Wellington Barracks found, to their dismay, that the cars had been incorrectly numbered, and for a while chaos reigned. No doubt someone had a late night re-numbering the cars for the following day, for thereafter, the task was carried out speedily and efficiently by all three Services.

So if you want an out-of-the ordinary task, come to 10th Regiment.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in November	43
Number of clothing parcels sent	40
Amounts spent in grants and loans ...	£1193 11 8

One of the Month's Cases

SERGEANT, 13 years' service, emigrated to Australia with his wife and three children and was doing well until he met with an accident whilst climbing. As a result of this, his spine was fractured, and he will be confined to a wheelchair for life. His wife at once took a job, but the reduction in income was still keenly felt, and the Association made a grant to purchase a special bed which was necessary for the Sergeant, and to provide clothing replacements for the children.

One of the Month's Letters

"I DO not know how to express myself for such a generous gift, but will always think of the Association with the deepest gratitude. I hope someday we shall be able to repay them for the help they have given us. For a long time we have thought that nobody cared, but we know better now. Again, our many thanks."



Solid State U.H.F. Fixed Station

for 450 to 470 Mc/s

The Pye F450T u.h.f. base station has a fully transistorised transmitter and receiver, for maximum reliability and minimum size.
The equipment is frequency-modulated, operates from 450 to 470 Mc/s, with 40 to 60 kc/s channel spacing, and is suitable for use with mobile and Pocketfone radiotelephones.

- ✻Choice of control systems.
- ✻Elimination of relays in transmitter with the exception of aerial changeover.
- ✻Output stage protected against 'no-load' conditions.
- ✻High-stability receiver squelch circuit eliminates background noise in the absence of a signal.
- ✻4W nominal r.f. output.
- ✻Remote control facilities.

Pye Telecommunications Limited
Cambridge, England. Telephone: Cambridge 61222. Telex: 81166.

MR15

Hong Kong S.S.M. does the sights



S.S.M. CHU FOOK HUNG
Seen with one of the Yeomen Warders at the Tower of London. Incidentally there are three ex-R. Signals Yeomen Warders at the Tower

Sergeant-Major Chu Fook Hung of 253 Squadron, Hong Kong, recently visited the U.K. for a Hythe weapons course and a drill course at Caterham. He also visited Catterick between courses.

He has served the Corps for almost 20 years and he holds the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. He started his Service life as a lineman and has risen steadily to reach his present rank. Apart from two short courses in Singapore he has not before left Hong Kong. His current visit to Britain is the high point of his career and is, in part, a small reward for long and loyal service. All will wish him happiness and the best of luck on his return to Hong Kong.

Movements

Officers

JANUARY 1968

Captain A. R. J. Ainsworth ... ... To Staff College, Camberley
Major M. G. Adams ... ... ,, M.O.D. (A.C.E.P.).
Major P. D. Alexander ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Major R. C. Bryson ... ... ,, H.Q. Western Command
Lieutenant D. J. Buckley ... ... ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant R. C. K. Baynes ... ... ,, 30th Regiment (attd 644 Troop)
Lieutenant A. J. Briggs ... ... ,, School of Signals
Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., E.R.D. ,, D.C.N. (A.E.)
Major A. P. Boyle ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain J. E. Barnes ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Captain P. J. R. Brown ... ... ,, H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps
Major N. A. Butler ... ... ,, JSSC Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.
Captain R. A. Cemm ... ... ,, Staff College
Captain R. F. L. Cook ... ... ,, 28 Brigade—208 Squadron
Major B. C. Complin ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major D. W. W. Cooper ... ... ,, H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps
A/Captain J. C. Day ... ... ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc.) P. R. P. Donaghy ,, 611 Troop
Major (T.O.T.) R. A. Dolbear ... ,, 10th Regiment
Lieutenant J. H. Fisher ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) W. G. Finch ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
Major J. R. Garratt ... ... ,, 39th Regiment (V)
Major D. Gittins ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Major P. J. Garratt ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Captain C. R. F. Hinds ... ... ,, Staff College
Lieutenant J. Hawthornthwaite ... ,, 651 Troop
Lieutenant A. M. P. Howie ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Lieutenant R. C. Hood ... ... ,, 19th Regiment

Major J. P. Hart ... ... ,, C.R. Signals H.Q. L.F. Hong Kong as Lieutenant-Colonel
Captain J. M. D. Hunter ... ... ,, 222 Squadron
Major J. N. Hancock ... ... ,, 229 Squadron as O.C.
Officer Cadet A. T. B. Kimber ... ,, 19th Regiment
Major (T.O.T.) L. F. Knight ... ... ,, 255 Squadron
Captain (Tfc.) J. A. Kelly ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Captain S. J. Lockett ... ... ,, Staff College
Lieutenant G. H. Litchfield ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Second-Lieutenant J. D. Leaver ... ,, 11th Regiment (H.S.), (Service ends 10th Feb., 1968)
Captain W. T. Leeson ... ... ,, 213 Squadron
Major P. E. Mott ... ... ,, H.Q. S.P.S.O. attd M.O.D.
Major A. W. McL. McKinnon ... ,, JSSC Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.
Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell ... ,, C.S.O. Malta
Captain D. M. O. Miller ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Major A. G. McTavish ... ... ,, M.O.D. (Sigs 36), (No Movement, change of Branch only)
A/Major J. D. Morris ... ... ,, R.M.C. of S.
Major W. J. Perry ... ... ,, A.A.C. Harrogate
Major F. H. Pedley ... ... ,, Northag Assu. BFPO 40, As OC
Lieutenant P. C. Pearson ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (H.S.), (Attd School of Infantry, Signals Wing, Hythe, 15 Jan.-5 Apr.)
Captain (Q.M.) F. J. Pavey ... ... ,, 209 Squadron
Lieutenant G. E. Parfitt ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Major R. Pope ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) N. A. Parker ... ,, School of Signals
Major E. L. Rogers ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Lieutenant B. H. Rowe ... ... ,, 3 H.Q. & Regiment
Major J. R. Roberts ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) R. N. Richmond ... ,, 8th Regiment
Major T. F. Ross ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant R. W. Stark ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Major J. E. C. Stevens ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Captain V. H. Stephens ... ... ,, Attd 654 Troop, BFPO 34
Lieutenant D. Strong ... ... ,, 1 R.N.F.
Major D. J. Strong ... ... ,, AWS Gp. Guildford
Lieutenant H. M. Vines ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Captain R. K. Ward ... ... ,, Staff College
Second-Lieutenant N. M. R. E. Walter ,, 11th Regiment (H.S.), Service ends 10th Feb., 1968)
Captain (Q.M.) A. V. K. Ward ... ,, 234 Squadron
Major (Q.M.) J. Woods ... ... ,, 38th Regiment (V)
Lieutenant M. J. Young ... ... ,, School of Signals

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I (Y. of S.) T. Johnstone ... To 30th Regiment
W.O.II H. C. Fawcett ... ... ,, 50 CVD, Ashchurch
W.O.II H. W. Jones ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II D. B. Rand ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
W.O.II A. J. Cowe ... ... ,, 5th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II (Y. of S.) P. H. Iverson ... ,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) B. Abbiss ... ... ,, 633 Troop
W.O.II D. Wood ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II R. M. Blease ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
W.O.II A. Nicolson ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II R. A. Peake ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
W.O.II S. F. Bloom ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
W.O.II J. E. Taylor ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
W.O.II (Y. of S.) A. Coyne ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II D. J. Freeman ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. McCormick ... ,, Northern Comd. R. & L.S.
Staff Sergeant I. McDonald ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. G. Hall ... ... ,, A.A.C., Harrogate
Staff Sergeant R. H. J. Brewin ... ,, 35th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant D. Livermore ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant B. L. Brewer ... ... ,, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Staff Sergeant E. H. Johnson ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. W. L. Crisp ... ,, Queen's University O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant G. A. Christie ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
Staff Sergeant G. I. Whitbread ... ,, 19th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant C. J. Walton ... ... ,, 252 Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. J. Beddingfield ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. H. J. Hillier ,, 28 (Comwell) Inf. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Brown ... ,, 6th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) S. H. Waudby ,, 39th Inf. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. G. Hunt ,, 36th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. D. F. Falconer ,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. A. Wilkins ,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant G. E. Bayley ... ... ,, School of Sigs. (F. of S.) Course
Sergeant H. J. Latham ... ... ,, School of Sigs. (F. of S.) Course
Sergeant P. D. McGinn ... ... ,, School of Sigs. (F. of S.) Course
Sergeant D. A. Ackers ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Waring ... ... ,, School of Signals (Cadre)
Sergeant D. A. Skinner ... ... ,, Life Guards (L.A.D., R.E.M.E.)
Sergeant L. Owen ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant J. Cartwright ... ... ,, 7th Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant O. E. Ballard ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant D. A. C. Jack ... ... ,, 1 Bn. D.W.R., L.A.D., R.E.M.E.
Sergeant R. Parry ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant K. D. Vince ... ... ,, 229 Squadron
Sergeant M. J. Croad Brangwyn ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant D. Jolly ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant D. A. Gore ... ... ,, 261 Squadron
Sergeant J. Moffatt ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Payne ... ... ,, 1st Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Sergeant W. J. Gunn ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
A/Sergeant J. N. Turner ... ... ,, 1st Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Sergeant K. O. Davis ... ... ,, 635 Troop
W.O.II H. R. Bennett ... ... ,, H.Q., London District
A/W.O.II R. V. Fairhurst ... ... ,, 18th Regiment

Sergeant R. C. Pearce ... ... ,, 259 Squadron
Sergeant E. W. Unwin ... ... ,, 222 Squadron
Sergeant S. A. Waylin ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant B. C. Ogden ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant B. C. Till ... ... ,, 40th (Ulster) Signal Regt. (AVR)
Sergeant C. W. Wells ... ... ,, School of Artillery, Larkhill
Sergeant J. Rocke ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant J. T. E. Evans ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant W. T. Duffy ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant J. E. C. Barton ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant R. J. Bailey ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant P. Taffinder ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant M. Light ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant E. G. Donnithorne ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant W. S. Matthew ... ... ,, H.Q., A.F.N.E.
Sergeant T. J. Lynn ... ... ,, 4 Gds. Bde. H.Q. & Sig Sqn.
Sergeant G. Coatsworth ... ... ,, 20 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant G. H. Young ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant F. Wilkinson ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant W. P. Peebles ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant C. Hay ... ... ,, 3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
A/Sergeant J. Batkin ... ... ,, 3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant H. A. McHugh ... ... ,, School of Signals (Course No. 15)
Sergeant A. R. Cole ... ... ,, School of Signals (Course No. 15)
Sergeant J. H. Storey ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
A/Sergeant D. W. Green ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
A/Sergeant R. J. M. Shaw ... ... ,, 6th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant L. Pollard ... ... ,, 8th Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant J. Murdoch ... ... ,, 4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant T. B. Neal ... ... ,, 223 Squadron
A/Sergeant R. E. Crossland ... ... ,, 223 Squadron

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	14466701	A/W.O.I	Joyce, T.	1280	2110	
To S Sgt.	22515075	Sgt.	Roberts, J. K.	5000	2730	(Fd)
	22537804	Sgt.	Ainge, D. H.	5010	3430	(Tech)
	22515332	Sgt.	Yates, W. C.	5020	2760	(Fd)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22902372	W.O.II	Armitage, C. N.	1240	1590
	22550319	W.O.II	Cherry, M. D.	1260	1600

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	2549540	A/W.O.I	Bell, E.	600	350

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23462354	Cpl.	Jarrett, T.	6380	13217
	23878017	Cpl.	Matthews, J. C.	6425	12785
	23534854	Cpl.	Yarnell, R. J.	6430	11330
	23708165	Cpl.	Walder, R. H.	6435	13563
	22983436	Cpl.	Davies, G. A.	6462	12940
	23878503	Cpl.	Zoing, K.	6500	12815

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	23591922	A/Sgt.	Lyons, J.	3370	5080
	22296724	A/Sgt.	Smithson, W.	3380	5694

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	450						
W.O.II	30	220	420	1270	2090	2750	2880
	3390	3700					
S Sgt.	50	180	440				

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	1010	1020

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	290

CHIEF CLERKS' ROSTER

W.O.I	330	360
W.O.II	680	

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.I	440

TECHNICAL ROSTER

S Sgt.	760	780	920	
Sgt.	1130	2770	4960	5370

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	6130	9130	10750

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt.	440	1040	2900

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

Sgt.	2450

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IBM

School of Signals, Blandford Camp

Squash Racquets

SQUASH has been flourishing at the School, with those addicted to the game revelling in the availability of two new courts.

In competitions, the School has had mixed success. A good win was gained in the Army Cup over the Royal Horse Guards (5—0), but our progress was recently halted by the Depot Queens (3—2). However, our hopes are still alive in the Command Cup Competition, and we hope to advance further in that competition.

The team has, in the main, been drawn from **Majors Blake, Wetherill, Captains Randel** and **Seward, Lieutenant Howard** and **W.O.II Jarmin.** Unfortunately, **Captain Randel,** our number one, has just left us, and we now desperately need a 'posting-in' of a champion to take his place.

Even computers have their moments

Heard recently in Blandford, an amusing story of the General who took his computer into the field with him.

"Shall I advance or retire?" he asked it at a moment of crisis. After much chugging and chuntering, the brilliant answer arrived: "Yes."

"Yes what?" asked the infuriated General.

"Yes **SIR,**" replied the eager all-singing and dancing computer!

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Recruit Squadron Passing-out Parade

On Saturday, 2nd December, what is to date the biggest entry into the College, paraded in front of their parents and guests to signify the successful culmination of twelve weeks' of recruit training.

The four Troops, each one bearing the name of the Squadron it is destined to join, were drawn up before their Commandant, **Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D.,** who inspected them and took the salute as they marched past to the College massed bands.

The occasion was more impressive than usual because so many people were both taking part and watching. The audience consisted of the families and friends of those on parade and numbered something in excess of 350.

For many it was their first impression of the Army, the first time in three months they had seen their sons, and their first visit to the College.

If pride could be measured, it would be a close thing as to who registered the most—the boy soldiers on parade or their families watching.

The Commandant presented prizes to the best recruit in each Troop: **A/T V. P. Baines,** Scott Troop; **A/T D. J. Ellison,** Penney Troop; **A/T M. Graham,** Rawson Troop; **A/T W. T. Lemon,** Phillips Troop, and also **A/T Baines,** the prize for the most outstanding recruit of the intake. The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award was presented to **A/T K. J. Stock,** of Phillips Troop.

After the parade, the guests gathered in the N.A.A.F.I. to meet the staff responsible for the surprising change in their offspring, and also to meet the future Squadron Commanders.

Lunch was followed by a Confirmation Service, conducted by the **Rt. Rev. J. R. Cruse,** Bishop of Knaresborough, where parents and relations watched 48 boys being confirmed.

Fanfare Trumpets

On parade for the first time on 2nd December were the Fanfare Trumpets of the College. These six trumpets originally belonged to the Junior Leaders, Denbury. They are a welcome addition to the College Bands, and we look forward to seeing them often in the future.

A unique occasion

For the first time in the history of the Army Apprentices' Challenge Cup (Football), the two finalists came from the same College. This obviously says a great deal for the standard of soccer at the College. Scott and Phillips Squadron battled it out on Wednesday, 6th December, in a thrilling game in which, only after extra time, Scott Squadron won by 6—5.



New Fanfare Trumpeters at the Army Apprentices' College

Swimming gala

Monday, 20th November saw the first Regimental swimming gala held in the College pool, and consisted of races of all types to include as many A/Ts and members of families as possible.

About 200 spectators were treated to a gala which produced some good swimming, as well as some amusing incidents in the obstacle races. However, the most exciting race of the evening was one for the 'midgets,' for children under eight, and produced only two entries, **Steven Proctor** and **Caroline Barron.** These two excellent young swimmers were neck and neck all the way; the eventual winner being **Steven,** by a foot.

Winter Games—Arborfield

On 10th November, a party of boys left for Arborfield to take part in the Winter Games. The weather conditions were ideal for outside activities and an enjoyable day's sport was enjoyed by all.

The College had good wins at soccer, rugby and shooting, but were beaten in the remaining six events.

Winter Games—Chepstow

Regrettably cancelled, because of the foot and mouth disease outbreak.

Fashion

On 15th November, the wives of the College Staff were entertained to a fashion display arranged by Florence Fashions, of Harrogate. The clothes were chosen to interest all ages, and it proved to be a lively and entertaining evening, enjoyed by everyone.

Among the guests were wives from the American base at Menwith Hill. The evening came to a pleasant end with a very good buffet supper.

Chaplain's Notes

By the Reverend C. Rawlinson

On Saturday, 2nd December, 47 Apprentices were Confirmed by the Bishop of Knaresborough in St. Alban's Church, Hildebrand Barracks. This was the last service of Confirmation to be held in the present church. The new church, also dedicated to St. Alban, will be ready for the opening service on Sunday, 3rd March, when the Chaplain-General, **The Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens, O.B.E., M.C., Q.H.C.,** will visit the College.

On Sunday, 10th December, the Sunday School children will present a Nativity Play in the Church, and the same evening the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held. Apprentices representing all the College Squadrons will read the Lessons, along with members of the Staff.

1st Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 32

- **A nautical flavour to C.O.'s farewell send-off.**
- **Routine message from Malaysia reaches Regiment in the field in five-and-a-half hours.**
- **Excellent results in sporting events bode well.**



REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

I Squadron show that their ceremonial is as good as their signalling as they march past the G.O.C., Major General R. E. Ward, D.S.O., M.C.

GREAT changes have taken place in the Regiment since the last WIRE insert. New faces in R.H.Q. outnumber the old stagers, there now being a new C.O., Second-in-Command and R.S.M. We welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. Macfarlane** as the new Commanding Officer, **Major A. H. Dennis** as the new Second-in-Command and **W.O.I J. G. Turner** as the new R.S.M. As both the Colonel and the Second-in-Command have commanded 216 Parachute Squadron and **R.S.M. Turner** was the S.S.M., the Regiment has now added 'Para' to its title.

Obviously, with such example, many physical changes have taken place and squads of men can now be seen reporting to the gymnasium throughout the day to practice their 'side lefts,' all very good for body and soul.

Lieutenant-Colonel Borthwick's Farewell

Lieutenant-Colonel Borthwick was dined out by both the Officers' Mess and the Sergeants' Mess before leaving Verden on 16th September. Both Messes contrived to give him a naval send-off in character with his sailing prowess and as always the ingenuity of the Sergeants' Mess won the day. **R.S.M. Turner** enlisted the aid of several of the cast of "Seagulls Over Sorrento" which was then being put on by Verden Theatre Club and the amount of realism achieved can be seen in the photographs.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Borthwick** every happiness among their new friends and associates at H.Q. AFCENT.

Work

The Regiment is busy at the moment preparing for the opening of the Bruin era but normal services have still been carried on against all odds. 2 Squadron and R.A. Troop have again proved to be hard working people, having a list of small exercise commitments as long as an R.H.Q. distribution list, but little has been seen of 1 Squadron who are employed on camouflage trials. It is rumoured that they have a complete Bruin Comcen set up on the Regimental Square but even the many R.S.M.'s Parades have failed to find it.

The Regiment was heavily, if unconventionally, committed on Exercise "Hell Tank" in October but now, having completed a series of minor 'Try Out' exercises, we look forward to a rest for the Christmas period.

An amusing incident on Exercise "Hell Tank" was the receipt of the following signal:

R 130110Z
FM 7 FLT AAC TERENDAK CAMP MALAYSIA
TO L AND R ASKEW 1 DIV ARMY AVN REGT RAAF
BASE AMBERLEY QLD AUST
UNCLAS RTT 1 PLEASE NOTIFY 7 FLT AAC OF YOUR DATE OF ARRIVAL IN THIS THEATRE A.S.P.

It is of interest to know that the signal was routine and took five and a half hours to reach us in the field from Terendak, Malaysia. The distressing factor for us is that although our motto is Primus Inter Pares (First Amongst Equals), we now have a Digger rival.

Remembrance Day Parade

A Regimental Remembrance Service and Parade was held on Sunday, 12th November. The service was held in the gymnasium which had been suitably decorated by the Wives' Club. The G.O.C., **Major-General R. E. Ward, D.S.O., M.C.,** read the lesson and **Rev. G. S. Marshall, B.A.,** gave the address.

After the Service of Remembrance, the G.O.C. took the salute at the regimental march past. Music for the service and the parade was provided by the Rhine Staff Band, Royal Tank Regiment.

Play

The regimental football team is doing well this year, winning six of the seven league matches played, and we look forward to promotion to the Second Division for the second half of the season. The Army Cup started well and we beat both 1 DERR and 7 Armoured Workshop R.E.M.E., but in a very close and exciting game 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment knocked us out of the competition with a score of 3—2.

The hockey team is riding on the crest of a wave at the moment, winning all nine games played. In the first round of the Army Cup we met 35 Corps Engineer Regiment and walked away with a very convincing 4—0 victory. So strong is the hockey fervour in the Regiment that the Hockey Officer has to arrange matches for a 2nd XI which we now field to play local units on a friendly basis.

The regimental rugby team has won 13 of the 20 games played but was knocked out in the first round of the Army Cup by 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment, the score being 17—6. We have had only one serious injury this season when unfortunately **Signalman Watson** broke his leg in his second match for us. We are glad to report that he is responding well to treatment from the BMH Hannover nurses.

The cross-country season began officially on 27th September with an inter-Squadron race which, as well as forming a basis from which to pick the regimental team, gave a victory to 3 Squadron.



ALL AT SEA IN THE 1st REGIMENT?

Lieutenant-Colonel Borthwick gets an unusual send-off after being dined-out in the W.O.'s and Sergeants Mess—but how come the sailors? Read the text.

Left to right in foreground: Staff Sergeant Lawrence (R.C.T.), Major Dennis, R.S.M. Turner, the C.O., Sergeant Jeffries (A.A.C.), W.O.II Blakey (R.A.M.C.) and Mr. Staples (Schoolie)

The Regiment has competed in a series of races sponsored by various local units and out of approximately ten teams entered each week we have taken two first, one second and two third places. This record we believe bodes well for the Brigade and Divisional Championships in the New Year. Unfortunately we are soon to lose our Mercury personified, **Second-Lieutenant Leaver,** but whoever takes over from him will have a good team to work with.

S.S.I. Hellicar has been running a judo course in the Regiment and for the first time took a team to the B.A.O.R. Judo Championships in which they did quite well.

A riding course is also being run within the Regiment for the idle cross-country runners. 1 Squadron have rashly boasted that they will hold a mounted parade in the New Year. It is being rumoured that the C.O. will take the salute on a rocking horse, or perhaps he'll borrow Pegasus.

H.Q. Training Brigade
Catterick Camp

- **C.-in-C. receives Gurkhali welcome message over tape relay.**
- **Cadets vie at hammer and jumper test.**
- **New altar frontal presented to Corps Chapel.**

Visit of Army Commander

THE Training Brigade, disapointed when a visit of the **Rt. Hon. Mr. Dennis Healey** planned for 20th November, 1967, had to be cancelled, were delighted when **Lieutenant-General W. C. Walker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, spent a day with us instead.

General Walker saw it all—from 24-hour-old recruits to Staff Sergeants amassing many years' service and our trade training of operators and technicians, not missing our latest bevy of W.R.A.C. girls.

During his tour the C.-in-C. saw Communication Centre Operator Training in 24th Regiment and was shown an illustration of the Defence Communication Network. He pressed a button and set in motion a punched tape at Exercise "Boddington" which later came up as a page copy at the Exercise Singapore Tape Relay Centre. The message, which was one of welcome, was then translated into Gurkhali, suitably boxed and inscribed and presented to **General Walker** a little later during his visit by Despatch Rider **Signalman Miln** from the Display Team. As **General Walker** is Colonel of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles he had no language difficulties.



SALAAMS TO THE GENERAL SAHIB!

General Walker receives the tape relay message with obvious pleasure. With him is Major Simpson



ORIENTEERING SUCCESSES

Lieutenant Baynes receives the winning prize from the C.-in-C. Northern Command

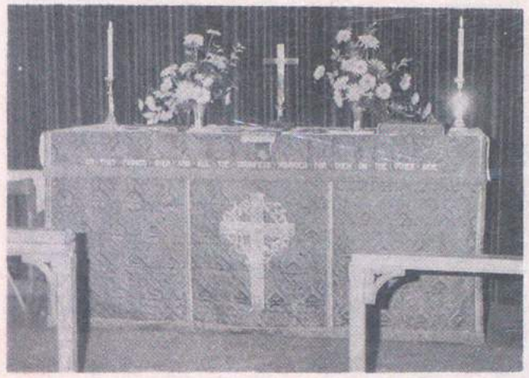
After his visit the General presented the prizes for the Northern Command Orienteering Competition, first to the winning pair from the Royal Irish Fusiliers and then to the winning team from 8th Regiment.

University Cadets Training Day

Saturday, 2nd December, saw some 100 cadets from Sheffield, Leeds, Nottingham and Northumbrian Universities arrive in Catterick for a military training day. There was a disappointing collection of cadet beards but the cosmetic achievements of some of the girl cadets were most exotic.

Presentations and displays were put on by 8th and 24th Regiments. The cadets showed keen interest in everything they saw but the stand that drew as much attention as any was the 'jumper' stand. **Sergeant McIntosh,** an expert from 8th Regiment, demonstrated how the jumper could be driven into the ground a distance of 15 in. with just five blows. Many people tried but no one else managed to do it. The nearest, after a bit of cheating, was **Brigadier Woodrow** who, having knocked in the jumper 3 or 4 inches 'trying to get his distance,' was still 1 inch off.

The cadets were given lunch and tea in the Junior Ranks Dining Hall of 11th Regiment where they met officers of the Brigade.



NEW ALTAR FRONTAL

Presented by Major George Flynn in the name of All Ranks of the Corps and designed and embroidered most beautifully by Mrs. Emma Flynn

Presentation of Altar Frontal

An Altar Frontal was presented to the Royal Signals Memorial Chapel in St. Martin's Church on 3rd December by **Major G. H. R. Flynn (Retd)** of Headquarters Training Brigade on behalf of all ranks of the Corps. The Altar Frontal, which is mainly violet in colour and designed and embroidered most beautifully by **Mrs. Flynn,** was dedicated by the **Venerable M. R. W. Brown, M.A.,** Archdeacon of Nottingham.

Major and Mrs. Flynn then presented an Altar Services Book to the Church.

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment,
B.F.P.O. 22

- **Changes and reorganisation**
- **Boxers excel**

How to tackle "Wire" Notes

"IT is reminded that WIRE notes for the month of November are required from 3 Squadron, to reach the Admin. Officer by 1st December. Officers-in-charge various sports should submit their reports to 3 Squadron by 30th November."

The order, heavily underlined, lay in my tray when I returned from the range. It was, inevitably, dated 28th November. Equally inevitably, the officers-in-charge of various sports did not submit their notes by the 30th.

The solution was obviously to delegate. Alas, the Second-in-Command was on Promotion Examination and the literary efforts of the subalterns best left unexplored. So resigned, I sat down to write WIRE notes for the very first time. For the first time, also, I read other units WIRE notes in detail to see what one put. Fascinating as some of them were, there was a repetitive air about them. Life seems to consist of Administrative Inspections, sports days and exercises. I thought of what had happened recently, and this formula semed to fit so neatly that I toyed with the idea of plagiarising some other unit's notes and putting them in as ours. I abandoned this idea with regret, as no one seemed to cover quite the right period of time. Research showed that readers of the WIRE, avid for news of the Second Regiment, have been disappointed for several months.

New faces in new places

In September, we said goodbye to **Colonel John Cubberley,** who left us on promotion for the M.O.D., and welcomed **Lieutenant-Colonel John Sturge** from 1st Regiment in his place. The new C.O. was able to get a good idea of how much better we did things than 1st Regiment on the Bruin trials exercises, which were being conducted at this time, and obviously thought so much of us that we reorganised completely a short time later. As a result, **Major Ken Ferguson** took over 2 Squadron and brought with him his previous Squadron Headquarters, and 'Delta' Troop and **Major John Russell** took his Headquarters and 'Bravo' Troop to 3 Squadron, where they were joined by the Line Troop. At the same time, the H.Q. Squadron function of 3 Squadron, which is occasioned by our geographical split, was taken on by a newly-formed Administrative Troop.

Captain John Swindells, the Adjutant, having been in the Regiment longer than most, left for Cyprus, shaking his head and saying that things were not what they were. **Captain Ian Sprackling,** his relief, was last seen several weeks ago and was muttering something about Tactics A. His seat is being kept warm by **Lieutenant Noel Harrison.** That other well-known Comcen Commander, **Lieutenant Andrew Martin,** has left for the U.K., which makes us dependant on sign language in order to talk to the locals.

This was especially evident when we re-met our local rivals, the Melle Boxing Club, who we beat rather more convincingly away than we had done at home. On this occasion we found ourselves embarrassingly billed as the 'British Army' and the evening as an 'International Contest.'

To the delight of a large following from the Regiment, we also beat 1st Bn. K.O.S.B. on their home ground in the first round of the Army Cup. This was despite the use of unfair tactics on their part by seeking to demoralise our boxers by playing bagpipes at them. Someone should have told them that our welterweight, **Signalman Jock Kane,** was a junior piper. **Signalman David Pellegrinetti,** our heavyweight, was in good form, but had to return to his other interests in U.K. shortly after. We expect to see him again just before our next match.

Opening-time in the Squadrons

1 Squadron has recently opened its new bar, which surprised some people, as they doubted the existence of any space at all in the room, judging from the amount of building material which went into it. At any rate, the cobbles which once formed part of the road outside the camp, make a splendid bar, and hessian screens do admirably as a false ceiling. "The secret is in the lighting, old boy" (**R. Stokes,** designer).

3 Squadron has also opened a bar, with effect from which date tunnelling through walls has ceased.

If the foregoing sounds to the reader like the Regiments on either side in this issue, I apologise, but in case it does not, I had better conclude by saying that we acted as host to the C.C.R. Signals Study Day last week, have the S.O.-in-C. this week, and to get right in the groove, have our Annual Inspection next week. Watch this space for thrilling details.

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Bulford Camp

- **A busy, but conventional year, but it all adds up to something well worthwhile.**

"The Crown of the Year"

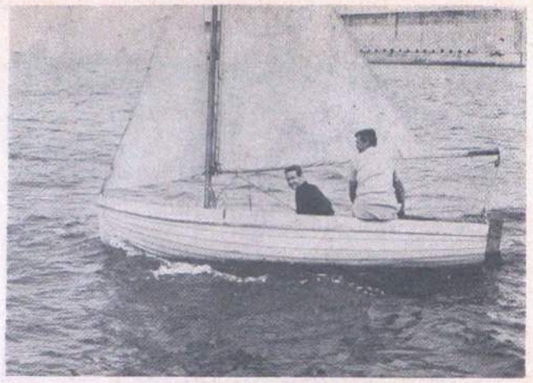
THERE was—indeed there still is, no doubt, for such things seem ageless—a musical playlet popular among Sunday Schools of all denominations called "The Crown of the Year." Older readers may recall their piping voices urging the claims on each month in turn to wear the year's crown. Crisp, cold January? Flaming June? Even the fog of autumn had its musical adherent. Yet it was December that won the title because of Christmas. The spiritual re-birth has had pagan and secular parallels through the years, and it is, after all, December which brings New Year's Eve, with all its hopes and resolutions, and not January. It is apposite then, even in these columns, to look at the Regiment as it enters its New Year, and to ask how far the past twelve months can affect the future and guide us through it.

"Did its job and played its games"

A busy year, of course. In many ways a conventional enough year, in that the Regiment did its job and played its games as a military family. Lessons, as reports so often say,



DISCUSSION GROUP
Three heads get together. Communications need careful planning and forethought



JUST TWO MEN IN A BOAT
. . . but it can add up to a little job of teamwork, initiative and self reliance

were learned, but so many were minor, so many personal, that with the constant change of members of all ranks, so many are lost. Can this chronicler recall some things of value, in order to give at least a WIRE crown to these December notes?

Twelve months ago these notes opened with the words: "It's been a month when we have had a chance to take stock and have a good look at ourselves." Alas, for some, this was nothing more . . . er, psychedelic? . . . than internal economy and M.P.C. training on a fairly well established (and, to be fair, well proven) type. Yet the re-birth feeling was there. Brush up, tighten up, and off we go again. The same is true now, with the Fitness for Role Inspection only five weeks away. The moral to that—as the Duchess would say—is that steady effort is better than violent panic. An old take? Yes, but one re-proven again in 1967.

Leadership and Training spell sporting success

The April notes spoke of the Regiment's good performance at cross-country. In **Corporal Venus,** the team has an outstanding performer, but no one outstanding performer makes a team. Two things did. Enthusiastic, personal and knowledgeable leadership, backed up by hard fitness training. The Regiment played a lot of sport. Success was, in each case, almost directly related to effective leadership, supported by training. **Sergeant Basham** (K.O.Y.L.I.) did similar work for the cricket team, himself averaging over 55 runs per innings and never letting up in the field. The lesson? Example and fitness maketh a better soldier.



TOUGH BUT IT PAYS WHEN THE EMERGENCY ARRIVES
Lance-Corporal Tolfrey may be carrying a smiling Craftsman Munroe, but he has marched nine miles, jumped his ditch and wall and will be firing his weapon in a moment

Not a skive, but hard graft and discomfort

And not just on the sports field. Games are to be enjoyed, but they are also good training for the more serious affairs of life. How serious they were can be judged from the photograph of the guiding trinity at Signals Command Group—no, we are NOT back to Sunday School again! The May/June notes said of an exercise: "We thought it a bit of a skive and investigated it. But it was no skive, just damned hard graft and discomfort." That is what signalling so often is, and please, don't drag out that overworked adage about fools and discomfort! If we didn't have such "fools" we just wouldn't get through and stay through. The smaller exercises, culminating in the Divisional one, held this year in the Eiffel area of Germany, proved the point again—communications are hard work. The limitations of HF; the physical requirements of VHF; the conflict of technicalities and climate—all require work, dedication and vigilance by all ranks at all times. One adage that IS true is that "for the sake of a Signalman the message was lost. For the sake of a message . . . ?" The Regiment works and trains to avoid having to answer that question mark.

Enjoy your soldiering

All this difficulty without any bullets being fired in anger? Yes—the drills remain the same. We don't want corpses to teach camouflage. We teach in more pleasant ways. **Lance-Corporal Tolfrey** may be carrying a smiling **Craftsman Munroe,** but he has marched nine miles, jumped his ditch and his wall, and has yet to fire that weapon, if not angrily, certainly accurately. Munroe's smile may either be because he's glad to be resting his feet or because he is hoping it is his turn next to join **W.O.II Stapleton,** the **O.R.Q.M.S.** and **Sergeant Ballard** in their life on the ocean wave. Both activities are part of our annual summer camp, and underline yet one more lesson—enjoy your soldiering. This does not mean flippancy, but efficiency.

Finally there's that family spirit

There were no battle casualities in 1967, and this fact brings us firmly back to our starting point, Christmas, the season of goodwill. Yet there is a more immediate relationship between the Regiment and Christmas. We stand by. Despite ever-changing political situations, we remain on call—the Strategic Reserve. Rumours, even definite preparations, come and go. In 1967, despite all these, we came and went nowhere in anger. The immediate price of this peace, of this watchfulness is paid in morale. Each rumour and excitement rises; each stand-down and morale slumps. Nobody wants a war, but "waiting is awful hard." The lesson? This: that morale is maintained by everything described above, plus that something called family spirit. Family pride. Family awareness. As, during the last weeks of December, 1967, the Regiment plays together, has its parties together and sings its carols together, it takes with it into 1968 this last and all-important lesson. Whatever the future hardships of peace or war, the traditional family spirit re-born in the traditional Christmas festivities is the means to overcome. Surely, no one will deny December "The Crown of the Year."

4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment

☆

- **Visit of S.O.-in-C. highlights the Month**
- **Bruin reorganization**



TOUGH GUYS
The Regimental Rugby XV with reserves and trainers take time off to pose with the S.O.-in-C.

Informality the keynote

THE highlight of the past month was the visit to the Regiment of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Anderson** on 2nd December. Being on a Saturday, the visit was informal, but this enabled the S.O.-in-C. to see various amenities in the Regiment, as well as several sporting fixtures.

The **General** and **Mrs. Anderson** were escorted to Herford, from Bielefeld, where they had been staying, by **Captain N. A. Vandyck,** the Adjutant. On arrival in Hammersmith Barracks, they were welcomed at R.H.Q. by the **Commanding Officer** and **Mrs. Jackson** and **R.S.M. R. G. Aitken,** and invited to morning coffee, where they met **Major and Mrs. P. J. Evans.**

The party then split up for separate tours of the Regiment. The ladies were escorted by the Adjutant and visited the Families' Welfare Centre, where **Mrs. Anderson** met **Sister Winifred Page, S.R.N.,** the S.S.A.F.A. Sister, and was shown the modern medical centre and families' clinic. Then, after a visit to the ski run, where, incidentally, they found the S.O.-in-C. with **Lieutenant J. H. Lowe,** the Ski-ing Officer, watching some 70 persons and innumerable children enjoying themselves; the ladies called in on **Mrs. Kendrick,** our W.R.V.S. lady. **Mrs. Anderson** was impressed with the facilities available for the soldiers in the W.R.V.S. Club, and spent some time discussing the club with **Mrs. Kendrick.**

In the meantime, **General Anderson** had visited the Corporals' Club, where **Corporal Robertson,** the P.M.C., showed him round, and the dining hall, where the General had a word with **W.O.II (S.Q.M.S.) F. Hothersall** and **Sergeant Doolan** and a number of the Regimental cooks.

In good order, even after a guest night!

The General was then escorted to the Sergeants' Mess, where he met the P.M.C., and over 100 members, who had assembled to greet him. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants had had a mess dinner the night before, which had ended not so many hours before the General arrived, but the gaiety and laughter in the mess, and the spruce appearance of the members disguised the fact. Although only thirty minutes had been allocated for this visit to the mess, the General made a point of speaking to as many members as possible. He met a few old friends and his keen eyes and interesting questions were appreciated by all. Regretfully, the General had to leave for the next item on his programme, which was at the Officers' Mess, where he and **Mrs. Anderson** met all the Regimental Officers and the ladies for luncheon.

After lunch, the General was escorted to the sports field where he watched the regimental rugby and soccer teams playing league fixtures. Before the rugger match a photograph was taken with the team and **Major Rigby,** the President of the Rugby Club. During the afternoon we were delighted to see the Divisional Commander, **Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C.,** who having just returned to Herford that morning had made a special point of coming to meet the S.O.-in-C. Finally, the S.O.-in-C. visited the Regimental Square where the regimental hockey team were playing 2nd Regiment.

Families were a joy to meet

During the afternoon **Mrs. Anderson,** acompanied by **Mrs. Jackson** and **Mrs. Aiken,** visited three soldiers and their families in married quarters. First they visited Enger and **Corporal Mawdsley's** flat, where **Mrs. Anderson** showed much interest in the **Mawdsley's** three children who were on their best behaviour! Returning to Herford a call was made firstly on **Corporal and Mrs. Sims** where two-year-old **Lincoln Sims** proudly showed **Mrs. Anderson** his cars. Finally, **Mrs. Anderson** was escorted to **Staff Sergeant Common's** house, where **Mrs. Common** and her family had prepared afternoon tea for her visitors.

All too soon darkness fell and our distingushed visitors had to leave for another appointment that evening. **During their time with us they made a point of meeting and talking to as many members of the Regiment as possible. We enjoyed having them with us and much appreciated their kindness in honouring us with a visit during their extremely busy B.A.O.R. tour.**

Reorganisation

With Exercise "Rob Roy" tucked under our belt, all our thoughts and efforts were directed towards the reorganisation of the Regiment on to the Bruin establishment.

Much thought and planning had of course gone on throughout the year but, due to our FTX, it was not until late in October (20th) that our collective fates were sealed.

We soon realised that being 'old fangled' had its advantages in that we were able to pick the brains of both 1st and 2nd Regiments who had a head start on us. With all their good advice we now feel that our way of doing things and the formation of a 5th Squadron has the advantages of both, without the disadvantages! Indications so far are favourable, but only the forthcoming season will tell.

EXERCISE 'KOALA BEAR'

Assistance—well blow me down!

Some time ago we were asked to provide assistance to the Bruin Trials Squadron on Exercise "Koala Bear," a communications exercise with the Bruin equipment. Although we realised we would be in the middle of reorganisation and only



ON THE BEST OF TERMS

The S.O.-in-C. and Sergeant Spearpoint enjoy a good laugh. R.S.M. Aitken reflects on the late hours of the previous guest night!



AT HOME WITH CORPORAL AND MRS. MAWDSLEY

Mrs. Anderson, wife of the S.O. in C., enjoys a chat with three bright young members of the Mawdsley family

newly formed, the term 'assistance' seemed harmless enough and we had visions of the odd comcen operator and perhaps a driver or two motoring off, and appearing back in the Regiment a week or so later, to tell us all about Bruin.

It is alleged that O.C. 1 Squadron's voice took off into the HI FI region when he was told that 'assistance' meant that we were IT for the exercise and were to field a Comcen, administrative tail and all, and to command, operate and administrate it for the duration! Once over the shock, however, and with the Squadron Commander's voice back in 'LO FI,' we at once set to and, on 13th November, with **Captain Lavender** as Comcen Commander, we moved to our first exercise location.

Those cooks were terrific

We soon found that on our own, in the clouds, the administrative tail wagged quite strongly, and it says much for the powerful direction of **S.S.M. Salter** and the hard work of all concerned that we were soon coping well with the real administration problems, which, very remote and isolated sites, woods and hilltops posed to the Comcen Commander. As the wind grew stronger and the rain started to freeze, we soon began to realise that our two cooks, **Lance-Corporal Mills** and **Private Reed,** were the real celebrities of the Comcen—providing as they did piping hot and excellent meals at all times of the day and night in the most unpleasant and severe conditions.

We were most grateful, too, to 24 Flight AAC who agreed to fly out to us to check our concealment and survivability. At the same time they took a number of us on a series of interesting and instructive flights to let us see just what we all looked like from the air under varying conditions.

One or two noteworthy events:

* * *

Communications worked very well throughout and there is no doubt that the exercise provided invaluable training for us all. Time to make our mistakes, and to learn our lessons for the future. We must finally comment on the excellent instruction and forbearance of the Bruin Trials Squadron personnel who kept their temper and their professional status throughout, despite the left-handedness of the new boys. Comment by all —it should have been called Exercise "Polar Bear," but we wouldn't have missed it for anything.

Addition to strength

Congratulations to **Lieutenant and Mrs. Mike Galloway** on the birth of an 8 lb. 6 oz. boy.

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

- **Will they make it?—Regiment reach B.A.O.R. rugby final.**
- **A truly remarkable athletics trio.**
- **Lance-Corporal skipper's yacht.**

THE exercise season is now drawing to a close, and we are recuperating, rethinking and revitalising ourselves in preparation for next year's efforts. Our stream of distinguished visitors continues, and this month we have been privileged to welcome **Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C.,** the G.O.C. of 4th Division, **Colonel G. Peat, O.B.E.,** of AGII, and **Colonel D. G. Jones.**

On the sports fields the Regiment continues to do well. We beat 17/21st Lancers 21—0 in the 4th Division Rugby final, and in particular, **Sergeant Zoing, Corporal Cairns** and **Lance-Corporal Drew** distinguished themselves. This game earned us a place in the B.A.O.R. semi-finals, and we met 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment at Hohne. Once again our team, ably led by **C.S.M.I. Dolphin,** was triumphant, the score being 14—0. We are now looking forward to even greater things. Soccer-wise, we are heading the Northern League, and individually **Corporal Forrester** helped B.A.O.R. defeat R.A.F. Germany, whilst **Signalman Etherington** was selected, but had to be content to be a substitute who didn't play on the day. Interest in cross-country running was recently stimulated by an event in the Page Trophy Competition, where some surprising things were achieved. We also have our experts in this event, and although we have reported their isolated performances in previous issues of THE WIRE, we hope the editor will be able to find space to print the saga of our trio of runners.

Local friendship fostered by athletic trio

Athletics in the Regiment have been kept going throughout the season by two stalwarts: **Corporal Holden** and **Corporal MacMillan.** They were coached and aided by **Staff Sergeant Hall.**

Training began in April and **Corporal MacMillan** was heard to remark after the first day's training, "Staff must be a sadist." The best remark goes to **Corporal Holden,** who said during the second week's training, "It must be doing me some good, as I'm crawling home quicker after the training than I did last week."

In June with the B.A.O.R. Championships to take place on the 13th, **Staff Hall** could be heard using a few kindly words to **Corporal Holden.** He had just returned from a month's leave, had not trained at all, and was way below standard.



THE GERMAN CLUB THOUGHT THEY WERE CRAZY!

Corporal MacMillan, Staff Sergeant Hall and Corporal Holden—outstanding both as individuals and as a team when it comes to long distance running—holding the trophy after winning the West Falen Championship over 25 kilometres

Nevertheless, on the big day **Corporal Holden** retained his B.A.O.R. six-mile title with **Corporal MacMillan** second. Times were 32 min. 2.6 sec. and 32 min. 48 sec.

In the Army Finals **Corporal Holden** achieved 30 min. 58 sec. to gain 3rd place and **Corporal MacMillan** 5th in 31 min. 50 sec.

In the Morrison Cup the team of **Corporal Holden** (4.28), **Corporal MacMillan** (4.39), **Staff Sergeant Hall** (4.39) and **Signalman Byrne** (4.55) won the mile team event and were placed second in the 3 miles.

Although these athletes have done well in the Army competitions, it is in local competitions that they have excelled. In April **Staff Hall,** speaking his Guernsey patois, convinced the local club officials that he was stark raving mad and they decided it would be safer to let him, and the two skeletons with him, join the club, rather than stand and argue. After watching one of the training schedules they could be seen shaking their heads, more convinced than ever that all three were crazy Englishmen.

Their first race for the German Club was a 10,000 metres (Road). **Corporal Holden** came 1st, **MacMillan** 2nd and **Staff Hall** 3rd. The club manager sat up and took a little notice. He decided that even if these three were mad they could run, and that is what matters. He invited them to run for the club in the West Falen Championships. **Corporal Holden** and **Corporal MacMillan** obliged by tieing for 1st place in the 5,000 metres and **Staff Hall** staggered home 2nd in the 1,500 metres muttering something like, "It's all right for these youngsters." Then came the shock they would have to do it again as this was only the semi-final and Herford had qualified for the final.

During the next two months the three ran regularly for Herford and here are some of the results:

28th July: One hour's running on the track—1st, **Corporal Holden,** 11 miles 123 yards; 2nd, **Corporal MacMillan,** 10 miles 684 yards; 3rd, **Staff Sergeant Hall,** 10 miles. On 3rd August, **Corporal Holden** came 4th in a 3,000m. (7½ laps) in 8 minutes 45 seconds and **Corporal MacMillan** 5th in 8 minutes 47 seconds. On 21st August in a 5,000-metre, **Corporal Holden** was 2nd in 15 min. 7 sec. In the 800 metres **Staff Sergeant Hall** was 5th in 2 min. 8 sec. At this stage **Corporal MacMillan** had run up the white flag and retired to U.K. on leave.

On the 1st October the final of the West Falen championships took place. In the morning **Corporal MacMillan** ran a sterling 1,500 metres against **H. Norpoth,** the Olympic silver medalist and European record holder at 5,000 metres, to finish 5th and only 200 metres behind him. In the next heat **Staff Hall** ran a good tactical race, to grab a crafty 2nd when nobody else was looking. The final result of the championships was in doubt until the very last event, the 5,000 metres. The three members of the Regiment were the only representatives for Herford, in this event. As they staggered to the start we wondered why they eyes were shut. Then we realised that getting up at 4.30 a.m. had been a little too much for them. We held our breath and crossed our fingers; would they make it? Well, with the crowd shouting "Georgie, Georgie" to every pace he took, **Corporal Holden** sped round the track—although he didn't like it much when some chap started singing "Georgie Girl"—to finish a close 2nd with **Corporal MacMillan** in 3rd place and **Staff** 5th. The points gained from their efforts clinched the match for Herford and they became West Falen champions for the first time.

The very next week, just to show it was no fluke, in an inter-club meeting **Corporal MacMillan** came 1st in the 5,000 metres and **Corporal Holden** came within eight seconds of the Army six-mile record to come 2nd in the 10,000 metres. Where was Staff? He'd skived off to play hockey.

On the 14th October these three, who will run anywhere and any distance, ran for Herford in a 25 kms (15½ miles) race. They soundly trounced the field to achieve: **Corporal Holden,** 3rd, 1 hour 25 min.; **Corporal MacMillan,** 5th, 1 hour 28 min.; **Staff Hall,** 7th, 1 hour 31 min. These positions easily gained them the first team place. This was despite officials misdirecting **Corporal Holden** 2 kms off course when he was in the lead at 11 kms. On re-entering the field he was about to pack up in disgust, but found himself just a few paces in front of **Staff Hall.** A few kindly words, a well-aimed shoe connecting in the right spot and he shot off after the leaders at express speed. Working like mad over the remaining distance he got within one minute of the winner at the finish.

Now that the cross-country season has started these three have already had many successes, coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd quite often. They are now getting more invitations than they can cope with. The Regiment cross-country team is now under **Staff Hall** for training and there seems to be plenty of talent. We are looking forward to a successful season, although **Staff Hall** leaves us shortly to join the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

In conclusion, other athletes may like to know the times achieved by the trio. (Could other units quote times, distances, etc., in future athletic reports?)

Best times this season

	440	880	Mile	3-mile	6-mile	10-mile	15-mile
Corporal Holden	53.5	2.5	4.23	14.30	30.07	54 min.	1 hr. 21 min.
Corporal MacMillan	53.2	2.5	4.25	14.36	31.40	57 min.	1 hr. 24 min.
Staff Sergeant Hall	51.6	2.3	4.35	15.50	—	58m. 7s.	1 hr. 26 min.

(NOTE: This is Corporal MacMillan's first season ever).

B.A.O.R. RUGBY FINAL RESULT

Late news is that 7th Regiment lost in the B.A.O.C. Rugby Final by 12 pts. to 3 against Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Very hard luck, 7th—but there's always next time.

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire?

Why not do so now?

10th Regiment, Hounslow

- **Three Imperial Service Medals presented.**

Notes from 4 Squadron

ON Thursday, 19th October, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. E. Anderson,** visited H.Q. Southern Command. His visit included the Communication Centre and Telephone Exchange, where he spoke with men and women on shift duty.

Signals Works Troop, Bury St. Edmunds

It is not often that this Troop is mentioned in the newspapers, albeit a local one, so on the occasion when it is, we think the news should be spread, via THE WIRE, to a much larger circle of readers than that of the 'Bury Free Press.'

Advantage was taken of a visit to the Troop by the C.S.O.



IN THE SOUTHERN COMMAND COMCEN

Grouped together during the S.O.-in-C.'s recent visit were (*Left to Right*): Major Massey, Brigadier Gray, General Anderson and Captain Bayliss (W.R.A.C.) At the teleprinter Private Ronaldson



A CHEERFUL OCCASION

Brigadier Gribbin presents Mr. Lingurd with the Imperial Service Medal to the obvious pleasure of many friends including Major Paris and Lieutenant-Colonel Hibberd

Eastern Command, **Brigadier K. D. Gribbin,** to present the Imperial Service Medal to our recently retired F. of S., **Mr. D. Welbourne.**

Dan Welbourne joined the Corps in January 1931 and mustered as a Lineman. Amongst his subsequent postings was one to the Isle of St. Helena, where as a Corporal Lineman he looked after the Island's cable network.

He left the Corps in January 1939 only to be recalled to the Colours a few months later on the outbreak of the Second World War. During the War he saw service in the Western Desert and Italy and with the Eighth Army. He was demobbed for the second time in 1945 and after two years in Sheerness Dockyard on telephone maintenance he joined the Thames Estuary Signal Troop (later to become Signal Troop (Works) (Chatham)) as a MET.

In 1960 he took up the appointment of F. of S. Bury St. Edmunds Signal Troop until his retirement in August.

All in all he has served with the Corps for some 36 years as soldier/civilian and a most loyal and diligent service it has been too.

We were sorry to see him go, but wish him all the best in his retirement in Sheerness. Good luck with the beachcombing!

Signal Works Troop, Bulford

This is the first time for many years that notes on this Unit have appeared in THE WIRE, but with the successful take-over bid by 10th Regiment and the auspicious occasion of the Imperial Service Medal to one of our employee's, the opportunity could not be missed.

Friday, 10th November, 1967, found all the members of the Troop assembled outside the H.Q. offices awaiting the arrival of the C.S.O., Eastern Command, **Brigadier K. D. Gribbin,** on his first visit to the Troop to see something of the staff and the new area that he will be taking under his wing. The photograph shows the presentation of the Imperial Service Medal to **Mr. N. W. Hollands, M.E.(T),** by the C.S.O., Eastern Command, which was his first introduction to the Troop, before meeting all the staff and visiting the Troop Offices.

The award of the Imperial Service Medal to **Mr. N. W. Hollands,** Maintenance Electrician Telephones, was for over 29 years' service with the Army Department. **Mr. Hollands** started his service with the Army as a Sapper and having completed twelve years with the Royal Engineers returned to Bulford. He then joined the Army Fire Service (Bulford) and unfortunately after over 10 years with them was involved in an accident which forced him to leave the Fire Service. To our good fortune he joined this Troop in June 1949, as a Technical Storeman and, like many other stalwart civilians employed by the Works Troops, has remained with us in various trades ever since.

News and details from the Troop about its work will be in further issues of THE WIRE.

Signals Works Troop, Chatham

We should like this time to report the award of the Imperial Service Medal to **Mr. J. W. Lingurd** from the Dover Detachment. **John Lingurd** joined the Army in 1922 as a recruit to the Lincolnshire Regiment, wherein he served until 1935. Those were the days when men were men, and women were glad of it. He had civilian life, but preferred the military by returning to the Army Department in early 1939 with Barrack Services. In 1942 he was called up (decided to re-enlist they said) and served in the R.A.S.C. in U.K. and Italy until 1946 when he returned to Barrack Services. In 1964 he came to us and found Royal Signals much to his liking. Most unfortunately the continued illness of his wife led him to retire on 30th June this year to look after her. Despite his efforts, this good lady died at the end of October.

This impressive record of service resulted in the award. The Chief Signal Officer of Eastern Command visited us on 7th November and was kind enough to present the medal to **Mr. Lingurd** at a small ceremony at Dover. This was attended by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Hibberd,** and our own O.C., **Major A. G. Paris. Mr. Lingurd** was so deservedly popular that not only were all of the Dover Detachment there but **Mr. H. B. Jones** and **Mr. J. W. Carver** came down from Chatham to congratulate him. Naturally, there was a small party, and we hope that **Mr. Lingurd** felt the warmth of our good wishes and sympathy for his loss. He left with our sincere thanks and good wishes. We feel he also has the right, which he was too polite to exercise, to call the O.C. a 'rookie.'

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

• **Orienteering all the rage.**

OCTOBER and November cancelled each other out. October was quiet and well behaved, November rather more hectic with a very successful Admin inspection. The usual pass-off parades and visits have taken place with our visitors and pass-off parade Mums and Dads taking away with them the by now accustomed favourable impression of life at 11th Regiment.

There have been very few moves in to and out of the Regiment. We bade farewell to **Captain Jimmy Howe** who is now waging war with 14th Regiment. We achieved a direct swop involving messing officers. **Murray Macconnachie** to and **George Ashford** from Aldershot. **Lieutenant Don Overton** has arrived having driven half way across the world in his anxiety to arrive. God speed to the departures and welcome to the arrivals.

Pass-Off Parade—13th October, 1967

The best recruit on the pass-off parade held at Helles Barracks, Catterick Camp, on the 13th October, was **Signalman S. T. Moynan.** In addition to gaining the distinction of Best Recruit he was also the winner of the Education Prize in 2 Troop, his Squad.

Moynan will shortly move to 24th Regiment where he will be from 4th December studying to be a Telepgrah Operator. We wish him well with his trade and every good fortune in the future.

Pass-Off Parade—10th November, 1967



BEST RECRUIT—10th November, 1967
Signalman T. N. O'Brien

The Pass-Off Parade of No. 4 Troop took place on Friday, 10th November. The Inspecting Officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel C. O. Bound,** Royal Signals.

The best recruit from this troop was **Signalman O'Brien** who comes from Edgware, Middlesex. He has found that the Army offers him a challenge and hopes that after qualifying as a technician he will have the opportunity to do a parachute course and serve with 216 Parachute Signal Squadron.

Brigade Orienteering

Complicated cross-country. A morning spent on Feldom in gale force winds is no fun even when one is wrapped up. Orienteering dress made the morning's sport even less enjoyable. The Q.M., R.Q.M.S. and six stalwarts had erected a forest of tents in near-hurricane conditions on the previous afternoon. Reports filtering back to R.H.Q. tell of six men grimly hanging on to the end of tent guys having been blown up to 20 ft. in the air. "Great sport," we said, and huddled nearer our radiators.

The morning competition was well organised and proceeded without any problems until it was discovered that three pairs were missing. They finally appeared and the results announced with 8th Regiment winners and one of the teams from 11th Regiment third.

13th Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

• **The focus is on sport**

Sadness

IT is with deep regret that our "Wire" notes start, once again, with the report of a death within the Regiment: this time, **Bombardier Leonard Reginald George Foot,** who died from a heart attack in September. He was a popular member of the Regiment and we shall miss his burly figure at the guard room. To his wife goes our great sympathy.

Our girls

And now, to more cheerful topics. The girls are in the news again: indeed **Lieutenant Marilyn Whitley** got as far as the National Press with her free-fall parachuting. Where the National Press failed and where we succeed is in providing a picture to go with a write-up on her. On her return to the Regiment from the course we were pleasantly surprised to see her moving about under her own steam and not, as many predicted, on a stretcher.

Our second pin-up is **Lance-Corporal Penelope Hetherington,** who was a member of the winning relay team at both the Rheindahlen Garrison and B.A.O.R. swimming events. She was a little reticent about the picture being published in "The Wire," but she eventually agreed that it should be. We are sure you will agree that we were right to persist.

The Regiment entered a record number of competitors for the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Autumn Golf Meeting, played at R.A.F. Bruggen in superb conditions late in October. **Corporal Bill Milne** and **Corporal Mike Skinner** added the Autumn Regimental Foursomes trophy to the Spring Cup, already held by the Regiment, and **Lieutenant-Colonel Palmer** and **Captain Hazel** were also among the prizewinners.



THESE ARE OUR PIN-UP GIRLS, SAY 13th REGIMENT
. . . This is Lieutenant Marilyn Whitley, just after one of her free-fall parachute jumps



. . . and this is Lance-Corporal Penelope Hetherington who was in the winning relay team at the Rheindahlen Garrison and B.A.O.R. Swimming events. Penelope was reticent about having her photo published in The Wire but eventually—and quite rightly so—she agreed

Thirteen is not an unlucky number for us

As the number of our Regiment is 13 and not 30, you would not expect us to gleam when it comes to shooting.

We hope you will be agreeably surprised how well we did do. Apart from coming second in the RCZ Rifle Meeting in B.A.O.R., we also sent a team to the Corps Meeting at Bulford and then to Bisley. We came third at Bulford, where **Staff Sergeant Gordon Smith** was runner-up champion rifle shot. At Bisley, **Sergeant Bill Grieve** appeared as a member of the SMG 30, and **Craftsman Mike Doyle** was a member of the Army Hundred.

Canoeing is still in the news. In the B.A.O.R. Canoe Championships, **Sergeant Dave Poole, Lance-Corporal Ike Corrie, Gunner Bill Morris** and **Lance-Corporal Eddie Grisdale** came first and second in the Double Folding Canoe event. We also entered for the Devizes-Westminster Canoe Race but, though our contestants put up a most plucky show, they were unplaced.

Under the expert guidance of **Captain Bingley,** the first unit boxing tournament for several years was held in October. The final provided some excellent bouts and a most enjoyable evening for the large number attending. **Lance-Corporal Ike Corrie, Signalman John Duff** and **Signalman Harry Harrison** are to be congratulated on winning at their respective weights in the most convincing style.

14th Signal Regiment

- **A number of non-signalling activities**

WE are indebted for our theme this month to our friends at the Gloucester 'Citizen' and 'Journal'—indeed their coverage of our doings shows just how much a Regiment stationed in a military wilderness can become involved in local affairs.

Royal visit

In the middle of the month, the biennial S.S.A.F.A. Fete was held in Gloucester Guildhall. This was opened by **H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester,** who was greeted on arrival by a group of our more handsome soldiery. As usual at these affairs, a great deal of work had been put in beforehand, and we are very grateful to **Mrs. Williams** and the ladies of the Regiment whose stall did much to swell the takings well above expectations.

Remembrance Sunday

The following Sunday was Remembrance Day: ours started with **Major H. D. V. Chappell** laying a wreath at the Gloucester War Memorial and, at the same time, with a representative Squadron attending a parade service in Cheltenham. In the afternoon there was a parade service at Gloucester Cathedral. This year we inherited the co-ordination of the parade, as well as finding two representative Squadrons. For **Major P. D. Tidey,** the task of Parade Marshal was not easy. Not only are civilian organisation no better than military ones at putting in returns, but he had three bands to contend with, and the age bracket of those marching ran from British Legion seventy-year-olds to teen-age Scouts and Guides. On the day all went well, of course, and we got very pleasant letters from both Mayors.

"The Duke forsakes his Rolls for an A.40"

At the end of the month we reciprocated some earlier help from the City Police by helping out at the RoSPA Golden Jubilee Exhibition. We show **Signalman R. N. Welch,** all dressed up and nowhere to go, demonstrating reaction tests under the eye of the Duke of Beaufort. His Grace later had a little difficulty with a Sim-L-Car test, and the headline helps to explain his problem: his own Rolls has an automatic gearbox.

"First win ever for Signals over Airmen"

This was the headline of a report on our ever-improving rugger team, and referred specifically to at match against R.A.F. Little Rissington. Having previously played in minor units leagues, we entered for the Army Cup for the first time this year. All went well until the fourth round (all right, yes, we did get a couple of byes) when "Army Cup Exit for Signals"



[Courtesy Gloucester Citizen and Journal

A ROYAL OCCASION

Sergeant J. R. Dutton, Corporal D. A. Handley and Lance-Corporal F. J. Campbell greet H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester



[Courtesy Gloucester Citizen and Journal

SOLDIER IN THE CIVILIAN EYE

Signalman R. N. Welch demonstrates a reaction test—the Duke of Beaufort watches carefully

covered just that: our match in the middle of the month against the Cheshires. They came up from Warminster (regretably, due to foot and mouth disease, without their supporters) and beat us 9—3 after a first-class game in very sticky conditions.

It must be true . . .

We read it in the paper. The hint in the 'Citizen' was pretty broad, but one job we did not get was manning disinfectant baths across the roads in connection with the foot and mouth epidemic. Nevertheless, this has affected us, and very properly so. Travel to our out-Squadrons has been restricted, and 602 Troop, who live with us, have been prevented from doing their 'training' runs to the top of Robinswood Hill (we use inverted commas as only certain people in the Troop reckon this is in fact training). And, of course, this is another pointer to the fact that our neighbours are not other military units, but, for the most part, very hard-pressed farmers.



THE LONELINESS OF THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER

Signalman Alan Webb, running for the 16th Regiment, flogs on—his aches and weariness very much his own problem

16th Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Visit by the S.O.-in-C.

IT was a great pleasure to welcome **Major-General and Mrs. Anderson** back to Krefeld. The General, as ever, was full of good cheer and drew a warm response from the many individuals he met. **Mrs. Anderson** included the NAAFI Families' Shop in her tour and our photograph shows her talking with **Mr. Terry Vaughan,** the Manager. His Corps tie is prominent as is his prize-winning Christmas display; **Mr. Vaughan** is an ex-R.S.M. of 21st Regiment.

C.S.O.s

We in 16th Regiment are closer, in several ways, to the C.S.O. than other Regiments. For one thing, we daily stake our reputation at H.Q. B.A.O.R. and need a friend at court when, once in a long while, we find ourselves explaining how it happened. Suffice it to say that a change of C.S.O.s concerns us. Our best wishes and grateful thanks go with **Brigadier and Mrs. Peter Pentreath** and we welcome **Brigadier and Mrs. Pat Mansergh** to the blunt end.

Corps Band

Highlights of the Corps Band's visit to us was the Band Concert sponsored jointly by 16th and 28th Regiments. If it



A HAPPY MEETING

Mrs. Anderson, wife of the S.O.-in-C. congratulating Mr. Vaughan on his prize winning N.A.A.F.I. display—Mr. Terry Vaughan is manager of the Families Shops in Krefeld. Naturally Mr. Vaughan is ex-signals in fact late R.S.M. of the 21st Regiment

is possible, they are better than ever and it gave pleasure to show them off to a wide range of guests.

Posting

We come and go in such numbers that we choose normally to omit postings from our WIRE Notes. The loss, on promotion, of **W.O.II Wood** is a special case because R.Q.M.S.s, like R.S.M.s, don't have many honest friends; **R.Q. Wood** leaves hundreds behind.

The lucky recipients of a very fine R.S.M. are the members of 18th Regiment. Good luck all round.

No. 57

Good photographs tell their own story, such is that of **Signalman Alan Webb** representing us at cross-country running —photograph by **Corporal Wood.** *What about one for* THE WIRE *front cover one of these days?—Editor.*

Tailpiece

We pride ourselves on the youth and charm of our lady Duty Signal Officers in T.R.C., Krefeld. Time 19.00 hours and the circuit to 2 Division has just failed. The D.S.O. reaches for the telephone and asks Düsseldorf to put her through to Lubecke; reply: "Sorry dear, there's an hour's delay." Undaunted, the D.S.O. requests a priority call and is countered by the operator demanding her particulars. "**Lieutenant A. A. Hutchinson,** D.S.O. Kre . . . " "I'm not interested in your medals, dearie, what unit?"

18th Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

- **Signal Training Centre (FARELF) does a man-sized job.**
- **Social and sporting activities in plenty.**

That Devaluation

NOVEMBER is the tail-end of the U.K. season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. 10,000 miles, and seemingly a life-time away, we continue to swelter in the Singapore climate of 80 degree C. and 92% humidity. Perhaps this thought will cheer your reading in the January of a bright new 1968.

November has not been a month of 'No' (please forgive, or bear with, the poetic allusions!). The monsoon has come rather earlier and wilder this year, the Bukit Timah road, the bane of many old Eighteeneers, has flooded several times already, and there are flood troubles up-country on the east coast. Devaluation hit us right below the belt, and as the local dollar stood firm, we all took a 15 per cent pay drop over-night, added to which old local currency notes and coins were debased resulting in many minor tragedies when the children's money boxes were opened. The signals have been burning up the atmosphere between H.Q. FARELF and MOD, keeping the Tanglin Comcen at full strength. It is even rumoured that the Command Secretary's office originated several signals on a Sunday—that emphasises the seriousness of the situation! Various replies in guarded terms have been received, and we are assured that all may yet be better, if not well.

On principle we try to avoid embarrassing other contributors with the details of our successful inspections and visits, but it would be churlish not to mention how pleased we were to have the Director of Telecommunications, **Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.** (already well known to many of us), visit the Regiment on two occasions during his recent tour of the Far East.



TOUGH BOYS IN FARELF
Signalman Herbert on the last haul up of a cliff assault. They signal too!

Boxing

The Regimental Inter-Squadron Boxing Championships were held on 3rd November. Eighteen Novices came through to the finals which were staged in the evening and watched by some 500 spectators. The overall event was won by 249 Squadron (FARELF), our tough, large and all B.O.R. field force neighbours in Calcutta Camp, and the Regimental Cup was carried away by a well-deserving, courageous and sporting No. 1 Squadron. The bouts between **Captain Blackwell** (249) and **Signalman McLeod** (2 Squadron) (heavyweight) and **Corporal Watson** (249) and **Corporal Dockerty** (3 Squadron) were particularly spirited.

Cross-country

The regimental cross-country team has got away to a good start this season and has won two out of the four events held so far. As we are competing against R.A.F. stations as well as the Army units and headquarters, this is no mean achievement. We have been allowed to incorporate 237 and 249 Squadrons for this activity and are grateful for the excellent support of **Corporal Gardiner, Signalman McGarva** and **Lance-Corporal Dring.**

Sepak Raga

The regimental Sepak Raga team was knocked out in the semi-final of the Singapore District Knock-out Cup Competition but it was a very spirited performance. Headquarter Squadron (where all the best Sepak Rega players seem to be posted?) won the Regimental Inter-Squadron Competition yet again. For those on the posting circuits closer to home—Sepak Raga is a fascinating Malay game and might be described as an acrobatic mixture between football, badminton and all-in wrestling —the object being to down a rattan ball on your opponents' side of the net using any part of the body except the hands.

L.S. and G.C.M.s

No less than five members of the Regiment were presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on the Commanding Officer's parade held on 18th November. They included two British soldiers, **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Stuckley** and



A WAY THEY HAVE IN THE SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE
Signalman McLeod and Trebilgas make an assault landing accompanied by an unknown jungle hat

Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Youngjohns, and three of our Malay S.N.C.O.s, **Staff Sergeant Frederick, Sergeant Othman bin Hitam** and **Sergeant Abdul Kadir bin Kassim.**

A memorable party

The officers of the Regiment and 249 Squadron (FARELF) entertained the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and their wives (some 250 guests in all) to cocktails in the Princess Mary Officers' Mess on the 15th November. It was a memorable occasion and was thoroughly enjoyed by guests and hosts alike.

Warren Golf Club achieves high distinction

As many readers may remember the Warren Golf Club was founded by **Colonel D. E. Warren** when he commanded this Regiment in 1961 and has developed from a Regimental Club into one of the most thriving Service Golf Clubs in Singapore. There are now over 400 members, a large number of whom recently celebrated the close of an extremely successful competition season at a dinner held at the Adelphi Hotel on the 17th November. **The Club won the Singapore Golfing Association League Championship in competition against all the leading clubs on the island, including the Island Club.**

Special Closing Feature—The Signal Training Centre

The Signal Training Centre FARELF forms part of the Regiment, as No. 3 Squadron. O.C. 3, **Major Lycett Gregson,**



PRECIOUS CARGO
Vital stores (Beer) on an exercise get top level treatment from (*Left to right*): the hands of R.S.M. Madley and Sergeant Jepson. Major Barker supervises

likes to emphasise the fact that 18 wouldn't have a fourth squadron if it were not for the S.T.C. We regard this as a debatable point, with merits on both sides!

The S.T.C. does all types of military and trade training, basic, up-grading, British and Malay, less Cipher, Special Operations and Class I Technicians. In fact there is nothing they don't, or can't do—so they keep telling us!

We enjoy having a training organisation on the doorstep; they work and play hard and produce high grade results. There were over 96 courses last year—training some 1,200 students of whom 75 per cent were successful. That represents a great deal of opportunity for Royal Signals tradesmen to better themselves throughout FARELF, and saves a lot of air fares home. Currently there is great activity with special conversion courses for the new technician trade structure.

The S.T.C. helps to train the Malaysian Armed Forces, and is being wooed by the new Singaporean Army, and gets frequently involved with Infantry, Gunners, R.C.T., R.E.M.E. and Royal Marines in the Theatre. It is a rewarding and interesting task, and the cadre are an exceptionally dedicated bunch.

The cadre are men of few words and much action: they have been known to comment on their own virtues, usually at Guest Nights and similar occasions, but the earlier photographs show them in action, and prove that they enjoy life.

(Guess which Squadron Commander wrote the notes this month! No prizes: donations to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.)

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

- **S.O.-in-C. meets many members of Regiment.**
- **Corps Band impresses all.**
- **Station Band continues to flourish.**

Visit of Signal Officer-in-Chief

THIS month the Regiment was honoured by a visit from our new Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.**

The weather was very bad but the Signal Officer-in-Chief enjoyed our 'wet weather programme' at R.A.F. Laarbruch and met and talked to many members of the Regiment. He also took the opportunity to present **Corporal T. Watkins** with the Commander-in-Chief Middle Easts' Commendation for his outstanding work, leadership and example, as the N.C.O. of the Air Formation Signal Detachment at R.A.F. Salalah, whilst he was serving with 222 Squadron.

The Station Volunteer Band was also on parade for this occasion and **Major-General Anderson** was intrigued with the standard they had reached whilst pursuing a spare time activity.

Guy Fawkes Night

This year the 5th of November, although cold and windy, remained dry. R.A.F. Laarbruch put on a most excellent firework display with multi-coloured rockets competing with silver-rain waterfalls. The most popular firework of the evening, however, was undoubtedly a magnesium flare gun which fired multiple flares in rapid succession. These flares were greeted with excited cheers whenever they occurred. Hot dogs and cocoa kept the cold at bay and everyone voted the evening the best yet.

Armistice Day Parade

The Regiment not only provided a 40-man contingent for the Armistice Day Parade, held at the Reichswald War Cemetery, but also brought the Station Volunteer Band along.

The short but moving ceremony completed, the Band and Service contingents marched off to the beat of a single drum. Once they had reached a respectful distance from the cemetery, the Band swung into a cheerful march reminding us all that even on this solemn occasion one must look with confidence to the future.

Cross-country running

In the Rhine Area/R.A.F. Germany Cross-Country League we have competed in five matches to date, coming second in



WELL DONE!
The S.O.-in-C. shakes hands with Corporal Watkins who earned a well deserved C.-in-C. Middle East commendation for his outstanding work, leadership and determination

two and winning the remainder. The team is in good form and heart and hope to keep up this high standard.

Ceremony at the Town Hall, Weeze

During their two-day stay with the Regiment the Royal Signals Band, under their Director of Music, **Captain Pike,** played the 'Retreat' on the Square in front of the new Town Hall in Weeze. To quote the local German newspapers, "The sixty musicians of Her Majesty's Royal Corps of Signals Band had the precision of Guards, delighted the eye with their red jackets, bearskins and glittering instruments and delighted the ear with their music."

The reason for this small ceremony was that the Mayor of Weeze, **Dr. Freiherr von Vittinghof-Schell,** wished to give the Commanding Officer a scroll praising the harmonious relationships which have existed between the people of Weeze and the Regiment for nearly 10 years.

All Ranks' Dance

The Regimental All Ranks' Dance, held at Laarbruch, was very well attended despite the fog, and the M.C., **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Cummins,** of 1 Squadron soon had things going with a swing.

The Dance Band Section of the Royal Signals Band added greatly to the success of the evening and we were pleased to see the other members of the Band stepping the light fantastic.

The buffet was excellent, the atmosphere full of 'good will' and a happy start was made to the festive season.

Arrivals and departures

We are sorry to say farewell to our Paymaster, **Major L. Oddie,** and his wife, our only consolation being that they are only 'moving down the road' so to speak, and have promised to call in and see us from time to time.

We are pleased, however, to welcome **Lieutenant E. Grainger, R.A.P.C.,** and his wife who assumes the vacant paymaster's chair, and wish them a happy tour with the Regiment.

The passing of a trade

This month we mourn the passing of the trade of Cable Jointer.

This aspect of line work has always been particularly connected with Air Formation Signals and will continue to be part of our daily task as long as we continue to exist.

The Cable Jointer himself has always been considered to be a specialist lineman with the attributes of patience and perseverance coupled with the powers of concentration and manual dexterity and we can only hope that the high standards he has set will be maintained by the lineman of the future. One thing is certain—without the Cable Jointers' skills the standard of airfield communications cannot be maintained.

To all ex Cable Jointers we would like to say THANK YOU, and to all you new Linemen we wish—continued good cable jointing!



ANNUAL F.F.R. INSPECTION
Brigadier Page visits M Troop and discusses a new training aid with Lance Corporal Hobley and Sergeant Kenworthy

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

- **Corps Band impresses local citizens.**
- **Soccer team chalk up two successes.**

Annual FFR Inspection

ALTHOUGH **Brigadier C. E. Page, M.B.E.,** C.C. Royal Signals, is a frequent and welcome visitor to the Regiment, the fact that he knows us well does not lessen the importance of his annual formal inspection. This took place this year on 14th November. The Brigadier was met by the Quarter Guard with Trumpeter and then he conducted a speedy but thorough inspection of all the Troops and Departments of the Regiment. He found the time though for morning coffee with the Junior N.C.O.s in their Mess and for a pre-lunch glass of beer with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, many of whom are well known to him. Although as we go to press the Brigadier's report has not been received we have every reason to believe that he was well satisfied with what he saw.

Visit of the Corps Band

By a happy coincidence the Corps Band arrived to spend a week with the Regiment the day before our FFR Inspection so we were able to relax with a splendid band concert immediately after the Brigadier had gone. This was the first concert in what was to prove to be a most busy week for the Band. Later they gave a full scale concert in the Lippstadt Kolpingshalle for the people of Lippstadt and there can be little doubt on reading the press accounts of this that the Band will long be remembered here. In addition the Band gave a concert for the regimental families, including nearly 100 of our younger school children, who were clearly thrilled at the performance. Both the Officers' Mess and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held large dances to take advantage of the visit of the Band and we were all very sorry indeed when the time came to say goodbye to them. They had certainly given us wonderful value.

Training

The Regiment has now settled down in its new organisation and training is going on apace with the new Bruin equipment. 3 Squadron, which formed from scratch some two months ago, has now acquired a sense of identity; it only needs to acquire a few more soldiers, and in particular N.C.O.s, to be able to cope with the mass of equipment which is descending upon it. (O.I.C. Records please note.)

Remembrance Day Service in the Bruderkirche, Lippstadt

On 11th November the Regiment shared a moving Remembrance Day Service with 42 Medium Regiment R.A., with whom we share a barracks. Because the Garrison Church is tiny this service was held in a large German Church, the Bruderkirche in Lippstadt. This fine old church made a splendid setting for the service which was conducted by our Padre, **Rev. Peter Clemmet.** The church was filled to capacity by about 700 soldiers and their families and no-one could fail to have been stirred by the emotion which the service aroused.

Sport

The regimental soccer team beat 4 RTR by 7 goals to 4 and 3 RHA by 3 goals to 1 in the first two rounds of the Army Cup, but having given rise to the optimistic thought that this might really be our year, they came up against 2 Scots Guards on an appalling day when the height and strength of the Guardsmen proved too much for our team. The game was played in a snow storm and a howling gale and we were beaten fairly and squarely by 6 goals to 1.

The regimental hockey team surprised everyone—not least themselves—by holding the B.A.O.R. champions, our old friends 4 Divisional Signal Regiment, to a score of 2 goals to 1. This gives them plenty of confidence for their first cup match which will be played next week.

Wives' Club Christmas Dinner

The Christmas festivities seem to begin earlier every year. This year the Wives' Club decided to get in first and they held their annual Christmas Dinner on 4th December. No less than 72 members attended. The organisation had been in the capable hands of a committee of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess in whose Dining Room the dinner was served. The ladies were greeted with hot punch as they arrived and this was followed by the traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Altogether it was voted a most successful and enjoyable occasion, a foretaste no doubt of many similar social functions in the next four weeks.

24th Regiment, Catterick Camp

- **The Regiment makes a move.**

Our history

WE are on the move for the second time in ten years—it must be the gypsy in us! As we have not been to press for some time, a short history of the Regiment will not come amiss.

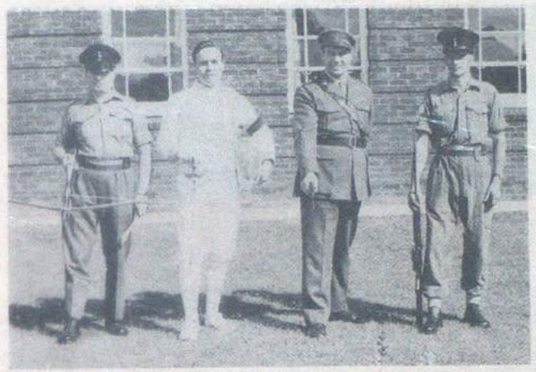
Many 'old hats' will know that 24th Regiment has grown from many amalgamations and redesignations of Signal Training Regiments. These have included the move of 23rd Regiment from Lincoln in 1961, and the move of 25th Training Regiment from Ripon in 1960. Now we are to move R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and 1 Squadron from Gaza Lines to Messines Lines during November. All the Regiment, except the W.R.A.C., who are to remain in their modern Jaffa Lines, will live in Messines Lines, but 2 and 3 Squadrons will continue to work in Ypres Lines until Phase II of the move, when their training area will be moved up to Vimy Lines.

Why the move? A good question; but in short, it is in the long-term interests of the Corps that we occupy Messines, so as to ensure that nothing disrupts the building of the new Signals Training Centre. Work on this project starts any time now.

The initial planning for the move was done under the command of **Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Sykes,** who has just left us to become a 'Ministry Defender,' after two years in command of the Regiment. The final planning and execution falls upon our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier,** who arrived in mid-September from H.Q. 39 Infantry Brigade in Northern Ireland.

Visitors

Among the many visitors to the Regiment we were told to expect the unconventional in **Brigadier-General Rienzi's** visit. He is the Commandant of the U.S.A. Signals Training Centre which in effect combines the functions of the School of Signals and the Training Brigade in the U.S.A. We thought that we could deal with the situation quite easily but miscalculated the speed with which he raced round the Unit Lines, asking penetrating questions. He then astounded us by expanding his method of training by day and night on a twenty-four hour shift system. Surely he didn't mean that we should become the 24-hour Signals Regiment: after all, we don't need **General Rienzi** to tell us that.



EACH MAN TO HIS WEAPON
Four members of ED Troop with their personal weapons with which they have attained a very high degree of proficiency. All are members of the Regimental Shooting Team. The crossbow was made by Sergeant Utteridge. *Left to Right:* Sergeant Utteridge, Staff-Sergeant Cairns, Captain Wilford and Sergeant Bowman presenting arms

Orienteering

Orienteering is catchi'g on! The advantages the sport has to military training were put to use in September when 3 Squadron invited the Regiment to a competition in Hamsterley Forest. It was coincidental that they chose the same area as the British Orienteering Federation selected for their first National Competition. Although the course was not quite so far as the National Competition it was a tough start to the new sport. 2 Squadron won with **Signalmen Saul** and **Smith** as the first pair and **Signalmen Keen** and **Rogers** as the second pair closely followed by the organisers' team. After another regimental practice, a score event just to add interest, we went in for the Brigade and then the Northern Command Competition. This was the big event to which everyone had set their sights. The Regiment was well represented in putting forward seven teams, four of which were placed in the final Northern Command Order. This time H.Q. Squadron were the dark horses. They had persistently lost all previous competitions but by reshuffling their team **Sergeants Cornforth** and **Bear** finished within seconds of **Lance-Corporal Pittendreigh** and **Corporal Bennett** who arrived along another track which converged into the finish.

Experts

It seems that we have a car rallying expert in our midst in the form of **Captain Meek. He,** with **Second-Lieutenant Ryan** as his navigator, drove one of the eleven Land Rovers under British Army Motoring Association colours in the Bruce Robinson Rally, a national competition run by the Lincolnshire Motor Club. They were, however, the only BAMA pair to complete the course without disqualification. The 120 entries ranged from family saloons to especially-equipped rallying cars. **Captain Meek** finished 8th in his class and won a tankard for the best club entry not to win a place.

Major Cook, our Unit Paymaster, having won the Regimental Individual Golf Cup also won the Brigade Individual Campionship. Our Regimental 'C' Team came second in these championships finishing with an aggregate score of 240, only four points behind the winners, 11th Regiment. The players, all of 2 Squadron, were **Captain Kenrick, Corporal Banham** and **Signalman Fyvie.**

ED Troop Armoury

Just how many weapons does an ED Troop have to be able to fight with? The photograph shows some of the members of ED Troop with their personal weapons with which they have attained a high degree of proficiency. But to be fair all four are part of the Regimental Shooting Team.

It should be noted that **Sergeant Utteridge** made his crossbow by hand.



MEN OF 8th REGIMENT 'MOVE ON' W.R.A.C. 'DEMONSTRATORS'
—but it was all part of an Internal Security Exercise and the W.R.A.C. were acting as 'Ban the Bomb' demonstrators and 'Flower people' Here they are holding up the M.O.'s car. From left to right: Privates Clark, Codrai, Caplin, Nolan, Cockaday, Lawson and Mitchell

W.R.A.C. Demonstrators

Several members of the W.R.A.C. from our Regiment were 'moved on' by the soldiers of 8th Regiment, at the request of 8th Regiment who were organising an Internal Security Exercise. The W.R.A.C. acted as 'Ban the Bomb Demonstrators' and Flower People. The ones shown in the photograph were preventing the M.O. from getting into the Medical Centre.

Farewells

After many years of loyal service to the Corps, **Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) G. Lynam, O.B.E.,** is retiring. He has had a distinguished career making many friends and the Corps and especially this Regiment will be sorry to see him leave.

The Messing Officer, **Captain G. Johnson, A.C.C.,** is also retiring after 37 years. He has served with the Corps for some years and has looked after the 'inner man' with great effect.

W.O.I M. J. Molony, the R.S.M., is the third member of the Regiment who will be retiring after much hard and loyal work. We wish them all good fortune and hope that they will keep in contact with the Regiment.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS

There are a number of Cypher Operator vacancies in our London office, for which candidates offering Cypher or Teleprinter experience can be considered. Selection can lead to permanent and pensionable appointments.

Write for full particulars and application form to:-

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FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

It started with a single seat on a Beaver Aircraft, then . . .

Corps men tackle an unusual job on Perim Island

and lend a very welcome hand too!

☆

Contributed by men of Aden Rearguard Squadron



Perim Island—the focal point of this story. The seashore in the background, the lighthouse, and to the left the police barracks where Corporal Gregory operated his A.13 set

HERE is the story of an unusual job we did for the people of Perim, the tiny island which guards the southern entrance to the Red Sea, and which is shortly to be abandoned to an uncertain fate when we withdraw from Aden.

* * *

The narrator is **Lance-Corporal Gregory,** Telegraph Operator, and others who took part.

"It was on 11th October that **Major O'Connor** told me, as I sat at one of the sets of his Rover, that I was to go to Perim Island next day in a Beaver flown by **Major Carr** (formerly Adjutant of 3 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, and now O.C., 15 Flight, A.A.C.). The Beaver was taking a British officer of the South Arabian Air Force, and **Major Carr** had kindly offered our Squadron his spare seat."

"I didn't know Perim from Timbuctoo, but a look at the map soon showed where it was. After 50 minutes' flying, we were circling the little dusty airstrip and looking for any signs of welcome, or otherwise. The only radio on the island, operated by the police detachment, had been off the air for a week, and a lot could have happened since then, on an island only a couple of miles from the hostile Yemen shore."

"However, after a few circuits, we saw a Land Rover bumping over the track to the airstrip, driven by a figure **Major Carr** recognised as **Mr. Shubaili,** the island's administrator."

* * *

"A book could be written about **Mr. Shubaili**—perhaps one day it will be. His father was the Indian mate of a steamer, and his mother was a Perim woman, I believe. **Shubaili** was born and grew up on the tiny island, self-educated. He speaks excellent English, and has virtually ruled the place since before I was born. He is now about 55 years old. He is fiercely pro-British—all 5ft. 2ins. of him—in his khaki police uniform, with a .38 pistol at his belt.

"With touching pride, he showed me the tattered Union Jack which he hoists every morning, and I marvelled at his spirit. I had only come on a joy-ride, but knowing that his radio was out of order, I was determined that we in the Squadron must do something to help this brave little man in our last few weeks in Aden."

"We were only there for three hours that day, but we brought back his ancient Collins radio for repair, and as soon as I got back to Aden I asked **Major O'Connor** if we could help by sending some 'buck-shee' kit to him. I wrote a list of suggestions, and TM Troop collected them, while **Major O'Connor** looked for a way of getting them to the island."

"**Major Carr's** last Beaver left Aden before it could do the job, but meanwhile the High Commission stepped in with the idea of a training run for the South Arabian Navy's first ship, the motor gunboat, '*Al Gazal*' ('Gazelle').

* * *

It was on Friday, 20th October, just as the sun was going down behind the peaks of Little Aden that **Corporal Watkinson** (ED) **Corporal Vassallo** (radio technician) and **Lance-Corporal Gregory** set sail in the '*Al Gazal.*' The Captain, three officers and two petty officers were English, with a crew of 14 Arabs.

* * *

Lance-Corporal Gregory takes up the story again:

"I had an A13 with which to work back to **Lance-Corporal Mate's** C11 in Khormaksar. That evening the sea was rough, and I could only put up an 8ft. whip antenna from the shelter of the bridge. This fact, and the usual evening radio noise, made me lose radio contact with **Howard Mate** in the first hour, which was discouraging. But I am an optimist, so I de-decided to wait till next morning to try again from Perim. By this time the Arab crew were fully occupied being sick over the side, and **Corporal Vassallo** also retired early.

* * *

"We arrived off Perim at 02.00 hours, although I was asleep at the time. When I awoke at 05.00 hours and went up on deck from the P.O.s' Mess, where I had slept, I recognised the black bare rocks of the island, with **Mr. Shubaili's** house and the Union Jack floating above it, from my earlier visit."

"The wind was blowing Force 6 to 8—almost a gale—and from the SSW, to which the little harbour was open. It was therefore pretty choppy at our mooring, and it was not till 07.00 hours that **Mr. Shubaili** was able to come out to us in his boat, a little flat-bottomed thing called a dory. It was good to see him again, and tell him that we had come to help re-establish his radio link with the outside world."

* * *

"After exchanging greetings with our captain he left again, promising to send the dory back for us. By this time I was receiving both "**H**" **Mate** at Aden Brigade and Corporal **Jim Reid** at Joint H.Q., calling me and exchanging enquiries about me; it was infuriating not to be able to get ashore and put up a better antenna."

* * *

"It was about 08.30 when at last we all got ashore, but by the time we had humped our stores up to the police radio station and erected a dipole, Aden had closed down until the next schedule. However, I asked **Hassan,** the police operator, what frequencies he used, and to whom he had been working before his old Collins set had packed-up, two and-a-half weeks before. With me tuning the A13 and him on the key, we soon contacted his opposite numbers on Kamaran Island, 160 miles up the Red Sea (the other operator turned out to be his cousin, which particularly delighted him) and the Armed Police Barracks, Crater, back in Aden, from where he got welcome news of his wife and family."

* * *

"All this was finished in time for me to be back on my original Aden frequency for the scheduled 11.00 hours call, and there was **Howard Mate,** spot-on. I gave him a Sitrep, and sent a message for the '*Al Gazal*' about the weather, and asked for more food to see us through what looked like being a longish wait for better weather. I should have mentioned that the '*Al Gazal's*' 100-watt Racal had given trouble almost immediately on leaving Aden, apparently with a faulty antenna feeder.

* * *

"**Mr. Shubaili** reckoned that the high winds and sea would carry on for another three or four days, so I settled down to steady schedules to Squadron H.Q., the Police and High Commission officers in Aden, Kamaran, and the '*Al Gazal,*' whose set was not entirely useless. I was kept pretty busy, with **Hassan,** handling all the island's backlog of traffic on the various frequencies. It was because of this that I was unable to go out to dinner to the police detachment, as **Corporals Vassallo** did on Sunday, though from their description of the menu, it didn't sound all that appetising!

"Meanwhile, I was a bit worried to hear over my link that the Commander of the South Arabian Air Force (a Wing Commander) was only bringing officers' rations in his Beaver, but **Mate** did his best to cheer me up by signalling that another Beaver was also to come, with our food!"

"It was just as well I'd seen the island before, on my earlier visit by Beaver, for the radio traffic, plus normal eating and sleeping, left me little spare time. We would close the set after the 17.00 hours call to Kamaran and then walk down to the jetty to catch the dory back to the '*Al Gazal*' before dark. The Captain did not feel we could trust the islanders after dark, with the general political situation so uneasy. Nevertheless, I had hoped to spend Sunday evening on shore, fishing with Hassan; but by this time we had had a message from Aden which led the captain to order us to be ready to sail at first light on Monday. This was just as well, as the second Beaver still hadn't come.

* * *

"So, at 06.00 hours, we sailed again for Aden. There was still a heavy sea running, and the Arab crew soon resumed being sick, joined, I regret to say, by **Corporal Vassallo.** I rigged an end-fed antenna from the flag staff, at the 'blunt end' to the top of the bridge, and kept through to **Lance-Corporal Mate** on an hourly schedule until we arrived back in our old berth at Sheba jetty. We came ashore again at 14.30 hours to find **Major O'Connor,** in his Rover, and **Mate's** mineplated monstrosity waiting for us.

* * *

We are probably the last British soldiers to have landed on Perim, but I would gladly go there again, especially to help gallant little Mr. Shubaili.

* * *

Corporal Watkinson says:

"I had plenty of work to do, too. An hour after leaving Aden harbour, a Royal Navy Stoker aboard the '*Al Gazal*' appealed for help with the ship's battery-charging plant, which was not working properly. When I changed the fuses to ones of the correct rating, it worked all right.

* * *

"On Perim Island, I found the police had a 1,260-watt charging engine, ex-British Army. I gave them some badly-needed instruction in its use and maintenance and checked it over. I checked their batteries and left them four we had brought with us as a present. I also repaired their old Primus stove, which had suffered somewhat from many months of Arab tea-brewing without maintenance.

* * *

"On the Sunday night, **Corporal Vassallo** and I went to dinner with the Arab police, together with the crew of the '*Al Gazal.*' This was in traditional Arab style, of which the less said, the better! It's all in the travel books already!

"That evening, **Mr. Shubaili** came aboard to thank us and bid us farewell, and we lashed down all the kit aboard in anticipation of a rough passage home. It was just as well we did!

"But there was still a little work for me to do on the run back to Aden. **Lance-Corporal Gregory,** with his new end-fed antenna, now needed his A13 batteries to be kept up to scratch, and this we did from the ship's batteries."

"So it was a busy trip, and certainly a worthwhile one."

* * *

Corporal Vassallo adds:

"The radio set from Perim, an ancient Collins relic, had been repaired in the police workshop in Aden, but loaded on to a dhow before our '*Al Gazal*' voyage had been arranged, and could not be unloaded again in time to go with us.

"This meant that it never arrived on Perim until after we had left—in fact we passed the dhow on our way back. So I was almost out of work on the island, not that this worried me too much. However, I overhauled the police antennas; cut another to length and tested it with our A13. I am afraid I shared **Corporal Watkinson's** opinion of the Arab feast provided for us, but there was no doubt of the kindness and goodwill behind it.

"I am afraid, though, that life on the ocean wave is not for me. Next time I'll go by air!"

When a wild bull elephant looks

you straight in the eye

SOME ADVENTURES ON SAFARI 67

By Sergeant James Prees, 640 Troop

JOIN the Corps and you certainly see the world—especially if you are lucky enough to serve in 640 Troop, the famous Blandford Globe Trotters!

Read here of Sergeant Prees' safari experiences while on detachment in Botswana—an outing normally only available to wealthy tourists.

Readers may recollect a previous article in 1966 from Sergeant Prees' pen describing a trip to Ethiopia. He certainly gets around—and all in the line of duty.

Life in Botswana

British soldiers have served for many years in Africa and thousands have availed themselves of the opportunity to find out just what the word safari means. Whilst serving with 544 Troop in Francistown, Botswana, I was fortunate enough to have just such an opportunity. The role of the Troop was to provide rear link communications for the Infantry Company guarding the B.B.C. Central African Relay Station at Francistown. This entailed operating a CW link to the Royal Navy in Mauritius. Even though the cct was open for 24 hours a day the task was never an arduous one and left ample time for recreation, including football matches in Johannesburg and visits to places of special interest to the British Army. For instance who can say when (if ever) the South Wales Borderers (XXIV) will next be able to visit places such as Rorkes Drift and Isandhwana?

Johnny Hornsted—a remarkable man

Without a doubt the favourite type of relaxation was to pile into a couple of vehicles with a few days' rations and disappear into the bush to see what there was in the way of wild life. This was made possible by the wholehearted co-operation of the local Game Warden, a splendid expatriate Scotsman by the name of **Johnny Hornsted.** Johnny was by way of being purveyor of Safaris to H.M. Forces, his customers included such exalted personages as **General Tower,** C.-in-C. Middle East, who paid us a fleeting visit. **Johnny's** kindness will be remembered by many of us who served in Francistown. Nothing seemed to be too much trouble and it became a commonplace occurrence for the local populace to see the Game Warden's Toyota Landcruiser followed by a very battered Bedford 3-tonner laden to the gunwales with soldiers and crates of Castle Lager heading for the Bush.

Botswana, or as it used to be known The Bechuanaland Protectorate, consists mainly of the Kalahari desert. The rainfall is small and for the five years or so prior to my arrival there had in fact been an almost complete drought. During the time I was there the rainy season materialised with a vengeance and there were almost torrential downpours. The pans filled and there was a marked increase in the game. The mainstay of the economy is cattle and, of course, where you have cattle you have fences; so slowly but surely the game is being forced back. However, the game was there if you knew where to look.

I meet Johnny and his assistants

I first met **Johnny** when I was trying to collect some Elephant Shrews for the British Museum of Natural History. He put me in contact with several people and one way and another my collecting was moderately successful. Over a glass or two of beer in the local pub one night he mentioned that he was off to hunt elephant with a small film company from South Africa. Would I like to come along? Needless to say I jumped at the chance and hurriedly obtained permission from O.C. Troops for a few days' leave. On the morning of the 28th June I was collected from the School Hostel (built to accommodate 40 children and now housing over 100 troops), which served both as home and place of work, and taken to the point of departure. This proved to be the Hornsted residence where there was a deal of bustle and scurrying, great quantities of camping and photographic equipment plus what seemed to be a collection of the largest rifles I have ever seen, being loaded on to various vehicles. My gear was collected by **Johnny's** general factotum, a genial African named **Ben** who had obviously been through this same performance many times before judging by the speed and precision with which he loaded the vehicle. Also in the party was the leading light of the Game Rangers, a very affable ex-poacher with an unpronouncable name and known to all and sundry as **Sonny.** It was explained to me that as he was probably the best game poacher in the country the only way to keep tabs on him was to make him a Game Ranger! He was to justify his reputation many times over during the next few days. The film makers proved to be a very tall South African gentleman dressed in all the gear one expects from a white hunter right down to the leopard skin band round his bush hat and a diminutive Portuguese festooned with light meters and all the apparatus pertaining to his calling. Eventually the last item was crammed into the two vehicles and we set off at high speed and in a cloud of dust that was to be our constant companion for the next hundred or so miles.

" The home of countless creatures "

The first 50 or so miles were through cattle country in which there was no game to be seen at all. However, it soon became apparent that Botswana is an Ornithologists paradise, the commonest birds being Hornbills and the magnificent Steel Blue Starling whose brilliant plumage puts his drab English cousin to shame. After a boneshaking four hours we arrived at the confluence of the Ramaquabane and Shashi rivers, both of which, alas, were dry at this time of year. On the other side of the river we came across our first sign of wild life apart from the numerous birds we had seen—a small colony of monkeys who lived in the large trees along the river bank. We now followed the course of the Shashi River and soon found ourselves at last in 'open' country. Along the river bank were the huge outcrops of rock which characterise this part of Africa and which our grandfathers found to their cost were called Kopjes. These great masses of boulders, which somehow seem so out of place in the otherwise flat and featureless bush, are a paradise for anyone who has the time and the inclination to stop and look. They are the home of countless creatures small and large, including the Hyrax or rock rabbit. This animal is a born comedian who spends most of the day basking in the sun on top of an inaccessible pinnacle of rock. They are about the size of a large cat, and are, strange to relate, the nearest relative to the elephant. These rocks are also a favourite place for the hyena though he is rarely seen during the heat of the day. Another and quite rare creature who makes his home in these surroundings is the Klippspringer, one of the smaller antelopes, who relies for his safety in his ability to move rapidly from rock to rock. He is very shy and rarely seen, and is heavily protected by the Game Department. Other less likeable creatures to be found on these isolated outcrops are snakes and the occasional leopard.

Elephant in the offing

By late afternoon we started to see signs that we were in elephant country. Firstly the unmistakeable droppings, then Mopani trees stripped of their bark, and at last the huge footprints leading down to the drinking places; green scum-ridden pools in an otherwise dry riverbed. It is astounding the damage a feeding herd of elephants can do to a large area in a relatively small time. They need to eat almost their own weight in vegetation a day and the devastation is tremendous. **Sonny** was in his element, pointing to a half-gnawed branch in the middle of the track, producing the huge grin, of which he had an inexhaustible supply, and saying, "This morning, Bwana." It seemed that we were in luck and this was confirmed when we questioned the only person we had seen for hours, a gentleman

(*Continued on page 29*)

of substance riding an antique bicycle, who assured us that the elephant had been down to the river to drink at this very spot last night and had been feeding in the area for some days. We decided to make camp and get off to an early start the next morning.

I begin to get a little concerned

Early the next morning I was greeted with a steaming hot cup of tea and a large grin by **Ben** who was already preparing breakfast. **Sonny** had departed at first light to look for traces of the elephants we had heard drinking during the night. After a breakfast of sausage and beans plus fried eggs and gallons of hot tea we set off in the Toyota to try and track down the herd. We drove through the thick Mopani bush which showed indisputable evidence of the presence of large numbers of elephant, the ground covered with droppings, trees uprooted, branches torn away and the bark chewed off. After about two hours we heard loud trumpeting and much crashing about 400 yards off to our right so we stopped the vehicle and proceeded on foot. Weapons were checked and **Johnny** removed his large double-barrelled Rigby 470 from its cover, a very comforting sight to the uninitiated. The going was hard, for by now the sun had risen and the heat, even though it was mid-winter, was oppressive. As we came closer to where the herd was feeding, I began to get more than a little concerned, my only previous experiences of the great Pachyderm had been the good natured inoffensive creatures one sees giving rides to children in zoos, and the prospect of meeting the real thing in thick bush suddenly became more than a little disturbing.

In the middle of a herd

Slowly but very slowly we made our way down wind. Elephants have notoriously bad eyesight but their sense of smell is very keen. At last I caught my first glimpse of them. The herd was about 50 strong, about 10 of which were young. They were moving slowly away from us eating steadily, this accompanied by crashes as they knocked over trees to get at some particularly succulent piece of foliage. One thing that struck me immediately was that they were not the nice clean grey creatures one sees in zoos. Their backs were covered with red dust from their favourite pastime of wallowing in the mud when they drink. I noticed **Sonny** puffing at a cigarette, using the smoke from it to keep his eye on the wind. When upset or disturbed elephants will not hesitate to charge, and in fact more hunters have been killed by elephants in Africa than by the much-publicised man-eating lion. Only the previous night over a can of beer at the campfire **Johnny** had told us the tale of an elephant who had been seized by the trunk by a crocodile when drinking. For its trouble the croc' had been severely trodden on and to add insult to injury had been left wedged in the fork of a tree on the river bank. All this and more sprang to mind as we slowly edged nearer the as yet unsuspecting herd. I began to wonder why I had allowed myself to be placed in such a vulnerable situation. After all I could have been in the local pub with a nice cold Castle instead of in the middle of a herd of African elephants of uncertain temperament. **Johnny** selected a young bull at the edge of the herd and the hunter began to make his approach. The idea was to try and get a shot at the creature actually charging. Closer and closer we crept, the subject of our attentions still chewing contentedly at a young Mopani tree and obviously completely oblivious of our presence. Suddenly he realised that something was wrong, left his tree and turned towards us. By this time I was busily clicking my camera and hoping that the elephant was not of a belligerent nature, as if he decided to charge I should end up being severely trampled. Our hunter, determined to obtain his shot of a charging elephant, began making rude noises at the beast, presumably to incite him to violence. The Portuguese camera-man had bravely placed hmiself behind a tree slightly to the right of the proceedings and I, to my consternation, found myself directly in line with the hunter and his quarry. However, reassured by the comforting sight of the Game Warden's large double-barrelled rifle, I continued to take pictures for all I was worth. At last the elephant decided that action must be taken. He was obviously unhappy about the situation and decided to carry out the standard procedure for such an eventuality: when in doubt, charge! He raised his trunk, trumpeted, and started to lumber towards us. There was immediately a loud crash, and Henry, as I had subconsciously named him, stopped in his tracks and collapsed in a heap on the ground. The shot had been a good one, between and slightly above the eyes. Henry never knew what hit him.

The temptation to run was almost overwhelming

On approaching the huge carcase I realised one thing immediately, I was never cut out to be a hunter. I had identified myself almost entirely with poor Henry and the tragedy of the whole thing hit me almost like a physical blow. **Sonny,** on the contrary, was delighted with the whole thing and immediately began, with a professional air, to measure up the tusks. They turned out to be about 50 lb.—not very large as trophies go. As it was getting late we decided to leave the scene of the crime and return the next day to collect the tusks. We set off on the long trek back to the vehicle, when about a mile on our way we suddenly heard a great rumbling and crashing in the bush. It was the remainder of the herd still in a state of panic from the sound of the shot which had despatched Henry. We now found ourselves in a very unenviable situation, almost directly in the path of about 50 very frightened and fast-moving elephants. The temptation to run was almost overwhelming, but **Johnny** insisted that we stand perfectly still and we were treated to the awe-inspiring sight of the entire herd pounding across our path about twenty yards ahead of us. The noise was deafening and the thought that if we had been just a few yards further on our way we may well have been caught up in that inexorable stampede.

Tales got taller as the brandy got shorter

On arriving back at the camp **Ben** greeted us with a very welcome pot of tea followed up by an excellent meal. That night we broke open a bottle of excellent South African brandy and sat for hours by a large fire listening to the sound of the night and exchanging tall tales which got taller as the supply of brandy got shorter. The next day we returned to the scene of Henry's demise and set about removing the tusks, ears and feet. This was a particularly unpleasant task which was performed with unconcern by several locals rounded-up by **Sonny.** There was more filming to be done, including a shot of the locals cutting up and taking away the meat. This they were not very good at and went to great lengths to explain that no one in his right mind would eat elephant meat when they had perfectly good cattle of their own. Unfortunately my time on Safari was drawing to a close. I had begun to realise the great hold that Africa exerts on those who linger for too long. The vastness, peace and stillness of the bush soon begin to exert their subtle pressures and it becomes very difficult to tear yourself away. We finally arrived back in Francistown weary and covered in dust and of course made immediately for the pub. Many glasses were downed and lampshades were made to swung merrily before we all went our separate ways. A fascinating experience which I will probably never be able to repeat. Safaris are big business these days and only a few of the very rich can afford them—unless, of course, you're in the Army and in, in particular, Royal Signals.

Exercise 'Jupiter' meant . . .

Climbing Scandanavia's highest peak

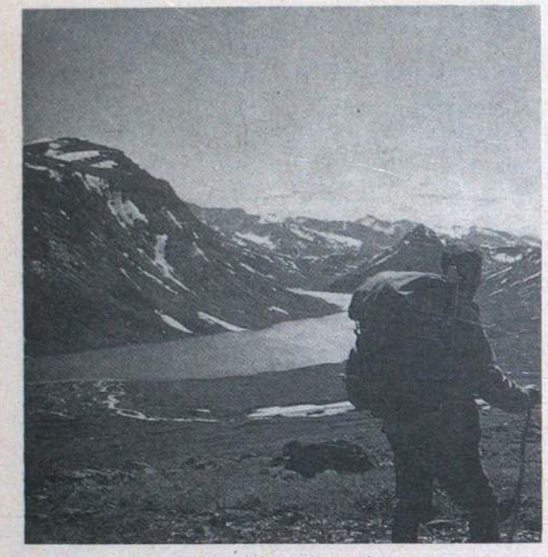
Contributed by 11th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sqn. (211)

ON 9th July, a party left Minden for Norway, to emulate last year's successful expedition in the Jotunheim Mountains. An uneventful, but interesting drive through Denmark, the ferry from Frederickshaven to Oslo, and a more exciting drive through the mountains of Western Norway took us to our base camp at Gjendesheim.

The first week was spent on a few warming-up treks, and although some of last year's team howled with disbelief at the selected routes and left on the first morning crying "see you at breakfast," all teams were back by seven o'clock in the evening on all three routes. They became known as 'The Drag,' 'The Rock' and 'Trig Point'—all over 18 miles long, and the last two over some very rugged country.

The wrong route

After a day of rest, a fairly hilarious two-day trek followed. The whole party, early on the first day, flogged for two hours



Start of the six day trek

up a marshy, mosquito-ridden valley, only to find out that it was the wrong route and the way was blocked by a very large lake which should have been skirted. A friendly Norwegian boatman lifted the party over the lake in two parties and a quickly-revised route saw us at the halfway stage to our destination at 1 o'clock. Here, the party split in two, one to climb 2,000ft. to the top of a ridge and then down a nearly vertical drop of the same height to our lodge at Gjendesheim. The other party, of people not yet confident of such heights, took a lower route round the lake. Unfortunately, the lower route petered out altogether, and that party had to return to spend the night at the halfway stage. **Signalmen Chapman** and **Learoyd,** with commendable endurance, pressed on to let the other group, with **Captain Allan,** know what had happened.

Swimming the stream

It rained all that night and the next day, when, early in the morning, all parties returned from their various destinations. **Lance-Corporals McGurk** and **Turaga** and **Gunner Kemley** had a not very enjoyable and dangerous swim when they found their route back blocked by a stream which had turned overnight into a raging river.

Another day was spent in our base camp, drying out before the finale of a six-day trek, with nights spent in the tourist lodges of Glitterheim, Spittersulen, Laervasbu and Gjendebu.

This was really the highlight of the trip, and comparatively easy going, after the very long and arduous preparatory treks. We climbed Glitterind, the snow-capped highest peak in Scandinavia, and spent a day with a local guide, climbing on the Svellnos Glacier. We met a lot of people in the mountains and made many friends, and surely this is the best part of any trip to Norway.

On the 27th July we regretfully left Gjendesheim and made our way to Oslo, where we spent a day sightseeing before catching the ferry to Denmark and Minden.

A painful experience, yet an enjoyable one

A sometimes painful, but extremely enjoyable trip, and everyone agreed that they would certainly volunteer for a similar trip next year.

Journey to Tawahi

And then the Firing started

"Tall-Dark-and-Worried" is the non-de-plume of the author of this article—a flashback, in fact, to the days of terrorist troubles in Aden.

* * *

ON 14th October, the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales' Own Regiment handed over security duties in Tawahi, a busy commercial area of Aden, to 42 Commando, Royal Marines. During 1st P.W.O.'s tour of duty, the terrorists in the area had restricted their activities to sneak attacks with pistols and grenades, with an occasional mortar salvo. The terrorists realised the vulnerability of our forces during the hand-over and arranged to exploit it. At about 08.30 hours on the morning of 14th October, several patrols and observation posts in Tawahi were subjected to heavy rifle and automatic fire. The main traffic route was threatened, and it was soon evident that this was the biggest fight yet experienced in that area.

Caught up in a bit of firing

The first news that Brigade H.Q. had of the situation came when **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Martin** reported over the Command net that he was caught up in a bit of firing and could not move. In the Brigade CP at that time were several members of Radio Troop, and in a very short time we were on our way to the scene. You see, we really do care about our Yeoman, as he's the only one we have in Radio Troop and he does a lot of good work. Also, his driver, **Lance-Corporal Askew,** was the Brigade Commander's operator-designate, and had anything happened to him, well, all the nominal rolls would have had to be re-written. You can understand our concern!

"Have you seen our Yeoman?"

Anyway, there we were, entering Steamer Point, with **Lance-Corporal Kirkwood** at the wheel, driving flat out, and **Corporal Day, Lance-Corporal Madden** and **Signalman Row** in the back, looking like something out of a horror comic. All seemed quiet until someone opened fire, roughly in our direction, with an automatic weapon. **Lance-Corporal Kirkwood** proved his Rover had good brakes and we quickly tumbled out, collecting a fair amount of 'gravel rash' (a common complaint in these parts). **Corporal Day** was leaping around, trying to prove how useful his Kenya Outward Bound Course has been, as we made for the cover of various shop doorways. Unfortunately, mine was a bit crowded, as it was already occupied by what seemed to be a left-over section of the P.W.O., half of 42 Commando, and the ITN news team. After exchanging courtesies, I made my way to the bottom of the pile and asked a Marine if he had seen my Yeoman. He hadn't. Then the whole assembled company stiffened at an ominous 'clunk.' It was not, however, the grenade that we were expecting, but **Signalman Row,** standing in the middle of the road, rifle leaning against the vehicle, operating a noisy camera. In raising his hat to a dedicated amateur, the writer reveals a few new grey hairs.

As we couldn't proceed any further, we withdrew and entered the area by another route and found our Yeoman, sound in mind and limb, watching a textbook example of fire and movement being executed by 42 Commando, who were extricating some wounded soldiers from an OP.

What would your answer be?

Before we moved back to barracks, we unloaded and "made safe" in a quiet street, where several Service vehicles were sheltering. As he ejected a round from his SLR, **Lance-Corporal Madden** was asked by an R.A.F. Warrant Officer—"Isn't that rather dangerous?" You had better ask **Lance-Corporal Madden** about the answer.

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs! Why not send us your story?

Moving two H.Q.s Simultaneously

Some thoughts on the frustrations of Linemanship

By Corporal Rossall of Aden Rearguard Squadron

THE move of a headquarters always creates signals problems. Recently, we had to surmount the problems created by the move of not one, but two, headquarters simultaneously, when it was decided to establish J.H.Q., Middle East and H.Q., Aden Brigade in new locations on R.A.F. Station Khormaksar; the first in the former secondary school and the second in the Education Centre.

* * *

As both new locations are on the airfield, the works order for J.H.Q. was first passed to 'K' (Airfield) Troop who, after regaining their senses, began the task of wiring out the school for some forty telephones and umpteen intercom systems.

However, they soon noticed that the headquarters was, in fact, an Army one, whereupon they quickly passed the works order back to C.S.O.s Branch, from which, after numerous changes, it reappeared in E Troop's office.

We were already well on the way to completing the wiring for H.Q., Aden Brigade, in the Education Centre. The R.A.F. educators were none too pleased, but stoically carried on lecturing while we strewed cable around their classrooms.

* * *

Apart from the usual problem of positioning desks, another crisis arose when the technicians arrived to connect the intercom systems, and firmly told us that lines which we had laid and thoroughly tested a week previously were non-existent. We were happy to prove them wrong.

Meanwhile, back at the school—unlike Aden Brigade—J.H.Q. was proving to be really difficult. Offices formerly planned for the west wing were now to be in the east wing; two cable pairs needed on the old plan became six pairs on the new plan; locked doors and mislaid keys were constant hazards; we spent hours carefully chalking telephone numbers on the floors, only to find Arab cleaners following behind, washing the chalk off.

* * *

However, we persevered and by dint of dexterous juggling, managed to get the correct amount of cable pairs into the right positions. Finally, we thought that the job was finished, and we relaxed—but too soon.

That very day the staff descended in force, with their tables and chairs, and began to occupy their offices. In most cases they obligingly placed their desks as they had forecast and, therefore, where we had put the telephones, but some—there are always some—seemed to delight in situating themselves as far away from the phones as possible.

* * *

When we considered them important enough, we re-wired the office and moved the phone. Unreasonable clerks and such-like we ignored, and at the first opportunity sneaked in and moved their desks back to suit the phones. The classic was the staff sergeant, who moved into the wrong Twynham hut, clearly marked "NAAFI" and indignantly claimed that we had missed him out, while his phone lay in the correct hut a few yards away, equally clearly marked.

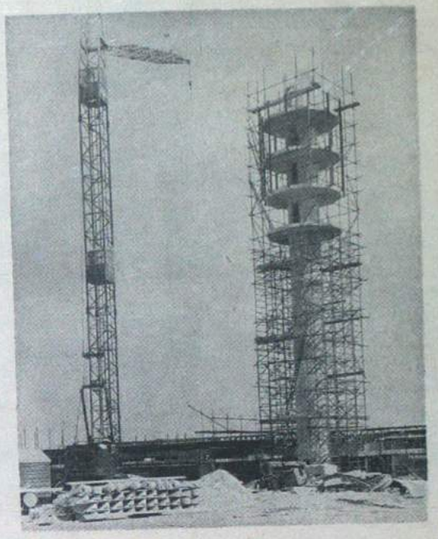
* * *

Eventually everyone was settled. Then began the barrage of afterthoughts: "May I have a plan 7?" "I want a plan 1E and more intercom." One enterprising officer even smuggled in his own intercom system and had his clerks gaily festoon the surrounding offices and corridors with his own wire. We appreciated his "didn't want to impose on the Royal Signals" excuse when we answered the O.C.'s summons for a more professional job.

* * *

Now, two weeks after the move, the staff are talking about "ceases" and recovery for final withdrawal!

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37 GOOD MEN AND TRUE
Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson poses with officers, W.O.'s and Senior N.C.O.'s in Bahrain

C.R. Signals, Persian Gulf B.F.P.O. 63

- **Representative Colonel Commandant visits.**
- **Expansion of Communications progresses well.**

WHILST various members of the Joint H.Q. Officers' Mess have been singing and dancing in a local production of 'The Yeoman of the Guard,' the branch has been applying the brake on other aspects of 'Gilbertia and Sullivania.' The closing-down in Aden brought about an increase in our mail—albeit several sacks full of files and publications; it was enlightening to see our letters returned in this way, adorned with the comments of the original recipient!

Since our last mention in THE WIRE, the Representative Colonel has paid us a visit—and expressed his satisfaction with what he saw. Bearing in mind the fact that he was not met at the airport on arrival the visit as a whole was a success!

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Massey has arrived and is now in the chair. **Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Scott** left on 7th November and, despite obtaining a staff car for the trip to the airport, arrived in the U.K. seven hours late!

Having ensured that the withdrawal from Aden went smoothly, **Major Mike O'Connor** paid us a visit bringing that which will enable the Corps to fulfil its operational role in the Gulf.

By the time these notes are read, Christmas will have come and gone and we will be in 1968. From the Corps in the Gulf a belated Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

255 SQUADRON

THE Squadron was glad to welcome the Representative Colonel Commandant, **Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson, C.B.E., E.R.D.** After inspecting the Quarter Guard, commanded by **Sergeant B. F. Welch,** he then presented the L.S. and G.C. Medal to **W.O.II Jones.** He then walked around the Squadron looking at the project work and talking to many members of the Squadron.

It was not realised until we all got together for the photograph that there were quite so many officers and S.N.C.O.s from the Corps on the island.

Most of the officers, S.N.C.O.s and a large number of the men have been able to visit H.M.S. *Fearless* in between her trips to and from Aden. Our sincere thanks to the Captain for allowing these visits during what must have been a very hectic time.

The expansion of communications on Bahrain has, over the last couple of months, made rapid progress. There is still a great deal of work left to be done, including the completion of the new exchange and the recabling of the Jufair Camp.

Field Troop sent a detachment to the Trucial Oman with the King's Own Border Regiment, and spent several weeks in the desert with them. Included is a piece by a member of the detachment.

The Squadron has been doing quite well in the sporting field except for rugby, but we hope that this will improve as the season progresses.



Aden Rearguard Squadron
B.F.P.O. 69

- **Last days in Aden—the final story.**

A Momentous Month

OCTOBER has been a pretty momentous month for us, and we now know that we shall all be home before November has finished. We were beginning to think they would never tell us!

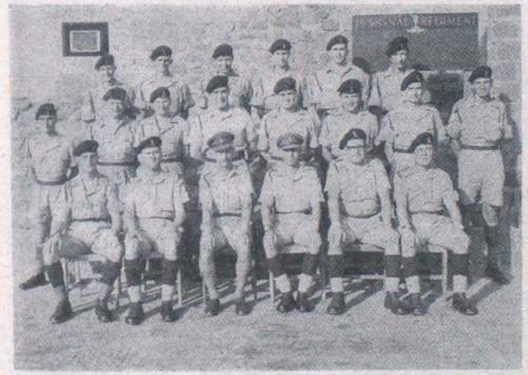
As our last "Wire" notes were being written, we were completing the move of the new Rearguard Squadron into R.A.F. Khormaksar. We are now thoroughly at home there, though we occasionally have to remind the R.A.F. Station that we are not under their command, but serve 'higher beings.'

Which brings us to the next major events of the month, which involved a lot of preparatory work; the moves of Formation Headquarters into R.A.F. Khormaksar.

Last Members of the Corps to serve in Aden



OFFICERS OF THE REARGUARD SQUADRON
Left to Right: Back Row: 2nd-Lieutenant N. A. Mackereth, Lieutenant M. R. Edge, Lieutenant J. A. Parkin, Lieutenant B. H. Rowe. *Front Row:* Lieutenant M. J. Cartwright, Captain P. Valder, Major M. J. J. O'Connor, Captain J. J. Gerrard, B.E.M., Captain P. M. Stamp



W.O.'s AND SERGEANTS
Left to Right: Back Row: Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Martin, Sergeant Howard, Sergeant Markie, Sergeant Hardwick, Sergeant Ryan, Sergeant Baynes. *Centre Row:* Sergeant Reid, Sergeant McDonald, Sergeant Wells, Sergeant Dodd, Sergeant Theaker, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Brown, Staff-Sergeant Latham, Sergeant Upton. *Front Row:* W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Williams, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Boyle, W.O.I (F. of S.) Doe, W.O.I (F. of S.) Wood, W.O.II Singleton, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Cockroft

A big installation job gets done with few men

H.Q., Aden Brigade, and the new Joint Headquarters, Middle East, formed for the withdrawal operation, moved in to join us on 27th and 28th October respectively. Being static headquarters, they had grown used to a pretty lavish scale of telephones and office intercom systems, and wanted these provided in their new locations, in addition to the radio nets required for IS and the withdrawal. So we had a pretty big job of installation to do with a very few men.

It all went very well indeed, with Royal Signals invariably one jump ahead of their customers (despite changes in the latters' plans!) and often two or three jumps. Now, the linemen can breathe again, and nearly keep pace with subscribers who want to move their desks across the room, and the operators can pass traffic instead of making Dexion racks and erecting lash-ups on masts.

Sport—and our prowess at football comes as a surprise!

Despite all this hard work—or perhaps because of it—we have done remarkably well in the sporting field for a small unit with hastily-formed teams. At football we were unbeaten after three games, our last victims being the Regimental side of 45 Commando, who we beat 3—1. Then, after one internal trial, we challenged the R.A.F. Station to a hockey match, and beat them 3—1 also, in a very fast and exciting game. As they have about 1,800 men to choose from, and we have about 150, this pleased us. Playing 45 Commando after that, we held them to 2—1 in another very exciting game which might have swung in our favour up to the last minute. The Royal Marines expressed their surprise afterwards, at our high quality, and four of our players were asked to play for the High Commissioner's team next day.

The Naval Task Force, to support the withdrawal, grows larger daily and more heartening, outside the harbour. H.M.S. *Eagle*, the aircraft carrier, is here; our old friend, *Fearless*, is back for keeps, after several trips to the Gulf, on which we sent operator parties for familiarisation.

Things are quieter now . . .

We have had some alarms and excursions thrown in for good measure. A few of us have been more or less under fire, going about our business through Maalla and Tawahi. When the heavy fighting was going on between NLF and FLOSY in Sheikh Othman, we stood-to extra radio detachments, and could see some of the South Arabian Army's counter-measures—Saladins firing their main armament, for example—and the sad stream of vehicles bringing out the dead, wounded and refugees. Things are now quieter, and we hope will stay so, but we remain alert and prepared to go out fighting, if need be.

Tailpiece

On 27th October, our Communication Centre in Singapore Lines closed; and with it our Tributary Teleprinter Terminal with the South Arabian Army in Seedaseer Lines. The following was the last message transmitted:

CONFIDENTIAL CAM COMMUNICATION CENTRE SINGAPORE LINES ADEN CLOSES 271800 CHRS OCT 67 PD THIS FINAL MESSAGE CONVEYS BEST WISHES FROM ALL RANKS THE ADEN REARGUARD SIGNAL SQUADRON TO ROYAL SIGNALS ELSEWHERE ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSURE OF THE LAST BRITISH ARMY COMMUNICATION CENTRE IN SOUTH ARABIA
BT

Signal Squadron
Trucial Oman Scouts, B.F.P.O. 64

THE Signal Squadron, Trucial Oman Scouts, provides the only 24 hours' radio communication within the seven Sheikhdoms of the Trucial Oman; these states are situated along the southern part of the Persian Gulf. The Force is continually engaged in patrolling, the prevention of gun-running, stopping the entry of illegal immigrants, tribal disputes and wars. The Force gives all possible help to the indigenous tribesmen, such as preventing a smallpox epidemic in 1967.

The recent interest in the Persian Gulf has increased considerably during '66/'67. This is caused by the presence of British units in the Gulf and the world interest in Abu-Dhabi State which has vast oil reserves.

Mu'Askar al Murqaab—the Camp of the Watch Tower

Squadron Headquarters have moved into the new camp during October. We completed a Signal Project by installing a receiver and transmitter side. The move was completed without mishap except for **Staff Sergeant John Allcock's** cat which



S.S.M. Grierson and boy soldier Muhammad Murad

might well produce its third litter for 1967 after consorting with an itinerant Tom cat. The Radio Technicians' Shop and S.Q.M.S.'s Stores have been working all hours accepting test equipment, and organising a new FATSO Store for our 2nd Line repair responsibilities apart, from their additional commitments at the Annual Rifle Meeting and for operations.

Fishing

The camp is six hundred yards from the sea and many members of the Squadron fish for big game fish such as barracuda and shark, although the **Sergeant Steve Cartwright** and **Signalman 'Cuddles' Hobson** syndicate admit that the bait is often bigger than the catch! Ma'Laysh! many cans of beer are consumed in the process. The Squadron Scribe told us that he does NOT like travelling by camel on these trips and the real aim was to produce a female-catching tan for U.K. leave.

Operations

The Arab signallers have been working on Signal detachment duties on the eastern and northern coasts. One detachment was in the Force Dhow which was searching the coastal strips for illegal immigrants. The other detachments have been in the mountains at the times when the local tribesmen were fighting over local boundary disputes.

Soccer

The soccer team has had a good season; the team won the Force Sharjah League and reached the semi-finals of the Force Challenge Cup only to be beaten by the eventual winners.

Promotion

Our sincere congratulations go to **ex-S.S.M. Tim Ash,** who has been commissioned as a Captain i/c Sawt As Saahil—the Voice of the Coast Radio Station. **Tim Ash** gave outstanding service to this Squadron as S.S.M. for several years.

Departures and Arrivals

We said goodbye and thanks to **Corporals Gill, O'Neill** and **Cherrington** during October 1967, who depart for civilian life or the delights of Chester. We welcome **Corporal Mycock,** who has arrived as SDS/Post N.C.O. (No one told him before he came that the letters were NOT badly formed on envelopes, but Arabic script!)

Arabization

The Arabization programme has been completed. The British ranks who remain are only R. Technicians, Cipher Operators, E/Ds and SNCO appointments; some of these appointments become vacant during 1968—any volunteers to wear the Shemagh and to receive lucrative increases of pay? We accept only volunteers of the highest standard as soldiers and tradesmen because the work is demanding and difficult; however, you would lead an adventurous, worthwhile life.

Training

The Arab Recruit and Upgrading Courses continue to flourish. We completed four courses in 1967 in order to raise the number of signallers in the Rifle Squadrons from five to eight. **Arif Sohan Singh** successfully passed his language and technicians course in England and **Jdy Salim Mahmood** is attending these courses now. We have two boy signallers working in the Radio Technicians' Shop who have completed several years in the Force Boys' School; we hope to find at least one potential Arab Officer from the ten boys in the Squadron during the next two years.

28 Comwel Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. c/o G.P.O., Malacca, Malaysia (208)

- **Sergeant Hamilton describes a most enjoyable trip 'Down Under'**

THE last two months of 1967 saw the Squadron out of Terendak Camp, carrying out training of a non-signal nature. Two periods of camp on the west coast, near Pangkor Island gave opportunities for half the Squadron to combine with 28 O.F.P. in jungle training, watermanship and general physical fitness. This was followed by a ten-day 'change of air' in the Cameron Highlands. Brigade exercises proper start in January, and we have a busy year ahead.

At the latter end of the year we were subjected to the annual CIV, Telecommunications Inspection, and all the other inconveniences of UEI. Now that these are over, the M.T.O. has given us back our vehicles and the Foreman allows us to use our radios.

WITH 1 K.S.L.I. TO AUSTRALIA

Recently, 1 K.S.L.I. carried out some training in Australia, and **Sergeant Hamilton** and **Corporal Friend**, of the Squadron, were attached to the Battalion for two months. The following is an expurgated extract from their report on their trip 'down under.'

"The Battalion was to take part in Exercise 'Piping Shrike,' the aim of which was to exercise 3 R.A.R. in preparation for their tour in Vietnam. 1 K.S.L.I. were to act as enemy.

We joined the Battalion prior to their departure on 4th September and moved to Singapore by train, there to embark on LSL *Sir Lancelot*. Visions of the old troop ships were quickly dispelled when we saw our accommodation. The ship was air-conditioned throughout, with cabin accommodation for all.

Leaving Singapore on 5th September, we crossed the Equator at 03.00 hours on 6th September. The voyage took ten days, through the Java Sea, Timor Straits and Coral Sea, taking in Borneo, Bali, Timor, Thursday Island and finally Cape York and the Great Barrier Reef. There was plenty to do on board ship, and the time passed quickly.

Dust 2ft. deep

After docking at Port Alma, Queensland, on 15th September, we were ferried to Shoalwater Bay to the exercise training area. It is about 50 miles square, with terrain very similar to that found in Malaysia, except for the hazard of 'Bull Dust,' which covered the area, in some places 2ft. deep.

While the Battalion prepared the enemy positions, we were detached to Rockhampton with a detachment from 1st (Aust.) Division Signal Regiment. We were soon at work, **Corporal Friend** on the PMG teleprinter circuit, direct to Brisbane, and myself (**Sergeant Hamilton**) working forward on SR C11 FSK and CW.



A multiplicity of cap badges. Officers, W.O.'s and Sergeants of 28 Comwel Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron

Ten wonderful days in Brisbane

At the conclusion of the exercise, in which the Battalion earned high praise, we left Shoalwater Bay for Brisbane on 9th October, where 1st K.S.L.I. were to prepare for a ceremonial march through the city. We were given ten days' leave and saw most of the sights of Brisbane, including the Lone Pine Koala Bear Sanctuary. The people of Brisbane were overwhelming with their hospitality. We visited 129 Signal Squadron 'Jimmy' Club and were entertained by an ex-member of our Squadron, **Sergeant Elford.** All good things have to come to an end, and we finally embarked on *Sir Lancelot* for the return to Malaysia, loaded with kangaroo skins, boomerangs and didjeridoos.

We would like to say thank-you to those who gave us such wonderful hospitality—**S.S.M. Eddie Talton, Corporal Bert Lane, Corporal Bernie Payne, Sergeant Tony Elford, Sergeant Don Watts** and **Sergeant 'Plonky' Croft."**

19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (209) Colchester

- **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Newson, as a new arrival, gives his first impressions.**
- **Sergeant Leech has an exciting time in enemy-held country.**

Communications good but the D11 was temperamental

"HAVING just arrived from Germany, to hear of Brigade Adm. Rear Nets, UEOs, chalk numbers, and front and rear axle weights was all a new experience.

My first exercise was a 3rd Division CPX on Stanford PTA, where I learnt a great deal from my predecessor, **Yeoman Gwynne.** Shortly after arriving we went to Germany for Exercise 'Overdale.'

A line party went over late in September and I followed a few days later, to set up a concentration area and to lay the lines for the Brigade. This we were able to do before the remainder arrived, early in October, by sea and air.

The weather was unkind, and soon the field resembled a quagmire, with everybody extremely uncomfortable and wet. We moved into a village in time for the local dance, so everybody enjoyed themselves before the start of the exercise.

We, being the 'enemy' for this exercise, were looking forward to meeting 'the other side,' and each SDS Rover run was fraught with peril from explosive devices, as each vehicle crew on its return testified.

The communications on the exercise were generally good, but we wish we could have a D11 that wasn't so temperamental on being moved, which is quite often. We learned that the exercise had been won by us, but that an honourable draw had been imposed by the umpires—possibly the other side had the same story.

One of our Battalions is claiming a record on this exercise in managing to get 37 Infantrymen (with full kit) on a short wheelbase Land Rover with trailer. Can anyone beat that?

A TRIP BEHIND ENEMY LINES ON EXERCISE 'OVERDALE'

Foot down, Driver, and off

An account by **Sergeant Leech** who, accompanied by **Driver Martin** and **Corporal Bailey,** of the Postal Unit, went through 'enemy' lines to recover 54 cans of petrol:

"We were to return to an old location to recover 54 cans of petrol. We had no idea that the route would be taking us through 'enemy territory.' Suddenly we ran into about 50 'Paras.' The initial shock was reflected in the white, upturned, open-mouthed, amazed faces. The feeling was mutual. A quick command, 'Foot down, driver,' and off!

That we were in 'enemy territory' became even more apparent when convoys of the opposition, waving and making derogatory signs, passed us going in the opposite direction. They sent three Land Rovers to give chase, but we lost them in the cover of a wood. We climbed a fire tower, only to see foot patrols of platoon strength about 600 yards away, moving in the opposite direction. First thoughts, 'we're safe!'

Then, about 200 yards away, there was a vehicle with another patrol dis-embarking and coming our way. A quick camouflage job on our vehicle and the long wait. They approached the tower (covered by our LMG), and then along a ditch and carried on.

We were panic-stricken

Their vehicle approached, on top an orange marker for

helicopters, inside a Major, driver and Staff Sergeant, but they passed and drove on—our chance to get away and into a guest house for a drink, just as the enemy convoy wheeled by. As we were leaving, the convoy came back and, with a screech of brakes, stopped alongside our vehicle. We were panic-stricken. I got out of the vehicle, no cap comforter on my head, and on approaching, the Captain asked what we were doing. My immediate reply was 'Oh, we are neutral org," and I never blushed. He told me his convoy had been split and then proceded to show his map and asked that if I saw any of his convoy would I direct them to Walsdorf! He then drove away, leaving us all very relieved—we had visions of being stripped to the drawers, Dracular, and stuck in the middle of a field.

The rest of the trip to Walsdorf was incident-free, and we collected the petrol and some parachutes that had been used for re-supply.

Our worst fears confirmed

On the way back, and near home base, two vehicles festooned with SAS passed us going in the opposite direction; they waved us down so we just waved back at them, in the usual manner, and carried on. A glance in our rear view mirror confirmed our worst fears—they were following us. We pulled into the side of the road, I, with a Royal Signals belt and a beret with an R.E. badge, and was prepared for some more bluff. He asked if we had seen any 'Paras' about. I said "Yes, but a long way back." We left them and, on crossing a bridge, were stopped by an umpire. We had driven over a blown-up bridge and were held up for four hours. However, after an hour they relented and let us go.

On our arrival back at base, the Q.M. informed us that they had never expected to see us again—during the exercise, that is!"

Training

We have started the winter training season with all the courses we all require for our qualifications; at least it's a break from the exercise season!

Sports

All the usual winter sports are in progress. We congratulate two of the football side, **Signalmen Anderson** and **Cormack,** who have represented the Corps.

We are taking up Orienteering in the Squadron and have had an inter-Troop competition. There are several who have a new interest in map-reading—having punished themselves by the extra mile. The Brigade Commander, Brigade Major and G3 Int., by sleight of map (and fitness, of course!) have managed to beat many a fit young soldier!

11th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (211) B.F.P.O. 29

- **Busy training period for the Squadron**
- **All set for the Green Scarf Club opening**

THE last three months have been extremely hectic for the Squadron, and made doubly interesting, as many key personnel are 'new boys.' In early July, **Major Peter Davis** arrived to take over, after a long rest in Bangkok, and later in the month **Captain John Higton** came as Communications Captain, straight from a long telecommunications course at the school. We were joined in August by our new Adjutant, **Captain Paddy Hackett,** of the Worcestershire Regiment. Also in July, **W.O.II (F. of S.) Stock** left for the Apprentices' College, Harrogate, and was replaced by **Staff Sergeant Paul.**

After two weeks' field training with the Brigade at Soltau in August, the whole of September, given over to 4th Division's Exercise "Rob Roy," which we umpired, and our own Brigade's two-week exercise in October, the O.C. needed another rest in the Far East, and the Communications Captain wished he was back at Blandford.

Now we are well into the individual training season and things seem to be calmer, at least until the storm of Christmas activities.

Sport

During the athletics season we were successful in all our competitions, winning the Brigade, Division and Morrison Cup Minor Unit trophies. Our runners are now intent on winning the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championships for Minor Units, in which we were runners-up last year.

Our rugby team has unfortunately already been knocked out of the Army Cup by the much stronger team of 26th Field Regiment, R.A.

Disconnected jottings

Lance-Corporal Bradley, who recently completed a course at the Outward Bound Centre in Norway is delighted at the news that he has been posted back there in January as a climbing instructor.

The Green Scarf Club, for all ranks of the H.Q. and Signal Squadron is due to open on 18th November. The Corps Band and Trumpeters will be in attendance, and it is hoped to produce pictures and notes for the next issue.

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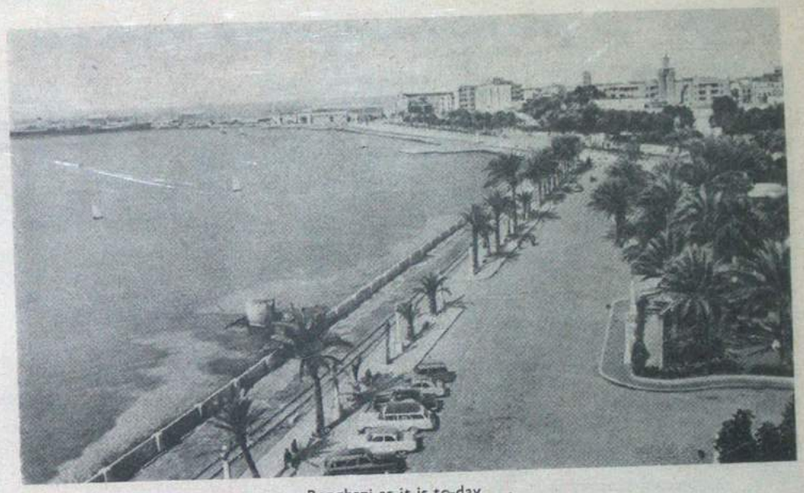
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PLESSEY
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The Last Lap of the Benghazi Handicap

245 Signal Squadron (Cyrenaica) B.F.P.O. 55 Disbands

And Desert Memories come flooding back



Benghazi as it is to-day . . .

THE last British post on the North African Coast—Headquarters, Cyrenaica Area—withdraws on 4th February.

The Battle of El Alamein was fought 25 years ago. For more than two years the battle for the Desert raged along the deserts of Egypt and Libya and became known as the 'Benghazi Handicap."

Today, 245 Squadron looks back over the post-war years of its existence, and to the many titles it has held and roles that it has had to play.

* * *

Many of THE WIRE readers will, no doubt, remember their posting to Libya, and of the countless times that we in Signals have re-enacted the adventures of the desert war campaigns, and travelled the still well-worn tracks of the 'Desert Rats'; come across the relics of the L.R.D.G.; the defensive positions of the Gazala Line; the American wartime Liberator bomber, 'Lady Be Good,' some 600 miles south of Benghazi, and aspects of other wartime features.

Kufra, the name of an oasis known to many a Signalman who is a proud possessor of the Kufra tie. The Kufra run is but one of the many outward bound and adventure training expeditions that this Squadron has supported and provided communications.

* * *

The guard of honour for the Commander, British Forces NEARELF, **Air-Marshal Sir Edward Gordon Jones, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C.,** was one of the last ceremonial occasions to be provided from this Squadron for the area.

On 4th February, 245 Squadron will disband, and the last form of military communications based on an FFR C11/R210 will drive out of D'Aosta Barracks and on to the LST waiting at Benghazi, bound for Malta.

* * *

Our photographs, old and new, will bring back memories to the many Signallers who have served in North Africa.

I should like to end these notes by thanking the Editor of our Magazine for support over the years, and to wish all members of this Squadron, past and present, 'Good luck and good signalling.'



. . . and a photo taken at Benghazi in 1942 during an advance of the 'Desert Rats'



It will be goodbye to all this !

The motorcycling 'Rough Riders' of 229 Squadron — their championships hopes were not quite fulfilled



229 Squadron (Berlin) B.F.P.O. 45

• **Sport is the keynote of the Squadron's month**

Hockey

THE season has got off to a tremendous start, with wins in friendly matches over Berlin Brigade H.Q. and Queen's Own Highlanders. On Wednesday, 25th October, our team beat 62 (Berlin) Squadron R.C.T. to gain a place in the Minor Unit Knockout final. **Signalman Sheehan,** who is in fine form on the right wing is worth a special mention.

Squash

Although unable to field a team of our own, we have been the instigators of the introduction of a combined Stadium Team to enter the Minor Units League. The Squadron has two representative players, **W.O.II (Y. of S.) P. Brown** and **Corporal Clarke.**

Newcomers

A warm welcome is extended to **W.O.II (Y. of S.) P. Brown,** who takes over the Berlin Brigade Comcen from **W.O.II J. Clarke.** Also to **Sergeant Molloy,** who adds strength to the 'Q' Department. We hope their stay with their families will be a happy one.



Presentation of L.S. & G.C. Medal to W.O.II J. Clarke by Lieutenant Colonel A. Holifield, M.C., C.S.O.

Awards

On 14th December the Squadron turned out in strength for the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.II J. Clarke.** The presentation, by **Lieutenant-Colonel Holifield,** was enjoyed by all, including the wives and families, who presence helped to make the occasion more memorable.

Motor-Cycling

For the past two months the motor-cycle team have been busy practising in the Grunewald, a large wooded area in Berlin, for the B.A.O.R. Motor-Cycle Championships. The team of three men, led by **Second-Lieutenant Montgomery-Swan,** including **Corporal Bark** and **Signalman Graham,** left for Munster on 1st November, accompanied by **Lance-Corporal Stretton,** who entered the Individual Event. The team hoped to better last year's placings of fourth in the B.A.O.R. Championships and third in the Army Championships. However, fate intervened on the first day when **Corporal Bark** had to retire with engine trouble. He finished the course later and was finally placed fourth. In the novice class, **Signalman Graham** was placed second, **Lance-Corporal Stretton** 15th, and **Second-Lieutenant Montgomery-Swan** 20th.

The team would like to express their appreciation of the excellent hospitality of 206 H.Q. and Signal Squadron and say thank you to 8th Regiment, R.C.T., for organising the event.

Signalling in Trucial Oman

• **Field Troop, 255 Squadron, enjoy successful exercise in remote area.**

ON the morning of 25th October, the two Land Rovers from Field Troop, 255 Signal Squadron, were loaded aboard H.M.S. *Fearless,* along with a varied assortment of 3-tonners and Land Rovers from the Royal King's Own Border Regiment. This, then, was the start of the 'Novex' Exercise, 1967. The detachment consisted of **Lieutenant Singleton,** as 'Pronto,' **Lance-Corporals Capell** and **McKitterick** and, last, but not least, **Signalman Regan.**

Our job on this exercise was primarily to test our equipment over various distances and terrain, using a C11 and several types of antennas.

By 11.00 hours on the 27th, all the vehicles had been off-loaded from H.M.S. *Fearless,* and were lined up at the departure point in Dubai. Our vehicles had been placed in the advance party, and so we were amongst the first to set off on the 180-mile drive to Bahraimi.

'Through' over 450 miles on an 8ft. whip

We maintained communications with Bahrain QRK 5/5 when ever we stopped, and at one point on the second day, we asked H.M.S. *Fearless* for her QTH. When she came back, approximately 450 miles from our location, we gave ourselves a little pat on the back. We were using an 8ft. Whip antenna.

We were held up at the T.O.S. fort for the best part of the second day, because somebody had forgotten to ask the Sheik's permission for the exercise to take place on his land. However, after a few hours' waiting, the Sheik was finally located in one of his four palaces, and permission was granted. The site for the main camp was approximately 40 miles away from the Trucial Oman Scouts' fort and so, shortly after leaving, we set up the camp and awaited the arrival of the main party.

After they had arrived we were informed that the detachment from 640 Troop was delayed, as their Land Rover had broken down en route. We therefore provided the rear link communications for the Infantry until their own detachment was towed in.

Communications solid

We stayed at that location for just over a week, and were then supposed to drive up to Manama to complete the exercise. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the exercise was cancelled halfway through.

Communications throughout the duration of the exercise were excellent, and on an assortment of antennas, from a dipole to an 8ft. Whip, we managed to communicate with Sharjah and Bahrain at QRK 5/5 for most of the time. On a couple of occasions we found that when interference on the CW link became too great, we could work quite easily on voice.

A Scorpion Hunt

From the Signals point of view the exercise was good, for we not only had the KOB's to contend with, but also numerous dust storms, a plague of flies, and scorpions. In between schedules, when we had little or nothing to do, because we had read all the books we had brought with us, **Lieutenant Singleton** decided to organise a grand 'Cecil' (scorpion) hunt. With the decision came action, and without more ado he grabbed hold of the nearest shovel and set off into the desert. After a couple of hours' digging up the roots of scrub bushes, we had to admit defeat. The 'Cecils' had beaten us once again.

Back to Base

Once the exercise was officially cancelled, we drove back to Sharjah, where we stayed for four days while we awaited the arrival of H.M.A.V. *Arezzo.*

To our delight, *Arezzo* arrived on time, and we quickly loaded the vehicles on board for the return journey. Now all that remained to do was to clean the kit and sort through the traffic and logs.

We all enjoyed the exercise and are looking forward to the next one in that area.

16 Para. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (216) Aldershot

• **The Squadron moves into a busy period.**

In general

THE beginning of September saw the Squadron on several command post exercises, working up for Exercise "Overdale," the major Divisional exercise of the year.

For 16 Parachute Brigade the exercise was to take the form of a quick move from Aldershot to Germany, followed by a swift deployment into battle. Brigade Headquarters moved out late in the evening of Sunday, 8th October. A recce group preceded the Headquarters and first light Monday saw the H.Q. established in a thick wood. With the exception of one battalion, which was strung out forward, the Brigade Headquarters was holding the front line! Monday saw us reinforced and a thoroughly exciting exercise ensued. **Corporal Davies** and **Lance-Corporal Maddison,** for instance, found themselves, on Thursday evening, on a quick reaction parachute assault, having literally doubled out of Brigade Headquarters to the waiting helicopter which was ferrying them to the mounting airfield.



Some Members of 216 Squadron preparing for a parachute descent from the R.A.F.'s new C130 aircraft

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Jakins (Draughtsman), Staff Sergeant P. D. Studd (Chief Clerk), Captain (Q.M.) R. D. Laing (Administrative Officer), Signalman Duffy (Orderly Room Clerk)

On the communications side the exercise was successful, credit for which must be given to 3rd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment and 5 Inf. Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron and last, but not least, credit must go to our **Y.O.S. Kelly** for his considerable efforts on the home front.

Training

Besides a rigorous training programme, the Yeomen is running an upgrading course for Telegraph and Radio Operators, which continues until Christmas.

Patrol training is now taking a new turn with the introduction of the SR A14. Patrols go out locally or up to 400 miles and call control at regular intervals. They receive all instructions in code in this manner. It had been hoped to run many more of these exercises further afield but unfortunately training areas have been restricted by the foot and mouth epidemic.

SPORT—MORE TROPHIES IN THE CUPBOARD

As usual, the Squadron has been fully engaged in a number of sporting events and the number of trophies in the cupboard have been increasing lately.

Ismailia Sports Competition. This is a competition entered by all minor units of 16 Parachute Brigade and covers a large number of sports. This year it was won by this Squadron, and with the results of many of the winter sports just in, we are well in line for winning again next year.

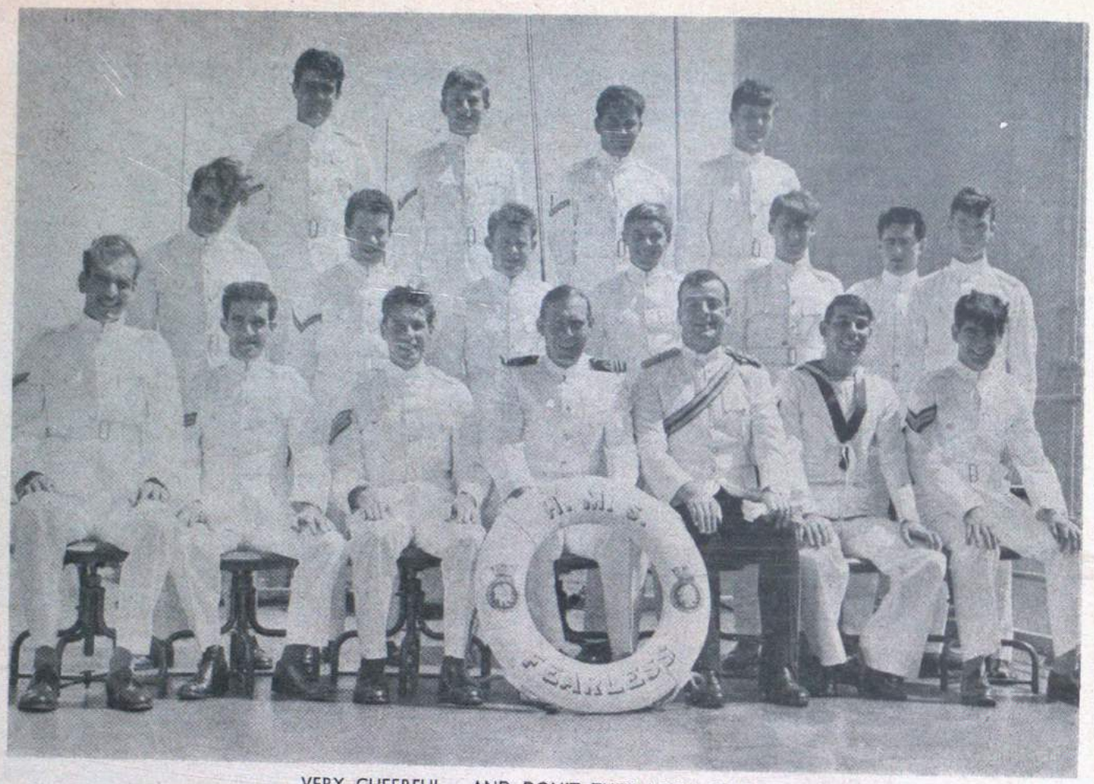
16th Parachute Brigade Cross-Country Competition. The Squadron team, led by **Sergeant Cowell,** convincingly won the minor units competition; it is hoped this year to win the Army Competition, having been runners-up last year. The team also included **Sergeant Houston, Corporals McGovern** and **Cheney, Lance-Corporals Baikie** and **Maddison** and **Signalmen O'Rourke** and **Moss.**

Water Polo. The Squadron was the only minor unit to enter the Aldershot District Competition for the Army Cup and were Southern Command runners-up to 2 Para. The team included **W.O.II Green, Staff Sergeant Wells, Corporals MacDonald, Newman, Frost, Davis, Leathers** (R.E.M.E.) and **Mills, Lance-Corporal Burrow** and **Signalman Ferguson.**

The late Corporal A. N. Bengough

Corporal A. N. Bengough had been a member of the Squadron for some years, and it was a great shock when he was suddenly taken ill; after a short illness he died on 8th September.

He was buried, with full military honours, in Aldershot Cemetery on 13th September.



VERY CHEERFUL — AND DON'T THEY LOOK SMART!

Members of 621 Signal Troop, H.M.S. Fearless, look in the best of spirits as they pose with the ships' Signal Officer and a naval R.O.2 (T) *Left to Right back row:* Lance-Corporals Ian Leitch, "Chip" Standley, "Smudge" Smith, Signalman Neil Irving. *Centre row:* Signalman "Dougie" Bristow, Lance-Corporal Brian Bentley, Signalmen Charlie Mair, John Haytree, "Andy" Cooke, Gordon Leitch, Ian Agrell. *Front row:* Corporal Bert Shaw, Corporal Angus Macleod, Sergeant Peter Hill, Lieutenant Commander Barry Todd (Ships' Signal Officer) Captain Mike Vann (O.C.) R.O.2(T), and Honorary Lance-Corporal "Elsie" Tanner, Corporal Brian Mellor

621 Troop, H.M.S. Fearless B.F.P.O. Ships

WHEN addressing the first plenary session in the Middle East Command War Room, after the arrival in Aden of the planning team of the Flag Officer, Second-in-Command, Far East Fleet, General Tower told the following story to demonstrate the feeling amongst the soldiers at the time.

A Troop Commander of the Q.O.H. was explaining to his troopers that, now Aden had been declared an active service area, such decorations as the M.M., D.S.M., and even the V.C. might be won. The fast comment was "The only V.C. I want sir, is the VC-10 out of here."

Somehow sorry not to see it out

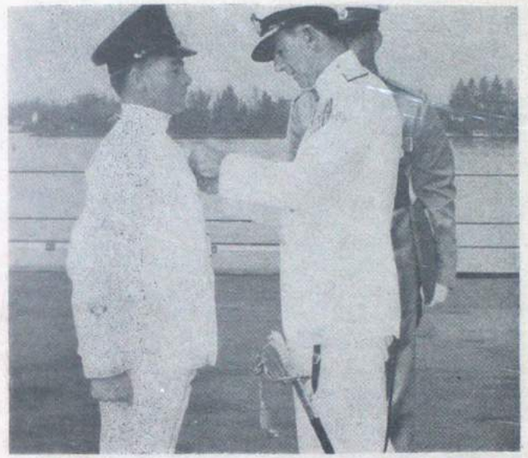
Everybody was anxious to get out, but somehow we felt slightly cheated at having to leave just ten days before the end. We had been the first major warship of the Naval Task Force to arrive off Aden and we had become deeply involved in the progress of the operation. Despite the fact that our affection for the place was no greater than that of anyone, we had made good friends with our opposite numbers in the Navy, Army and R.A.F. ashore. For a period of nine weeks we had been signalling for real, and the last three weeks in Aden made us lengthen our stride for the first time this commission. It was a worthwhile experience, and we rather envied the right of our opposite numbers in *Intrepid*, who were to see the thing through. We hope that they enjoyed it. That may seem to be an odd sentiment, but if you read the Aden articles by the 15th Regiment and those which appeared in the October and November issues of 'Soldier' you will understand.

We meet up with that ship

We were delighted to meet *Intrepid* some four days before leaving Aden. Despite the slightly acid tone of our last notes, we are great friends! The only thing that upset us was that they produced such very good reasons for taking over all our acquisitions. Two T 100s and great quantities of our unmentionables did they persuade us to give up. But it makes the musters easier, and we still have the Land Rover of the O.C. Aden Rearguard Signal Squadron, a magnificent vehicle which even has bits of spare road attached in case one runs out! We wish **Captain Maynard** and 661 all the best. If they have as successful a commission as us they will have no cause for complaint. When we were last on board, **Lance-Corporal Weston** seemed to be in charge of a circuit which was being operated by the Assistant Signal Officer ("no, no, sir, not like that") so all would seem to be well.

They come—they go

During our trips to Bahrain we were very well looked after by 255 Squadron and by 650 Troop. We got on so well with the latter that they gave us a Lance-Corporal as a memento



HE WILL BE WELL REMEMBERED IN "FEARLESS"

W.O.II (Yeoman of Signals) Dick Cassling receiving his L.S. and G.C. medal from Rear Admiral E. B. Ashmore during Ships Inspection

(**Lance-Corporal Stanley**). Actually he is due for R.H.E. and is going on the same upgrading course as **Andy Cooke** and **John Haytree,** so the three of them are spending the return passage bashing teleprinters and morse keys. We have yet to devise an error correction factor for a five degree roll during a teleprinter test! Anyway, we welcome J.J., and are most grateful for his efforts whilst we were in Aden. We have also acquired four erstwhile members of the Aden Rearguard Signal Squadron—**Corporal Mullin** (he was part of a package deal with the Land Rover), **Sigalmen Emerson, Fenwick** and **Davis.** The latter two we have brainwashed so that they have volunteered to join the Troop for the next commission, despite the present slightly unsteady motion of the ship as we approach Cape Town. We welcome them all as well.

To **Corporal Taff Davies,** of Gurkha Signals, who has been with us since September, we bid farewell. Despite the fact that he would not comb his hair (but I've just come off the upper deck, man!) he did sterling work for us in the crypto office for two and-a-half months. He took his pier-head jump with great equanimity and settled down very readily. We wish him all the best in *Intrepid*—they acquired him as well—and hope that he may reach Malaya again as soon as he wishes to.

Our next WIRE notes will be the last of this commission. **Captain Walker,** the future O.C. is now on board and has the nucleus of his Troop in mind already. Look out England. We shall be home for Christmas.

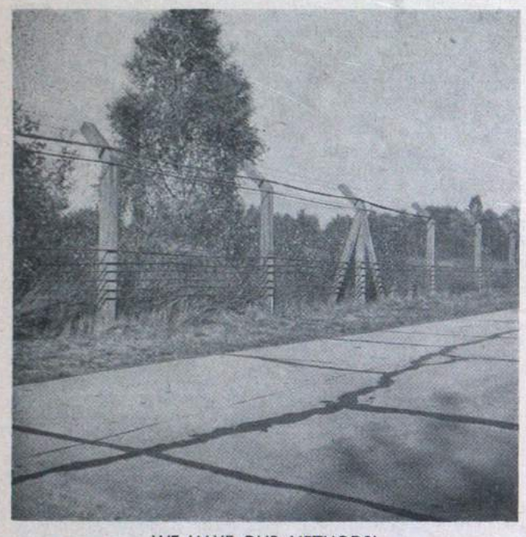
We have just heard with pleasure that 621 Troop have had the distinction to be selected for the official guard of honour when "Fearless" arrives to 'pay-off' at the end of her current commission.—Editor.

This is the Life!



Taking time off from signalling Corps soldiers in B.A.O.R. get out and enjoy a variety of interesting activities. Signalman Barratt, Craftsman Mogford and Signalman McDonald of 7th Regiment aboard a 30 metre yacht in Aeroskobing harbour, Denmark. During a five-day Baltic cruise. Lance-Corporal Robert Sedgebeer skippered one of the three yachts on this outing.

638 Signal Troop (Air Formation) R.A.F. Tangmere



WE HAVE OUR METHODS!
One way of laying trunk route 10 pair. (Unfortunately a photo of a 638 style pole crossing containing seven 10 pairs and 6 quads could not be published—*Editor*)

- **Bigger than ever line laying tasks in Germany.**

" Overdale " success

BACK again to THE WIRE and back again off yet another major exercise. This time " Overdale " in Germany. For the uninitiated we are the U.K. Air Formators working exclusively for 38 Group of Air Support Command. In Germany, together with " F " Troop of 3rd Regiment, we provided the line communications for the JFHQ, the AMA/Airhead, an advanced Tactical (SR) base and an FGA base. All these were located at R.A.F. Geilenkirchen. With all this effort on one station (which incidentally continued to perform its operational function) you can imagine that real estate was at a premium and wide dispersal the order of the day. To say the least the line effort was bigger than normal and to give you some idea we laid and maintained approximately 160 speech and 80 keying circuits employing over 600 miles of cable, two line systems controls, four 40/160 telephone exchanges and a number of odd bits and pieces. Throughout the six-week period we were there we had only 25 genuine line faults and with the exception of two, all were cured in minutes by utilizing built-in re-route facilities. Enough of technicalities, what about the cuisine! J.F.H.Q. side ate well on permanent rations in permanent accommodation, but at the sharp end it was different. Compo was the order of the day, supplemented by an unknown source of tinned stuffs, not to mention the rice, mushrooms and onions. **Chef Block** excelled himself and in fact is now infamous for his pom rice and raw onions.

Visits

38 Group is a unit that is consistently in the public eye and we as part of them often take part in demonstrations for all kinds of visitors. Earlier this year, however, we had a visitor exclusively to ourselves—the C.S.O., **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray.** We know he often visits on exercise but this was a home base visit and we were glad to show him how we live and what we do when not tactically deployed.



NOW THAT'S A GOOD IDEA
Captain Strange and Sergeant King sell Brigadier Gray the advantages of a 10 pair "tee off" box. Squadron Leader Fortune keeps an eye on the brown jobs and their strange ideas

Current developments

We are not without ideas down here at Tangmere and recently developed the capability of laying 6 × 10 pair cables simultaneously from a ¼-ton Land Rover base. What is more we have on the stocks at the moment an idea that may do away with pole crossings altogether. However, it's still in the development stage and yet unproven, so this is just a guarded leak.

Sports

Again, as usual, out of all proportion to numbers, we have our sports stars. **Ron Block,** a Corps rugby player; **Deighan** and **Lanaway** have represented the Corps at soccer this season. **James Allen,** cross-country for 38 Group, and a host of others representing the station at a variety of sports. Not bad from forty is it?

Lost and Found

We've lost or are about to lose some of the old hands, but of course we've gained some new. Farewell to **Sergeant Humphreys, Corporal Woolley, Cosgrave, Elgood** and **Simms.** Welcome to **Sergeant Evans, Corporal Hehir, Corporal Morris, Corporal Robson, Buchan, Cawtheray, Fraser, Merritt** and **Rankin.** May you all have success in your new environments.

Obituary

R.S.M. L. A. WHITTINGHAM, M.B.E.

Mr. Whittingham, who died on 16th December, joined the Army in 1908. He served the Corps from 1920 until 1945. He was a Life Member of the Association and a member of London Branch.

He was a man who was completely devoted to the Corps. Since his retirement in 1945 he attended every opening of the Field of Remembrance and Cenotaph Parade. His absence this year was very much missed.

MAJOR (T.O.T.) J. U. WOLFENDEN, ROYAL SIGNALS

Colonel E. J. Winn writes:

The news of the death of **John Wolfenden,** at his home in Blackheath on 2nd December at the early age of 49, came as a deep shock to his many friends in the Corps.

John was commissioned as a T.O.T. in 1953 and subsequently served the Corps with dedicated loyalty in Germany, Malaya, Cyprus and the U.K. in a variety of units ranging from Gurkha Signals to the then H.Q. COMCAN. In all of these appointments his professional ability, his modesty and his unfailing good nature deservedly earned him high praise and many friends.

His last appointment was in the integrated Headquarters of the Defence Communication Network where he had been working in normal good health until his sudden collapse. He was much liked and respected by all members of this joint-Service staff and he will be much missed by them and by all who have had the pleasure of knowing him over the years.

To **Phyllis,** his widow, goes our deepest sympathy in her sad loss.

CORPORAL T. BRAMHALD, B.E.M., ROYAL SIGNALS, T.A.

Many former T.A. signallers will be sorry to hear of the death, following an accident, of **Corporal Bramhald,** known as 'Junior.'

After he was wounded at the crossing of the River Po, in Italy, he transferred into the Corps and became a driver in CAFSO's Branch. On being demobilised, he joined 11th A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., at Brompton Road, London, in 1947, and served with that Regiment and its successors until he retired in 1960.

Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D., former C.S.O./T.A., 44th (H.C.) Division/District, writes:

" **Corporal Bramhald,** though never a parade-type soldier, was devoted to the Corps and his Regiment, for whom he worked unceasingly. We will always remember 'Junior,' who acted as my batman for a number of years, for his willingness and cheerfulness at all times, and for his friendship, not only to me, but also to my family. He was a true volunteer and a real friend."

Colonel Seys Phillips has sent a donation to the Benevolent Fund in 'Junior's' memory, and hopes that others who knew him will do likewise.

SERGEANT 'JIMMY' EMBLEM, 1919-1948

As we go to press the sad news has come in of the death of a well known Corps personality—**Sergeant 'Jimmy' Emblem.**

He served 33 years in all, finally retiring from Aldershot district in 1948.

'Jimmy' Emblem will be well known to the older generation as an outstanding Corps boxer during the vintage period of Corps boxing in the 1920's and he contributed greatly in putting the Corps in the forefront of Army boxing from 1922-1932.

Normally a quiet and unassuming personality, on entering the ring he seemed to explode. His record includes such success as:

Army Light Heavy runner-up 1923, 1924;
Army Light Heavy champion 1925;
Eastern Command Middleweight champion 1921, 1923;
Army Colours as Light Heavyweight 1921 to 1926 continuously;
Corps Champion either as Middle, Light Heavy or Heavyweight for eight years.

His fight, which he lost on points, against **P.O. Spiller** at Chatham in 1926 was reckoned one of the hardest bouts ever fought on behalf of the Corps. **Jimmy** returned to Aldershot concussed and had to attend the Cambridge Hospital for several days.

He joined the Barrack Services on leaving the Colours. He was a stalwart member of the Aldershot Branch of the Association for many years where he will be very much missed.

Our deep sympathy goes to his wife at 28, Denmark Square, Aldershot.

SERGEANT S. J. GLOVER

It is with regret that we report the passing of **Sergeant Sydney John Glover,** Royal New Zealand Signals, on 8th December, at his home in New Plymouth, New Zealand.

Sergeant Glover joined Royal Signals in 1933 and served in the Middle East, India, East Africa, Palestine, North-West Europe and Jordan until his retirement in 1954 with the rank of W.O.II. During the Second World War he also served with the 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions.

W.O.II Glover came to New Zealand in 1954 and joined Royal New Zealand Signals in 1957 and served as RNZ Signals Cadre N.C.O. at H.Q. Area 8, New Plymouth, until his retirement in 1962 with the rank of Sergeant.

Sergeant Glover is survived by his widow, **Mrs. Helen Glover,** and his two sons, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

CORPS RUGBY NOVEMBER TOUR

The President writes:

Following our successes last year we had hopes of great things. Unfortunately injuries and postings robbed us of some of our more experienced players and seemingly a lack of interest in some quarters did not help in filling the gaps. In the end we defeated the Gunners and Sappers convincingly and lost to a good R.E.M.E. side.

Despite appalling weather we held trials on 4th and 5th November at Blandford when it became apparent that though we had the makings of a good side we lacked depth in our reserves.

Results of the tour:

v. R.A., won 21 points to 3; v. Sappers, won 13 pts. to 3; v. R.E.M.E., lost 10 pts. to 3.

Corps side from: **Lance-Corporal Thompson** (30th Regiment); **Captain Garton** (1st Regiment), **Corporal Drika** (7th Regiment), **Corporal Erasito** (7th Regiment) and **Corporal Thomas** (3rd Regiment); **Captain Shiner** (19 Brigade and Signal Squadron) and **Sergeant Armstrong** (4th Regiment); **Staff Sergeant Block** (638 Troop), **Corporal Tunney** (School of Signals), **Captain Thompson** (School of Signals), **Corporal Cairns** (7th Regiment) and **Corporal Lee** (attached 1 Foresters); **Signalman Stephens** (3rd Regiment), **Corporal Zoing** (7th Regiment) and **Sergeant Ghaut** (School of Signals).

And now some thank yous. Firstly, to 30th Regiment for providing so cheerfully all the administrative backing and a great deal of vocal support. Secondly, to all the Units who provided players for the trials, and particularly to those players who were not selected but whose time will undoubtedly come. Thirdly, to the referees who took firm control of all matches and last, and by no means least, to **Captain Jack Jenkins** for coming back from Germany to do the hundred and one odd jobs that fall to the lot of a rugger secretary.

And now a reminder. The next trials will be on 9th/10th March (assemble 8th March) at Blandford. On 11th March we play R.A.F. Signals Command at Blandford and then move to Camberley for our final match v. The Royal Military Academy on 13th March. Units will receive further particulars early in January.

Association Notes

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. A. Ablett, 67, King Edward Road, Northampton.

" Royal Signals Association Leaps Back to Life!"

THE above was a banner headline in the local press which signified the re-birth of the Northampton Branch after being dormant for some 10 years.

Quick off the mark the Branch under the guidance of their President, **Lieutenant-Colonel S. Brock, M.B.E.,** and Chairman, **Mr. R. Cowling,** held a very successful inaugural dinner and dance at the Cock Hotel on Wednesday, 13th December. Guests of honour were **Lieutenant-Colonel E. M. Goodale, D.S.O.,** of the Northamptonshire Regiment, and **Mr. H. Peach,** President of the Northampton Branch of the British Legion.

The following message was sent from Association Headquarters to mark the occasion:

"On the occasion of the inaugural Dinner of the Northampton Branch of the Royal Signals Association, the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, **Brigadier W. G. Tucker,** has asked me to convey to you and all members his appreciation of your initiative in re-establishing a Branch in Northampton.

"He sends his best wishes for all future Branch activities and hopes that the Branch will have a long and successful life in front of it. As General Secretary I am, of course, delighted to see the Branch come to life again and heartily join **Brigadier Tucker** in his good wishes. I am indeed sorry that I am unable to be present on this auspicious occasion, but hope I may be able to visit the Branch at some future date. With best wishes, **P. M. P. Hobson,** General Secretary."

Credit for much painstaking groundwork in getting the Branch under way again must go to **Mr. Jack Ablett,** the Branch's Honorary Secretary—any ex-Corps men residing in the Northampton area should get in touch with him at once to help to swell the numbers of this up and coming Branch.

DORSET BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. S. H. Henwood, 'Langley,' Nursery Road, Blandford Forum.

A NEW branch of the Association has now been firmly established in the Blandford-Dorchester area. The President is **Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.,** and the Chairman is **Mr. R. Simpson,** of 44, Coburg Road, Dorchester.

Mr. Simpson followed by **Mr. Henwood,** both unknown to each other, wrote to Association H.Q. suggesting that a new Branch be formed in Dorset. The enthusiasm of these two gentlemen and the active support of **General Richard Moberly** has resulted in the formation of a Branch that should have a promising future, especially so as with the advent of the School of Signals to Blandford Camp, the serving Corps is now prominent in Dorset life.

An inaugural general meeting was held on the 29th November by kind permission of **R.S.M. Harrison** in the School of Signals Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at which the General Secretary of the Association, **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson,** was able to outline present activities of the Association and to answer questions.

Any ex-Corps men resident in Dorset should get in touch with **Mr. S. H. Henwood** (address at the top) as this is a branch that should go from strength to strength.

COVENTRY BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. S. Roberts, 88, Belgrave Road, Coventry.

The re-formed branch has completed a fairly successful first year, culminating with the A.G.M. on 9th November.

The meeting was very well attended and some lively discussions took place. We were particularly pleased to welcome **Harry Powers,** who had travelled several miles to meet old friends; also **W.O.II Ron Whipp,** from 8th Regiment, who had served some years in Coventry as a T.A. P.S.I.

During the year the committee tried to lay on as varied a programme as possible to judge for members' tastes, and this has resulted in the information needed to plan for the coming year.

A particularly pleasing event was the attendance of branch members at the presentation of the B.E.M. to **Corporal A. J. Oldham** by **Major-General P. B. Gillet, C.B.E., O.B.E.,** G.O.C. Western Command.

Mr. Oldham, now a civilian, is a Life Member of the Association. A quarter guard was mounted by 89 (Warwick) Signal Squadron, T.A. V.R.

The President, **Brigadier the Rev. C. Nettleship,** in his closing address, said that he was pleased with the progress so far, and thanked all for their support; the Brigadier also stressed the importance of welfare work.

The branch welcomed **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Glover, D.F.C., T.D.,** as Vice-President; he is well-known to many of our members and we are grateful for his support.

Meetings throughout 1968 will be held on every third Thursday of the month at the Barras Heath Hotel, Stoke Heath, Coventry, and any member who happens to be in the area will be cordially welcomed.



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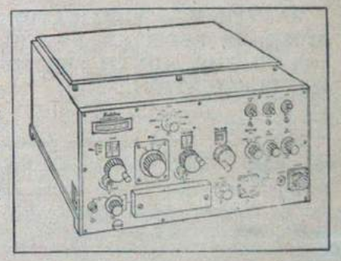
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

All correspondence and matter for publication in THE WIRE, *should be addressed to* THE WIRE, **Royal Signals Association,** *Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. Tel. Nos. SLOane 4129 and SLOane 3477, Ext. 143.*

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FEBRUARY/MARCH • 1968

Vol. 22 *(New Series)* **No. 2**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture this month is sponsored by the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, and typifies the alert and soldierly young men who enter the Corps from this modern and well-equipped establishment. From left to right we see Apprentice Tradesmen (as they were then) Curry, Lamb, Byrne, Guy, Hickmott and Brown.

They have now left Harrogate and are serving respectively in Malta, Germany, Bahrein, Bulford, Hong Kong and Blandford.

Corps soldiers certainly get round the world—anyway at the time of writing!

Your Unit Notes don't have to be dull— or a plain man's guide to "Wire" contributions

WITH the advent of a new-look WIRE, it would seem appropriate to review again what we look for—and hope for—in the contributions which our many correspondents so kindly send us every month.

Theirs is an unenviable task, and if we can help in a small way those who write for us, we would be happy.

First, let it be clear that the standard of THE WIRE is almost entirely in the hands of our correspondents. We can only touch-up and improve the general presentation of articles and notes. The basic subject matter is out of our control, and if it is dull, THE WIRE becomes dull. Many of our correspondents make valiant efforts to be original and lively, and in a number of cases succeed. But this does not always apply. Articles of general interest on adventures, expeditions, sport, and such-like, stand up on their own merits, if reasonably written, especially if supported by some really good photographs. Unit notes are the stumbling blocks, and it is to them that we refer in what follows:

Theme.—Try and avoid the stereotyped factual rather lifeless reporting of various military, social and sporting activities. Instead, think what the highlights have been and concentrate on them, with particular reference to the human angle, e.g., not that a senior officer carried out an inspection on a certain date, but rather what human, interesting or amusing incidents occurred during that inspection—the R.S.M. should know!

Often it will pay to write up some particular Troop or Squadron or activity, rather than to survey units events as a whole. Indeed this approach can probably be adapted even to the extent of 'writing-up' one or two individuals who merit the limelight because they have done something out of the ordinary, or are outstanding sportsmen, or are just 'unit characters.' In the case of overseas units, local conditions, customs and such-like, can be made interesting reading as an occasional variation. Small detachments in out-of-the-way places, or doing unusual jobs, lend themselves particularly well to WIRE presentation, and the Corps is lucky in having a number of these—let's hear about them.

Please do not write at length on:
The weather.
The writer's reactions on being asked to write WIRE notes.
Christmas festivities, which will not be read until February or March.
Local funny happenings that are incomprehensible to outside readers.

Presentation.—This can do a surprising amount to improve an article. A dull article almost comes to life with good presentation, whereas a good article can be spoilt to a considerable degree without any effort at presentation.

Photographs are essential to attractive presentation, but they MUST BE REALLY GOOD. They make any article 'live.' The box 'Brownie' approach, alas, is just not good enough. Every unit is bound to have one or two camera enthusiasts, and they should be given a free hand. P.R., also, will often help. Large, clear, glossy prints, with sharp definition are the Editor's joy.

Human beings, and what they are doing, provide the greatest interest and they should be snapped at the closest possible range, so that all can be seen clearly. The happiest results can often be obtained when individuals

(Continued on facing page)

are unaware that they are being photographed. An imaginative, roving cameraman can do wonders for WIRE notes—why not appoint one?

Good photographs deserve good captions, and these can be made eye-catching and often amusing.

Side-headings help to break up the monotony of a long column of newsprint, and also catch the eye. Try and be original, though, so as to 'capture' the reader. 'Sport,' 'Training,' 'Officers' Mess' do not make very exciting side-headings.

Names should be used as much as possible—not appointments. Relatives and friends are delighted to read about those they know in THE WIRE. Names inject meaning and life into any account.

Capital letters are the Editor's worst enemy when correcting proofs. The Deity and Royalty merit special treatment in this respect, but the excessive use of initial capital letters in conjunction with the most prosaic of objects is astonishing.

We do not claim that the above sets out any very original or startling thought, nevertheless, we do believe that quite a number of our contributions could be considerably improved by attention to what has been said.

Let 1968 be the year of more readable unit notes—and don't forget those photographs—and what about a unit roving cameraman!

Special Mention

Lance-Corporal Mohd Ghani and Signalman Pua Phoo Chong of 19th Regiment

for their success at the SEAP Games, held at Bangkok. **Lance-Corporal Ghani,** representing the Republic of Singapore, as well as the Regiment, won a silver medal for high diving, and **Signalman Chong,** representing Malaysia, came fifth in the 100 metres freestyle swimming event, which was indeed a creditable performance, especially as he was not hundred per cent fit and was swimming much below his best.



Lance Corporal Mohd Ghani a silver medallist at the SEAP Games standing just below a gold medallist winner



Signalman Pua Phoo Chong, fifth in 100 metres freestyle, SEAP Games, Bangkok

From our "In" Tray

ROYAL SIGNALS AT NIJMEGEN



Sir,

Reading through my last issue of THE WIRE I saw at least two photographs of Royal Signals teams at Nijmegen. I have since found the accompanying photograph taken last year at the final march in.

This is a team from the Junior Leaders Regiment marching in *after* completing the 100 miles and then changing into No. 2 Dress for the final 5 km march in.

As you can see the youngsters did great credit to the Corps and as this was the final year they were represented I wonder if you could publish this photograph?

All personnel on the photograph completed the Four-Day Marches. Permanent Staff represented were: **Major E. W. Hunt,** Royal Signals; **Lieutenant C. Byrom,** Royal Signals; **C.S.M.I. Carpenter,** A.P.T.C.; **Corporal Paxton.**

There were 34 Junior Leaders who took part.

It is hoped to take a team of ex Junior Leaders and Apprentices from Harrogate this year.

Yours, etc.,

E. W. Hunt, *Major.*

Officer Commanding,
Penney Squadron,
Army Apprentices' College,
Harrogate.

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WE APOLOGISE!

This edition of THE WIRE is much smaller than usual—in fact the thinnest we have produced for some years. **THE REASON**—lack of copy and copy arriving too late. **THE SOLUTION**—we can now take plenty of copy, so let your pens flow freely and **PLEASE** send your copy in by the 12th of the month, which is our deadline.

Down memory lane . . .

MARESFIELD GHOSTS

Major W. C. Savage, of 12, Mayfield Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, writes to us in reminiscent mood, as follows :

"It was whilst I was officiating as the Chairman of the East Africa Branch of the Royal Signals Association that I met him. He gave his name as **Captain Tommy Dodd** (late D.L.I.) and claimed he was the first Adjutant of the S.T.C. at Maresfield. He was a most amiable fellow and joined in the fun of swapping yarns over pints of Tusker beer. He certainly proved himself when he related the following story. I had heard it many years before, but could not remember where, or from whom."

"It appears that a certain much-liked officer had gone away to be married and had advised the Commandant, S.T.C., by wire that he was arriving at Uckfield station with his newly-wed wife at a certain time early one evening after his well-spent honeymoon."

"When the wire arrived, everyone was in cheerful mood (possibly having won a football match that afternoon) and someone suggested turning out in style to meet the newly-married couple."

"Now when Maresfield Park had first been taken over (the owner, apparently, having been interned) and turned into a camp, there was a gorgeously appointed family carriage complete with crest on each door, left behind in the coach house. Everyone knew of its existence and, of course, at that time we had a most jovial Riding Master upon whom we could call. Suffice to say that six spanking blacks were harnessed to the coach, with a young officer to each pair and four or five other young officers as outriders. All proceeded in state down to Uckfield station (note: there was not the traffic then as there is now)."

"On the arrival of the couple they were ceremoniously taken to their conveyance and the whole cavalcade began a majestic return to Maresfield Park. This journey being uphill, it wasn't long before the horses were increasing their pace from a trot to an easy canter, then to nearly a gallop, and rumour has it they took the archway entrance to Maresfield Park without slackening. And so they progressed up to the mess door in royal style. I wonder how many there are today who can confirm this episode—so typical of the more light-hearted approach to soldiering current in those days."

Thank You!

Since early November, 1967, gifts of clothing, toys and books, etc., and Christmas donations of money, have been gratefully received from the following:

Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Ient
Brigadier F. J. Allen, C.B.E.
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Lieutenant-Colonel G. Proudman, Major P. S. Reader, Captain (Q.M.) J. J. Gerrard, Lieutenant M. R. Edge, Lieutenant G. K. Rothwell and W.O.II D. E. P. Cox.



THE CORPS PRESENTS A ROSE BOWL TO THE W.R.A.C.
Left to right: Colonel Humphery, (Commandant W.R.A.C. College), Brigadier The Hon. Anderson (Director W.R.A.C.) and Major-General Anderson (S.O.-in-C.)



WELCOME TO THE U.K.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Sheaves, C.M., U.S. Exchange officer at the School of Signals, poses with Mrs. Sheaves. Recently awarded the U.S. Army Commendation Medal, Colonel Sheaves can be seen holding the official authorization. All will wish them a happy stay with the Royal Corps

BRIGADIER A. J. WOODROW, M.B.E.

All who know him will be pleased to hear that **Brigadier A. J. Woodrow,** at present commanding the Training Brigade, will be taking up the appointment of Director of Public Relations (Army) at the Ministry of Defence in May, 1968. Association members will be particularly grateful to him for all that he has done to ensure the smooth running of the successful Reunion Weekends held at Catterick during the last three years.

". . . the old people provided an impromptu Guard of Honour on the stairs and clapped us as we left . . .

Corps Band Tours B.A.O.R.

Anglo-German Concerts a marked success

Presentation by Mayor of Detmold

We set off

On the morning of 13th November the Corps Band left Gatwick Airport for Germany on the ninth post-war B.A.O.R. tour.

The last visit to Germany was in 1960 when the Band toured Corps units during a visit to B.A.O.R. by our late Colonel-in-Chief, **H.R.H. The Princess Royal.** Only a small percentage of the 1960 Band are still serving, so for the majority this was the first opportunity to see the Corps in B.A.O.R. and to see Germany at the same time! It remains a mystery that with such a large percentage of Royal Signals in B.A.O.R. we have had to wait seven years between tours. However, with 4,000 lb. of baggage, a Band of fifty left Catterick Camp looking forward very much to being able to show themselves and also to make up for the enforced wait.

How do you get a double bass into a Britannia?

An overseas tour by the Band is an experience not to be missed, if only to be present when the various administrative problems unfold themselves. The first came as the baggage was being loaded into the plane at Gatwick. It soon became obvious that the designer of the British United Britannia airliner had not allowed a large enough door to take the tympani and string bass in their crates. This resulted in arriving at Gutersloh with our baggage plus a pile of wood denoting dismantled instrument crates!

We were met at the airport by **Captain Ribchester** who informed us that he had appointed himself 'Band Manager' during our stay with his unit, the 22nd Regiment. He had brought two 'buses and three 3-tonners to transport us and it wasn't very long before we were on the road to Lippstadt.

Special version of National Anthem

Perhaps some of the most successful and rewarding experiences of the tour were the series of Anglo-German Concerts. 22nd Regiment arranged the first of these and it was held in Lippstadt in a concert hall in the centre of the town. These concerts opened with the national anthems of both countries. For our own we used the version as performed at Westminster Abbey for the Coronation of the Queen. This was arranged by **Dr. Gordon Jacob** for Fanfare Trumpeters and Band. The Director of Music arranged the German National Anthem also for Fanfare Trumpeters and Band. The arrangements of these two anthems made an impressive start for our concerts and was favourably commented upon by many people throughout the tour.

The children write

Other engagements with the Regiment consisted of two Regimental concerts. At one of these, quite a large number of children from the B.F.E.S. School were in the audience and they really stole the show when **Captain Pike** asked for volunteers to help with the percussion section of the Band. The following day the Director of Music had several nice letters from the children thanking him for the concert. Our final night with the Regiment was taken up with an Officers' Mess Ladies' Night and Ball. Next morning, the 18th November, found us en-route to Herford for our visit to 7th Regiment.

Hallelujah Chorus nearly eclipsed

Our first impression of the 7th Regiment was the enormous size of the unit and because of this it was decided that the Regiment should attend the concerts in two halves. Unfortunately, however, we arrived at the time of a "Bruin" exercise and the concerts were not well attended. The Dance Band played at a successful Sergeants' Mess Ball and the full band also played at an excellent Ladies' Night and Ball in the Officers' Mess. During our stay with The Seventh, the fanfare team went to Minden to play at the opening of 11 Infantry Brigade Junior Ranks' Club. The full band also went to Bunde on 23rd November to play Retreat under floodlights during the C.C.R. Signals "Bruin" study period. This went off well, although there was a brief moment of anxiety when the spotlight moved off the Director of Music whilst he was conducting the Hallelujah Chorus. Included in this programme was the Bruin March, composed by **Captain Pike** and dedicated to Royal Signals 1 (BR) Corps. Following the Retreat, the dance band played at the 2nd Regiment's Officers' Mess whilst the remainder of the Band were entertained in the various Messes before eventually returning to the 7th Regiment.

Dance Band let themselves go

It was now becoming obvious that the Dance Band section would not suffer through lack of work! They were much appreciated wherever they performed and this was a source of inspiration to them. One of their most memorable engagements was at the house of **Brigadier Page.** Apparently, the three-piece band excelled themselves and it is understood that one of them tasted champagne for the first time!

Before we finally left the 7th Regiment the C.O. very kindly arranged a drink party for the Band. This, and the fact that he took the opportunity to speak to each man, was much appreciated.

On 27th November, we moved by rail to Krefeld to visit 16th Regiment. A very successful junior ranks' dance was held in the evening and the following morning the dance band went to St. Tonis and played in the dining hall during lunch for the junior ranks of 28th Regiment. The concert band travelled to Rheindahlen on 28th November and played in the Officers' Club at the C.S.O.'s Conference Cocktail Party. This was attended by the S.O.-in-C. and more senior officers of the Corps than we have seen gathered in one room for a long time! The following day we gave a lunch-time concert for 16th Regiment and in the evening the dance band played at Rheindahlen for the Royal Signals Ball which was held in the Officers' Club.

Entertained as guests of the town

During the period 30th November-1st December we visited 21st Regiment at Laarbruch. On the evening of our arrival we played a shortened version of Retreat on the square and in front of the Town Hall at Weeze. In spite of adverse weather and lighting effects, the civic dignitaries and citizens of the town seemed to appreciate our efforts so much so that we were afterwards entertained as guests of the town in a local Guest-house. The Dance Band, however, missed out on this as they were busy playing for an All Ranks' Dance at Laarbruch. The following afternoon we gave an all ranks' concert in the cinema and in the evening 21st Regiment showed the R.A.F. how to lay on a Ladies' Dinner Night and Ball complete with concert band, fanfare trumpeters and dance band! Our visit to 21st Regiment was short but we felt that we had done a good job for the Corps.

On 2nd December we returned to Krefeld and in the evening we played for the 28th Regiment Wives' Club dance. Our last engagement in Krefeld was an Anglo-German concert organised by 16th and 28th Regiments and held in the gymnasium at Bradbury Barracks where we played before a packed and appreciative audience. During our stay with 16th Regiment they very kindly organised a trip to Cologne which the Band thoroughly enjoyed.

Leaving Krefeld on 4th December we returned to Herford, this time to play for 14th Regiment. They, however, could not accommodate us and we were once more looked after by our old friends The Seventh. Our one and only engagement for the 4th Regiment was a high-powered Anglo-German all ranks' concert. This was attended by the Divisional Commander and many other important guests and was held in the Globe Cinema. Following the concert, a section of the Band then played in the Officers' Mess at a Buffet Supper. By 11.30 p.m. they were ready for their supper!

A memorable occasion

Our next engagement was a memorable visit to Detmold for an Anglo-German concert in the Stadhalle arranged by 200 Squadron. We finished the concert by singing the town song

"Lippe Detmold" in German and although we wouldn't pretend that our rendering would take us into the German pop charts, we did seem to go over quite well. In fact to our astonishment the Burgomaster presented the Director of Music with a plaque and a model of the Detmold soldier as a memento of our visit. After the concert we were royally entertained by the Squadron in such a way as to make it one of the most pleasant evenings of the tour. Our last engagements before leaving for Berlin were dances, one at Iserlohn for 4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron and the other at Herford for the 7th Regiment Wives' Club.

On American TV network

We travelled to Berlin on the British Miltary train on 11th December but due to a derailment we were over two hours late arriving in the city. Someone in the movement office appealed to our sense of humour by sending only one truck to move our 4,000 lb. of instruments plus personal luggage. However, after a shuttle service, by 2 a.m. the next morning we gathered together in the barracks of our hosts for the visit—The Queen's Own Highlanders. Berlin proved to be the busiest part of our tour but also the most interesting. During our three days' stay, we gave two Christmas concerts for approximately 1,000 elderly Germans and at each the C.S.O. Berlin introduced the Band to the audience in German. These concerts really were appreciated and afterwards the old people provided an impromptu 'Guard of Honour' on the stairs of the building and clapped us as we left. It was quite moving. Other engagements included an all ranks' concert for the Brigade with 229 Squadron acting as hosts and a 30-minute live television concert on the American Forces TV network. This latter concert was a great experience and most enjoyable. Our other engagement was at the Officers' Mess for a Brigade Cocktail Party. Squeezed in between these various engagements, the C.S.O. arranged two sightseeing tours, complete with Military Police guides, of West and East Berlin. We found this outing most interesting.

On 15th December the C.S.O. Berlin came to the station to see us off and we left the city for Hanover. Later that day we flew from Hanover to Gatwick, thus bringing to an end our five weeks tour of B.A.O.R. and Berlin.

In spite of at times experiencing accommodation and transport difficulties, we all enjoyed the tour very much and were only sorry arrangements were not made to visit more units in the Corps. Perhaps on our next tour this will be remedied.

Second Long Service Medal for Soldier turned Policeman



A former Warrant Officer of the Royal Corps of Signals, now an Army Department constable, has been awarded a second Long Service and Good Conduct Medal having completed a total of 47 years' service to the Crown.

He is 64-year-old **Joseph Choulerton** — 'Joe' to his many friends—now based at Headquarters, Southern Command, and living at 74, The Avenue, Wilton.

The presentation was made at the headquarters on Tuesday, 30th January, by the G.O.C.-in-C., **General Sir Geoffrey Baker,** who is soon to become Chief of the General Staff at the Ministry of Defence. All in the Corps will wish to add their congratulations on this unusual distinction to those of the G.O.C.-in-C.

Mr. Choulerton, who lived in Portsmouth for many years, joined the Army at Winchester in March, 1920—the same year the Royal Corps of Signals was formed.

Between 1922 and 1938 he served with B Corps Signals and the 1st Indian Divisional Signals in Rawalpindi and on the North-West frontier, and remembers using the old-fashioned, but very effective, heliograph to pass morse messages from one hilltop to another.

He was awarded his first Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1938, and during World War II served in France and Germany. Within two months of leaving the Army, in 1945, he joined the Army Department Constabulary at Corsham, Wilts., and was for 16 years at the Central Ammunition Depot, at Corsham.

(Report: Courtesy P.R., Southern Command)

Movements

Officers

FEBRUARY

Captain H. A. J. Alexander	To	13th Regiment
Major A. P. Boyle	,,	AWS Group
Captain (Tfc.) W. F. Budden	,,	242 Squadron
Captain (T.O.T.) L. R. Churchill	,,	H.Q. DCN (AE)
Lieutenant (Tfc) J. H. Cotton	,,	22nd Regiment
Lieutenant M. J. Cartwright	,,	30th Regiment
Major J. Cox	,,	AAC, Harrogate
Major P. B. Clark	,,	14th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Emley, O.B.E.	,,	School of Signals
Major B. M. Edwards, R. Aus. Sigs	,,	4th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Y. Ferguson	,,	H.Q. Scottish Command as C.S.O.
Major S. C. Finch	,,	1st Regiment
Major E. W. P. Foley	,,	11th Regiment (HS) Retiring
Captain B. W. Giller	,,	School of Signals
Lieutenant P. A. Hallett	,,	2nd Regiment
Major A. J. Hill	,,	22nd Regiment
Major G. N. Jenkins	,,	H.Q. NEARELF
Captain J. W. Joyner	,,	H.Q. Pers Selection Staff
Second-Lieutenant N. A. Mackereth	,,	24th Regiment
Major N. R. F. Mackinnon	,,	AAT & DC (Middle Wallop)
Major J. M. Newman	,,	14th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) D. T. Neale	,,	208 Squadron (28 Inf. Bde)
Captain (T.O.T.) J. H. Nixson	,,	7th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Polley, O.B.E.	,,	R.A.C. Centre
Major M. A. Petheram	,,	School of Signals
Captain E. Pickup	,,	205 Squadron (5 Inf. Bde)
Major B. H. Parsonage	,,	School of Signals
Major W. H. H. Parkes	,,	School of Signals
Captain T. B. Swan	,,	225 Squadron
Captain F. Souter	,,	224 Squadron
Captain P. M. Stamp	,,	211 Squadron (11 Inf. Bde)
Captain (T.O.T.) P. F. Soward	,,	237 Squadron
Captain M. J. P. Vann	,,	School of Signals
Captain G. C. Verdon	,,	School of Signals
Major M. G. H. Wise	,,	1st Regiment
Major D. P. Watson	,,	22nd Regiment
Major D. C. Woodbridge	,,	3 H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. C. Webber	,,	SHAPE

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I (F. of S.) E. Doe	To	227 Squadron (ALFCE)
W.O.I (F. of S.) C. Wood	,,	10th Regiment
W.O.II J. B. Appleby	,,	262 Squadron
W.O.II R. Cockcroft	,,	7th Regiment
W.O.II E. P. Teehan	,,	222 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. Staniford	,,	22nd Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) A. N. Brookes	,,	235 Squadron
W.O.II D. W. Singleton	,,	A.A. College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. E. Rowland	,,	8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. M. Charles	,,	259 Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. E. G. Lanyon	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant R. Theaker	,,	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sergeant J. R. Gray	,,	224 Squadron
Sergeant T. Kay	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant T. N. Hughes	,,	24 Infantry Bde H.Q. & Sig. Sqn
Sergeant B. W. Abrahams	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant R. A. G. Allen	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant K. V. Bamforth	,,	A.A. College, Harrogate
Sergeant R. W. Briggs	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant M. F. Cliff	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant G. W. Emslie	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Francis	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant I. D. Hope	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant A. Keohane	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant R. F. W. Livesey	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant G. S. Muir	,,	School of Infantry
Sergeant R. A. Paton	,,	A.A. College, Harrogate
Sergeant C. J. Shone	,,	255 Squadron
Sergeant N. E. Mortimer	,,	99 (Gurkha) Infantry Bde H.Q. and Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. E. Travers	,,	255 Squadron (Bahrain)
Sergeant J. McDade	,,	30th Regiment 4 Squadron
Sergeant H. Adey	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Bunting	,,	2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Jones	,,	9th Regiment
A/Sergeant C. Webster	,,	259 Squadron (Radio Relay)
Sergeant W. Wood	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant B. J. Buzzard	,,	222 Squadron (Sharjah)
Sergeant C. B. Lindsay	,,	234 Squadron (Malta)
A/Sergeant V. S. B. Johnson	,,	14th Regiment (636 Troop)
Sergeant J. B. Wallace	,,	Shape H.Q. Comm. and Supp. (B.E.)
Sergeant L. T. Rowe	,,	261 Squadron (Air Formation)
A/Sergeant T. Ryan	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant I. M. Baynes	,,	655 Troop (SAGW)
Sergeant A. D. Dodd	,,	24 Infantry Brigade
Sergeant R. Swaine	,,	16th Regiment
A/Sergeant P. Hardwick	,,	A.A. College, Harrogate
A/Sergeant J. Wilson	,,	242 Squadron
A/Sergeant B. M. Reynolds	,,	7th Regiment

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of normal welfare cases assisted financially in December	36	
Number of special Christmas grants	106	
	142	
Total amount expended on normal welfare grants	£564	0 0
Total amount of Christmas grants	£333	0 0
	£897	0 0
Number of clothings parcels sent	77	
Number of Christmas parcels	79	
	156	

One of the Month's Cases

Signalman, seven years' service, seriously injured in a traffic accident and medically discharged after nearly two years' hospital treatment. The Association, in conjunction with the Army Benevolent Fund, made a grant of £200 to provide furnishings for the family's new home in civilian life. The Signalman wrote gratefully to say that a great weight had been taken off his shoulders.

One of the Month's Letters

"Many grateful thanks for your letter and the money. This has enabled me to get each of the children a present from Santa. You really don't know what it meant to me to have a bit of extra money. I was thrilled to bits when the post lady brought it. Now I have just received your lovely parcel and Christmas card. All the clothes fit well, and I am so pleased with the little gifts for the children. My wishes at this moment are for you and all concerned to have a very happy Christmas, as you have made mine, and I really do mean that. Gratefully yours . . . "

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

'ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations have been most gratefully received:

	£	s.	d.
School of Artillery	15	0	0
31st (Greater London) Regiment (V)	21	9	9
83 (London) Squadron (V). (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
R.A. Range, Hebrides (Wives' Club)	27	16	0
28th Regiment	100	0	0
11 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron	1	0	9
Assistant Chaplain General, H.Q. B.A.O.R.	8	19	3
633 Troop		10	0
L. P. Mileson, Esq. (In memory of son Martin)	2	0	0
F. Veness, Esq., M.B.E. (Christmas donation)	1	0	0
E. C. Partridge, Esq. (Christmas donation)	1	1	0
Various small donations	9	16	6
Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D.	10	0	0
M. R. Ludlow, Esq. (Both of the last two donations in memory of the late Corporal T. Bramhald ("Junior")—see page 43 of the January/February WIRE)	5	0	0
Total Receipts	£205	13	3
Expenditure during November:	£1,193	11	8

Promotions

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22309273	W.O.II	Johnson, K.	1270	1490
	2549534	W.O.II	Stringer, R.	1280	1540

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23733956	Cpl.	Trent, T. E.	6450	12765
	23666315	Cpl.	Pritchard, G. A.	6455	12799
	23769401	Cpl.	Lowdon, J.	6480	11580
	23696412	Cpl.	McKay, R.	6496	14212
	23744847	Cpl.	Spearpoint, G. S.	6570	12630

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	1070			
S. Sgt.	184	2690	3120	4390

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	990

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISORS ROSTER

W.O.II	1260

TECHNICAL ROSTER

Sgt.	5060

OPERATOR ROSTER

Sgt.	10820	11660	11990	12770

H.Q. Royal Signals 1 (BR) Corps B.F.P.O. 39



THEY GIVE US EXCELLENT SERVICE

Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E., presenting a Royal Signals Plaque on behalf of the Corps, and in appreciation of the excellent services rendered by the civilian operators of the Bielefeld military exchange

Our Exchange Operators are thanked

SINCE the end of the War most of the Corps at one time or another have served in B.A.O.R., and have reason to be grateful or otherwise of the service given by the Operators of the Bielefeld Military Exchange. Since 1945 the Exchange has been manned by contract with Operators from the Deutches Bundes Poste who have given excellent service by their patience, cheerfulness and tact.

Automation of switchboards is also going ahead in the Federal Republic at a rapid rate, therefore the requirement for manual operators is becoming less and less. The consequence of this technical advancement is that the Deutches Bundes Poste have ceased recruiting new operators, and with effect from 1st April, will be unable to operate the military exchange at Bielefeld. The German operators are to be phased out during the first quarter of 1968 and replaced by the Women's Royal Army Corps and directly-employed civilians.

H.Q., Royal Signals, and the Telecommunications Group, Bielefeld gave a farewell cocktail party to the operators on 13th December as a mark of appreciation of the excellent service and good liaison that has existed during the last 22 years. The party was also attended by senior representatives of the Deutches Bundes Poste, and **Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.,** deputising for **Brigadier C. E. Page, M.B.E.,** Commander, Corps Royal Signals, who, unfortunately, was delayed in the United Kingdom because of fog, presented a Royal Signals plaque and a 1 (BR) Corps plaque to **Oberposte Direktor Mueller** on behalf of all ranks of the Corps and the Telecommunications Group Bielefeld.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate



IT MUST HAVE BEEN AMUSING!
Major-General A. F. Stanton, O.B.E., has an aside with R.S.M. D. Boak, W.G. (College R.S.M.)

Graduation Day

GRADUATION Day for the Winter Term was held on 13th December. The parade was reviewed by **Major-General A. F. Stanton, O.B.E.,** Chief-of-Staff Northern Command. The parade was held on Uniacke Parade Ground. Once again we were lucky with the weather: after a spell of very cold days we were fortunate enough to have a mild day for the parade.

Medals were presented during the parade to:



MATRIMONIAL APPROVAL
Ex-W.O.II Hebdon and proud wife

The Meritorious Service Medal presented to **ex W.O.II Hebdon,** ex Warrant Officer of the Royal Signals, for 27 years' Meritorious Service.

The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal presented to **Staff Sergeant Bowers** of the Royal Corps of Signals for 18 years' Good Conduct.

Both **Mr. Hebdon** and **Staff Sergeant Bowers** are at present serving in the Quartermaster's Department at the College.

The Reviewing Officer presented the following prizes:

The Army Commander's Prize: **Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major A. S. Copeland.**

The Commandant's Prize: **Apprentice Sergeant R. G. Paterson.**

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award: **Apprentice Corporal T. W. Lyon.**

Royal Corps of Signals Colonel Commandant's Award: **Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major A. S. Copeland.**

Prizes awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee to the Apprentices who have made the best use of their opportunities at the College:

Technician Radio Relay: **Apprentice Corporal T. W. Lyon.**

Technician Terminal Equipment: **Apprentice Tradesman D. Hodson.**

Telegraph Operator won jointly by **Apprentice Sergeant A. F. McBain** and **Apprentice Sergeant R. G. Paterson.**

The Mayor of Harrogate, **Miss G. Stepney,** presented:

Borough of Harrogate Prize for the best set of Essays on Local Government: Won jointly by **Apprentice Sergeant R. G. Paterson** and **Apprentice Tradesman C. A. Robinson.**

After the Commandant had given his round up of the term's events and achievements, **Major-General Stanton addressed** the College.

He congratulated the College on the excellent standard of the Parade, and made special mention of **A/T R.S.M. Copeland** for the confident way he had performed. He then went on to express to the Senior Term his confidence in their future in the Army.

In the afternoon the Hobbies and Trade Exhibitions were open for all the visitors to obtain an insight of the work done at the College.

3rd H.Q. & Signal Regiment, Bulford Camp

- **The Regiment discovers some hidden talents.**

The 'Cherubic' Male Voice Choir

AMONG the many highspots of the Christmas programme was the first—and probably the last—appearance of the F Troop male voice choir. Tastefully dressed in black polythene, by courtesy of 'Foulweather, Ltd.,' with Noddy hats and cap comforters, they looked 'cherubic' (?) Ably conducted by that well-known bass, and at times soprano, Tim McCoy, they sang carols to entertain the children at the Christmas party. The children loved them. They do say if you are liked by kids and dogs, then you can't be bad. So there must be hidden charms amongst our linemen.

Subdued . . eh?

The other Christmas activities followed the traditional pattern, with a few minor variations. The Officers entertained the Sergeants' Mess to a buffet lunch, a much more civilised affair than the usual jug-up. We can thank Barbara Castle for that. The Sergeants entertained the officers at the Mess draw; Christmas dinner was served in the time-honoured fashion, and the soldiery dispersed to their homes for a bit of well-earned leave.

The Wives' Club held a successful bazaar and an equally successful dinner, after which they were entertained by a bit of melodrama, written, produced and directed by our tame impressario, Mark Burnham, and acted by **Lieutenant Rodney Clare** ("Sir Jasper") and **Captain Tim McCoy** ("Lady Millicent")—hence the soprano. A bit of magic was introduced by **Second-Lieutenant Richardson,** who has been hiding his light under a bushel, but who is now a marked man.

At the Christmas dinner, **Lieutenant-Colonel Webb,** our C.O., presented **Corporal Venus** with his Army Colours for cross-country running, and **Private Cobbledick,** of the R.P.C., won the Soldier of the Year Trophy, a well-deserved award, as **Cobbledick** had some stiff opposition when it came to making a decision. He did nothing spectacular, but everything he did do, he did well, and with a whole-hearted enthusiasm.

Our Boxers—flushed with success

As we mentioned in an earlier contribution, we have 'gone a bundle' on boxing. We held the Inter-Squadron and Individual Championship on 15th November, which was won by 3 Squadron after some good bouts. The individual winners were **Signalman Clark,** 2 Squadron (welter); **Driver Gray,** 3 Squadron (light middle); **Signalman Stephens,** 3 Squadron (light heavy); **Signalman Rush,** 2 Squadron (feather); **Signalman Springer,** 2 Squadron (middle); **Private Nolan,** Div. H.Q. Squadron (heavy); **Signalman Hargreaves,** 1 Squadron (light weight) **Signalman Jameson,** 2 Squadron (light welter).

The boxers, flushed with success, went on to beat 40th Lt. Regt., R.A., in the first round of the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships on 11th December. Our next match is against 15th/19th Hussars on 17th January, so we hope to have good news in the next issue of THE WIRE.

We shall miss them . . .

We don't often mention those coming and going from the Regiment, as it's a normal feature of Army life and happens with amazing frequency (Records to note). However, exceptions can be made, and we must mention the arrival of **Major Hasell,** who has come to command 3 Squadron, relieving **Major Frank Edwards,** who departs for pastures new. We also lose **Captain Tom Swan,** who has been our special interceder at Records, and who has also been our Soccer Officer, and a most dedicated one at that. He has taken what was a pretty mediocre team and has led it, in two seasons, through to some success. This season they reached the last sixteen teams left in the Army Cup, and only today lost 3—2 to the 1st Bn. The Cameronians, to whom football is not just a game but a second religion. Well done, **Tom Swan,** we shall all miss you, even the rugby players.

As these notes are written, the Regiment is out on Exercise "Pluto Probe," a communications exercise. The weather is just bloody—snow, sleet, driving winds and bitter cold. We know that you get this in B.A.O.R., but it always seems more bearable there, and what's more, you can use barns. Just try to get an English farmer to let you have "ein schoiner fur shclaffen" and see what sort of a reply you get. Still, everyone is in good heart and cheerfully chuntering away and getting on with the job.

Most heartwarming sight on the exercise so far was the Adjutant and the R.S.M. changing a wheel on the C.O.'s Land Rover in a snow storm.



Captain E. Tye, W.R.A.C. (S.O.3)

Major L. C. P. Jaggard (S.O.II (Signals))

Major T. H. Amott (TOT)

Major G. N. Jenkins (S.O.II (Tels))

Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E., Commander (& Heidi)

Back Row: Corporal J. Batt, Miss M. Williams, Staff Sergeant J. G. Mays (Chief Clerk) Mrs. N. M. Sheehan,, Corporal J. Woodall

THE OFFICERS AND STAFF OF 3rd SIGNAL GROUP NEARELF

First of all may we bring to the notice of the Corps the change in our title from H.Q. R Signals NEARELF to H.Q. 3rd Signal Group NEARELF and the change in designation of the C.S.O. to Commander.

Apart from the change of title there has also been a change of command. Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E., takes over from Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E., who leaves us to take up the appointment of AD (Ops) Defence Signal Staff in the Ministry of Defence. We are sorry to lose Colonel Mike and wish him, his wife and sons the best for the future. Not only will we miss him but also the sporting world of Cyprus will miss his interest and active support in ski-ing, shooting and polo and in these we wish him success for the future.

We say welcome to Colonel Sylvester-Bradley and hope that he enjoys his tour in Cyprus.

4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

• **The Regiment, with the Corps Band, entertain over 500.**

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

IT isn't often that the Adjutant has the time, let alone the inclination, to write THE WIRE notes, but a section on R.H.Q. affairs might not come amiss after the hectic month of December.

B.A.O.R. types who have worked in R.H.Q. will be familiar with the hectic liquid pattern of events from mid to late December. Writing these notes on New Year's Day, I look back on the last three weeks and am only able to distinguish three clear islands of really memorable sense among the ocean of festivity.

The way to really entertain your friends!

If you really want to entertain your friends, invite them to a party and provide **Captain C. H. Pike, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., P.S.M.** and the Corps Band to entertain them. We did do this on 7th December, when about 500, including over a hundred Regimental guests, assembled in the Globe Cinema to hear nearly two hours of really magnificent entertainment. The variety and quality of the programme brought warm praise from all sides. May we thank the Band through these columns for such a vital and professional show. Afterwards, in the Officers' Mess, the light orchestra played splendidly for a buffet supper, which ended in the early hours.

Stirring Organ playing by the C.O.

Readers who have served in Hammersmith Barracks will remember the Marienkirche, the large church half-way down the hill to the town. On 21st December, about 800 of the Regiment, our families and friends in Herford, joined in a traditional Regimental carol service. It was indeed a family occasion, for our G.O.C., **Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C.,** was joined by members of the Staff and the Regiment in sharing the nine Lessons, **Signalman Larrier** making an excellent start on the first one. The Commanding Officer treated us to a stirring display of organ playing throughout the service from a hidden position high above the congregation. Someone was heard to say he was nearer to the Almighty that day than . . . ' He was flanked by a small angelic choir with powerful voices, led by Mrs. Daphne Rigby and Miss Barbara Stephens. Besides providing appropriate descants and harmony, they provided a secure link between congregation and organist, who would otherwise have been unable to hear the people below.

Following in Father's Footsteps

And on this New Year's morning, the Regiment is proud to announce that the average number of soldiers it has recruited into the Army during 1968 is two per day. I enjoyed a pleasant New Year's morning cease fire in my private paper war when I donned the hat of attesting officer. While the **Commanding Officer** and **Captain J. B. Walsh** looked on during the necessary formalities, their respective sons 'signed-on' and walked from R.H.Q. as **Rifleman A. J. R. Jackson,** Royal Green Jackets, and **Signalman D. V. Walsh,** Royal Signals. We wish them both good fortune in their careers, starting at R.M.A., Sandhurst, on 9th January.

I will now hand over to the author of these notes during the past year, our P.R.I., **Captain Vivian Stephens.** This is the last time he will be writing them, as he is posted in a week's time. We shall miss him and his family in the Regiment, they have contributed enormously to everyone's welfare here, and we wish them a happy time with 260 Squadron.

Christmas round-up

Whilst it is appreciated that news of Christmas does not make interesting reading in February, mention must be made of the full and hectic programme which began for us on 6th December and did not let up until the Regimental Teenagers' Party on 29th December. The time between kept us



TWO NEW RECRUITS ARE SIGNED ON

They were, in fact, Rifleman A. J. R. Jackson, son of the Commanding Officer and Signalman D. V. Walsh, son of Captain D. V. Walsh. In the photo *left to right:* RSM Aitken, Rifleman Jackson, Captain J. B. Walsh and Signalman Walsh

fully extended, with Squadron/Troop parties, Sergeants' and Corporals' Mess balls and draws, a junior ranks' smoker, children's parties, and a very hectic Christmas Day, which followed the usual tradition, except that this year the O.R.s' Christmas dinner was immediately followed by a two-hour all-star variety show, ex-U.K., and, after a short break for tea, a film show and bumper games evening in the W.R.V.S. lounge. Our Regimental Club was also going great guns.

Needless to say, Boxing Day was a day of "in bed or out of barracks." Mention must also be made of the very successful M.S.O. children's party, which was held in the Corporals' Mess on Wednesday, 20th December. During the party we were very pleased to have a visit from **Mrs. V. F. Erskine Crum,** wife of the Divisional Commander, who was accompanied by **Mrs. A. J. Jackson.**

Visit to Orphanage

As is our custom at this time of the year, a party from the Regiment, accompanied by a section of the Garrison Church Choir, visited the local orphanage, where carols were sung by both the German and British people present.

During the visit, a cheque for over £30 and toys and Christmas foods were presented to the Sister-in-Charge by the P.R.I., **Captain Stephens.** The Regimental group consisted of the **Rev. W. P. Rennison, R.A.Ch.D., Mrs. P. J. Evans,** wife of the Second-in-Command, **Mrs. V. H. Stephens** and **Miss B. Stephens.**

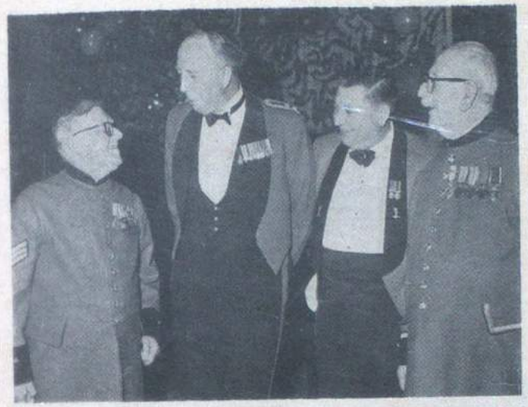
Boxing

Three members of the Regiment entered for the 4th Division stage of the Army Individual Boxing Competition, held in Lippstadt on 7th/8th December. They were **Lance-Corporal Roberts** at lightweight; **Lance-Corporal Archer** at light-welter; and **Lance-Corporal Anhoury** at light-welter. Although our boxers did not carry off any honours, **Lance-Corporal Archer** was considered to have put up such a good performance that he was selected to box an exhibition bout on the final night of the competition, and has since been entered for the B.A.O.R. Individual Boxing Competition, shortly to be held in Berlin.

Arrivals and Departures

During the month we have said farewell to **Lieutenant and Mrs. Michael Galloway, Lieutenants Peter Smith, Peter Dick, W.O.I J. Barry** (A.P.T.C.) and **Staff Sergeant McDonald.** On the credit side, we welcome **Second-Lieutenant R. Wilson, W.O.I Mobbs (A.P.T.C.)** and **Staff Sergeant Donnelly.**

(Continued on page 55)



CHELSEA PENSIONERS AT THE SERGEANTS' MESS CHRISTMAS BALL

Left to right: Sergeant Vic. Cole (age 72), Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C., R.S.M. A. G. Aitken and W.O.II Bert Kiely (aged 82)

SERGEANTS' MESS

December saw the start of our Christmas entertainment, when the Mess held its first-ever 'Wives' Guest Night,' when over a hundred of us sat down to dinner by candle-light in a local German hotel. After dinner, the Band of the 4th Royal Tank Regiment played for dancing.

On 6th December, the R.S.M., together with the P.M.C., found themselves waiting at Dusseldorf Airport to welcome two guests who were to spend the remainder of the month and the start of the New Year with us. They were **Sergeant Bert Kiely** and **Corporal Victor Cole,** of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Their trip had been financed by all the members of the Mess. **Sergeant Kiely** joined the Royal Engineers as a boy of 15 in 1900 and retired in 1926 with 26 years' service. **Corporal Coles** joined the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire T.A. in 1912, transferred to The Essex Regiment in 1914; in 1923 he transferred yet again, to Royal Signals, in which he served until 1943, retiring with 29 years' service. To date they have been interviewed by the German Press and broadcast over the British Forces' Broadcasting Service. Here we must say 'thank you' to **R.S.M. Tom Joyce** and the members of 20th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron for entertaining them from 16th to 18th December, and allowing **Victor** to win their Christmas draw.

It was indeed a pleasure to welcome **Captain Pike** and members of the Corps Band, when they entertained us to a really grand musical evening in the Globe Cinema on 7th December. We, in our turn, held a chicken and wine supper in the mess afterwards, when we were able to show our appreciation by entertaining the seniors of the Band. It was a pleasure to welcome them and to see them all again, and we only hope that they enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

The Christmas ball got off to a grand start at 9 o'clock on 9th December, with the arrival of the G.O.C. 4th Division, the Commanding Officer and their ladies. We had a most enjoyable time dancing to the excellent music of the 17th/21st Lancers.

Our Christmas draw was held on 21st December. A vote of thanks to **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Chippie Wood** and members of the draw committee for selling 15,000 draw tickets and for putting up such a good display of 110 first-class prizes. Special mention must go to the man of the night, **Sergeant Frank Hunt,** who managed to stagger off with no less than nine prizes.

The G.O.C. and Officers of the Regiment, together with the Divisional Staff Officers entertained the mess to its Christmas drink on Friday, 22nd December, and a very enjoyable lunch-time session was had by all.

Christmas Day saw the R.S.M. and seniors up, none too bright, but very early, to dispense the traditional 'gun-fire,' and at mid-day welcome the officers to a Christmas 'noggin' prior to serving dinner in the soldiers' dining room. At 12.55 sharp, the officers and seniors 'fell-in' outside the mess, under the eagle eye of **Corporal Victor Cole, R.H.,** to be marched to the dining room. Once again the Regiment heard that roar of 'Regiment, Whoa!'

It was 'Teenage Nite' on 29th December in the mess, when we were hosts to over a hundred teenagers. 'Minnie' skirts were the order of the day, and to be 'with it,' you had to do all these modern dances, where you stand and shake and rattle your body, but don't, under any circumstances, touch your partner. Don't they hold hands any more?

As we go to press, we are looking forward to the New Year and the New Year's Eve party, and all that that brings with it. We would like to wish all past and present members of 4th Division Signal Regiment Sergeants' Mess all the best and all they wish themselves in 1968.

REGIMENTAL HOCKEY

The Regimental hockey team won the first round of the Army Cup. This was against 19th Field Regiment, R.A., at Dortmund, on Saturday, 6th December. An exciting, hard game, saw the Regiment two goals up at half-time. During the second half, 19th Field Regiment put on the pressure and scored. Soon afterwards, **Corporal Smith** scored his second goal, which resulted in a 3—1 win for the Regiment. The team enjoyed the vociferous support of a good number of spectators, led by **Corporal Le Carpentier,** who had braved the cold and journeyed down from Herford for the match.

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

• **B.A.O.R. Rugby Final, the event of the month.**

R.S.M. Laycock collects wooden spoon

AT the beginning of the month we were delighted to have the **S.O.-in-C. and Mrs. Anderson** to a buffet supper in the Officers' Mess on the night we were celebrating winning our way into the B.A.O.R. rugger final. More of the game itself later.

Whether the party was taken as the start of the festive season, or whether it was purely coincidental, is not certain, but immediately there was a series of Troop and Squadron parties, and not to be outdone, the Wives' Club held their dance on 8th December. A good time was had by all, thanks to the committee, and thanks also to the Regimental bus driver who took everyone home after the last waltz. The breathalyser came to B.A.O.R. at midnight on the 8th!

The traditional games night between the Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes went with a swing, and after some keen competition, the Corporals took great delight in presenting the wooden spoon to **R.S.M. Laycock.**

Drat those Duke's!

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess draw took place in the gymnasium, which was transformed for the occasion. We had the pleasure of the company of **Colonel T. H. C. Grigg,** who, as President of Corps rugger, had travelled all the way from U.K. to see us do battle with the old 'enemy,' the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in the B.A.O.R. rugger final at Bad Lippspringe earlier in the day. Whilst we had no cause to celebrate on this occasion, we could lick our wounds with pride, for contrary to several forecasts, 'The Duke's' had not trampled on us. Last year we gave them somewhat of a fright in this same game, but this year their very competent team wore an air of confidence throughout the game. They took an early lead, stretching the Regiment's defence on opposite flanks in turn before going over quite easily on the right, with at least a two-man overlap. At this stage 'The Duke's' were attacking at every opportunity and looked very dangerous, with rapid changes of thrust and some excellent handling by their skilful backs. Our pack soon decided that the opposition had had too much of the play, and with **Corporals Cairns** and **Taylor** dominating the line-out and **Corporal Dempsey** driving the pack in typical Yorkshire Cup rugger fashion, the whole game was tightened up. 'The Duke's' had scored, but with **Sergeant Zoing** kicking

a penalty, we turned round with the score at 6—3. The game never rose to great heights in the second half. Our forwards did not continue to dominate the line-out, but nevertheless, territorially, we shared the game. Our opponents did not make as much use of the ball and, in fact, the last quarter of the game saw us in many a good striking position, but rarely did we stretch their defence, and the final score was 12—3. The Corps Commander presented the trophies and the teams had tea and beer together after the game. **We would like to congratulate 'The Duke's' and wish them well in the final. Already there is talk of next year, when they are in Hong Kong, but the team, to a man, wish they were staying in B.A.O.R., because we are determined to make it third time lucky when next we meet.** Meanwhile, we congratulate the Regimental XV on doing so well again, with four new players and some established stars having moved on.

What was that prize?

At the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess draw, after the game, everyone enjoyed themselves, and although **Colonel Grigg** did not win the star prize, we are sure he appreciated his consolation prize (we hope that he has a record player). A special 'thank you' is due to **C.S.M.I. Dolphin** and his committee for all the hard work they put in to make the evening such a success.

The Mickey Hayes Show came to us again this year, and an audience of over 500 thoroughly appreciated a little live entertainment. The cast was entertained in the Officers' Mess after the show, and after the initial shock of finding a comedian from Liverpool who didn't drink, everyone settled down to an enjoyable hour's chat. We still don't know what the 'Aintree Irons' are!

'Long Johns' and string vests

Children's parties, as always, formed a prominent part of the month's activities, and the P.R.I. successfully coped with some 400 children at the Regimental Children's Christmas party. In addition, a team from the L.A.D., led by **Craftsman Conway,** reconditioned some 73 toys and games, which were presented to the children at the local German orphanage. Not to be outdone, a XV from North Camp, dressed in 'Long John's' and string vests, played a charity rugby match, in deep snow, against a team from South Camp, dressed in pyjamas. The referee, dressed in a white spotted pink flannel nightdress, was hard put to to ensure that the game ended level, at three points all, and a collection realised over 200 D.Marks, again for local charity.

The year ended with a Regimental carol service of five lessons in the gymnasium, after which the Officers and Sergeants served Christmas dinner to the men. Our cooks serve us well throughout the year, but on this day they really excelled themselves. The standard of service compared favourably with a five-star hotel! **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Treharne** and his choir (?) then sang (?) a few songs.

'I say hello—you say goodbye'

Finally, December saw the inevitable comings and goings. We said farewell to **Majors Parkes** and **Garratt,** and hope that **Major Parkes** got to Ostend before the springs of his car collapsed, and also to **W.O.I Ernie Longstaff, Staff Sergeant Hall, Sergeants McGinn, McHugh** and **Storey.** We wish them well in their new postings.

To end on a bright and cheerful note, the **C.O.** and **Mrs. Sherratt** were both guests at the wedding of Lance-Corporal **H. A. Nanty** and **Miss Alyse Dubignon** on Saturday, 23rd December, in the Herford Roman Catholic Church. The bride had travelled approximately 4,650 miles from the Seychelles for the wedding.

Sergeant 'Paddy' Magowan was married on Saturday, 30th December in the Roman Catholic Church in Maresfield Barracks to **Erika Göbel,** and his reception was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

As **Lance-Corporal Nanty** held his reception in the Corporals' Mess the previous Saturday, we are now awaiting news of an officers' marriage to complete the trio.

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[*Photo — Courtesy Signalman Luckett*

WINNERS OF DHEKELIA MINOR UNITS CUP

Back row: left to right: Corporal Irvine, Signalman Etchells, Signalman Anderson, Signalman Foley, Lance-Corporal Morrison, Lance-Corporal Williamson (Captain), Corporal Davies

Front row: left to right: J/T Williamson, Signalman Ford, J/T McGregor, Corporal Clay, Signalman Andrews

9th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 53

Christmas, 1967

WITH a sigh of relief from many of us, Christmas is over for another year, but, before giving a glimpse of the joys of a Cyprus Christmas, perhaps we should give a brief synopsis of the more mundane side of life during December.

2 Squadron win again!

2 Squadron, for the second successive year, won the Dhekelia Minor Units' Knockout Football Cup. This year, in the four rounds of the cup, the Squadron team rattled in 33 goals and conceded just three!

The final was played at Dhekelia on 9th December, versus a combined Dhekelia XI, and for the opening minutes, the game was fairly even. In fact, despite continuous pressure, the Squadron only led 1—0 at the interval, through an opportunist goal by **Andrews.**

After the interval the picture changed completely; within minutes of the restart, **Clay** shot in a fine goal and rapidly followed with another. Meanwhile **Williamson,** the Army (Cyprus) and 2 Squadron centre-half, with the assistance of **Anderson,** was effectively blocking all attempts by the opposition.

The Squadron team now began to play its best soccer of the season, and **Irvine** slipped home the fourth goal. **S.A.C. Williamson** scored a fifth goal and then, to round off a goal-spree, **Andrews** scored the side's sixth.

A consolation goal was scored near the end when 2 Squadron relaxed, but a measure of the superiority can be seen from the fact that **Morrison,** the Squadron goalkeeper, saved his first shot half-way through the second half.

NEARELF Skill at Arms

The Regiment enjoyed considerable success at the Skill at Arms Meeting held on Friday, 15th December, on Dhekelia ranges.

Despite disastrous starts, both 1 and 2 Squadrons finished well placed, eighth and ninth respectively of the sixteen teams.

But 3 Squadron covered themselves with glory, shooting consistently well, and the Squadron won the Minor Units Cup. Their achievement can be seen in proper perspective when one realises that they numbered amongst their opponents Infantry Battalion teams, and, furthermore, due to the recent troubles in the island, virtually no practice had been possible.

Annual Bar Competition

So 2 Squadron won a soccer trophy, 3 Squadron a shooting cup, what then of 1 Squadron?

1 Squadron won the annual bar competition!

The judging, as usual, took place immediately before the serving of the Christmas dinner. The winning team had decided on a most unusual, if not unique, decor for a bar. For this was a bar with a difference—anti-drink! Whether the paper skeletons, the miniature coffin tables or the ultra violet lights had the desired effect is open to doubt—it appeared that the bar drove men to drink!

For sheer ingenuity, the 3 Squadron bar was unsurpassed. A barrack room converted into a remarkably realistic cave, complete with sanded floor . . . perhaps the only drawback was having to crawl through a tunnel to reach the haven of the bar!

Officers v. Warrant Officers football match

This year the game was played in deadly earnest, and with considerably more skill than is usual.

It is true that the Officers always appeared most likely to score, but at half-time it was 0—0 and, despite all the feverish efforts, full time told the same story.

Admittedly, the effect of **Dave Mowry's** half-time refreshment was well-nigh disastrous, especially in view of the amount of alcohol consumed over Christmas.

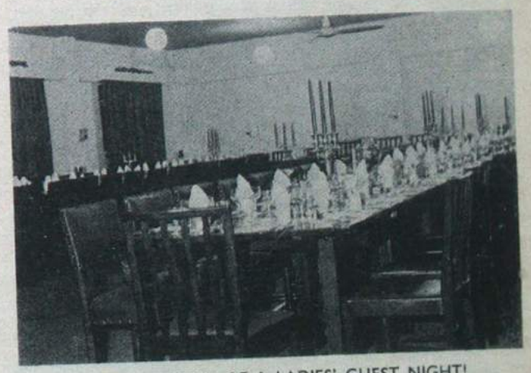
The feeling of relief which swept through all the players as the final whistle went! . . . akin to the feelings of a drowning man clutching a straw . . . then the relief turned to horror when the baying crowd demanded that play should go on until a decision was reached.

It was left to **Captain David Gent,** the Officers' centre-forward, to score the all-important goal towards the end of extra time.

Within seconds the players had regained all their lost energy, enough at least to find their way to the Sergeants' Mess bar.

New Mess arises out of the ashes

As a postscript, mention must be made of the new Officers' Mess. The original Mess was gutted by fire at the end of October, and frantic conversion work on an unused building had a new Mess ready for the annual ladies' guest night. First impressions can be misleading, but certainly we appear to have gained more than we lost with the disappearance of the old Mess, but sentimental attachments still die hard. The photograph shows the dining room of the new Mess.



JUST A WHISPER OF A LADIES' GUEST NIGHT!

The officers mess of the 9th Regiment was virtually gutted by fire at the end of October. The thought that the annual Ladies' guest night might have to be abandoned and, hey presto, all is restored again!

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

• A restricted month for the Regiment

DECEMBER, 1967, will remain for ever in the minds and hearts of all as the beginning of the era of the 'Breathalyser Bus'!

Training has become very limited since the restrictions imposed because of the ever-growing outbreak of foot and mouth disease. However, it is hoped that the worst is now over—exercises just don't seem the same when you are still in shouting distance of the drill square!

Hello's and Goodbyes

December has been a time for movement. Three subalterns, **Lieutenant John Roberts, Lieutenant Jim Easson and Lieutenant Clive Collier,** have all left for the 'School,' to attend No. 6 Comms Course, **Lieutenant Terry Robinson** left for an Army Youth Team after announcing his engagement to **Miss Kate Swallow, W.R.A.C.** We wish them every happiness in the future. To replace these, three Subalterns arrived, **Lieutenants Peter Smith, John Reed** and **Chris Grant,** who have all come from B.A.O.R. **Lieutenant Graham Litchfield** has also joined the Regiment for a short time, to learn "how it's done" in the Army, after recently transferring from the Royal Navy. **Lieutenant Craig Treeby** joined the Regiment late this month on posting from 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, and is slowly getting used to wearing a 'hat' again. **R.Q.M.S. Mervyn Edwards** left en route to Hong Kong, with his golf clubs under his arm; he is taking up an appointment as S.S.M. **Sergeant Smith** left for Bahrain, a much nicer place to spend the winter.

V.I.P.s at the Pass-Off Parades

There were two pass-off parades in December. The first one, on 8th December, was for 3 Troop. The Inspecting Officer was **Major-General R. H. Whitworth, C.B.E.,** the G.O.C. Northumbrian District. The best recruit was **Signalman Mitchell.**

After the parade the General toured the Regiment. 8th December will be remembered for some time as the day we had three officer parties of visitors and a pass-off parade. Not only was the General visiting, but also **Sir Antony Part, K.C.B., M.B.E.,** the Permanent Secretary for the MPBW, and we were also invaded by 26 subalterns from No. 6 'Q' Course, who were spending two days in cold, wintery Catterick.

The pass-off parade on 20th December (held on a Wednesday because of the coming Christmas holiday) was for 2 Troop. The inspecting officer was the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E.,** and the Corps Band played for the first time since their recent B.A.O.R. tour. The best recruit was **Signalman Ward,** who comes from Cardiff. When he was at school, Signalman Ward joined the A.C.F. Royal Signals Detachment and reached the rank of Staff Sergeant. He is a keen all-round sportsman, and was the Welsh Schoolboy Champion Weight-Lifter in 1964 and 1965. After he left school Ward was a rigger's mate. He is to go on for training as a telegraph operator. We wish him every success.

ADEN ACTIVE SERVICE TIE

Before their disbandment in Aden in November, 1967, Headquarters, Middle East Command, authorised the production of a tie which may be worn by those members of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and British personnel seconded to the South Arabian Army who served in Aden at any time during the period 1st April and 30th November, 1967. The tie will be known as the Aden Active Service Tie. It has a blue background with alternating dhows and crossed gambias in gold woven into it.

The ties, costing 18s. (Terylene) or 28s. (all silk) may be obtained, post free, from Messrs. J. W. Hicks, 91, Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire. The ties are expected to be available in early May, 1968, but orders sent to Messrs. Hicks before that date will all be acknowledged.

13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Visit

THE highlight of November was the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Anderson** to the Regiment.

The S.O.C.-in-C. was greeted by the quarter guard, whose precision of drill and smartness did justice to the occasion. The guard was commanded by **Staff Sergeant Searle.**

A tour of the Regiment to see some of its various activities followed. The first call was at the Training Wing, where he saw and talked to soldiers from other Signals Units, as well as our own, who were attending military proficiency courses under the supervision of our Training Officer, **Captain Richard Bingley.**

The Canoe Club was next, where the S.O.-in-C. was briefed by **Captain Phil Lavoie,** of the Royal Canadian Signals, on the future activities we shall be tackling in this field of adventure in the coming year. Our Q.M., **Major Allen French** was present to discuss the progress and programme of the Camera Club, which is in the same building.

At about this time, **Mrs. Anderson** arrived, escorted by **Lieutenant Dinah Rumsey,** W.R.A.C., and spent an enjoyable half-hour having coffee with the wives of the Regiment in the Sergeants' Mess. This was followed by a visit to the



THE S.O.-in-C. INSPECTS . . .
General Anderson has a word with Signalman Hern, with Lieutenant-Colonel Palmer and Staff-Sergeant Searle in attendance



. . . WHILE THE WIVES CONFER
Left to right: Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. McLoughlin, (below) Mrs. Francis

Kindergarten, where she met **Mrs. Orrell** and **Mrs. Jones,** who had their hands full with the under-fives at play. Next was a visit to our new B.F.E.S. Junior School, which has only recently opened. She met **Mr. George Weatherall,** the headmaster, and his staff, and saw the pupils both in class and at lunch. **Mrs. Anderson's** programme concluded with a visit to **Mrs. Barbara Barron** (wife of **Lance-Corporal Frederick Barron**) in their quarter in Kelten Strasse.

In the meantime, the General paid a brief visit to TM Troop and then made a lengthy tour of the operational side of the Regiment. As he finished, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment were forming up on parade. There, amidst this array of chevrons and crowns, he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **W.O.II Pete Jones,** of the Intelligence Corps, and **Sergeant Tom Faragher,** of the Corps. This, needless to say, was followed in the Sergeants' Mess with dippings of the appropriate gongs in a pint of beer, in the time-honoured manner. More informal introductions were then made, enabling the General to chat with the seniors, and to renew many old acquaintances. The programme ended with lunch in the Officers' Mess.

It was a very tight programme, with no time to spare, but without a doubt, a most enjoyable occasion for us all.

Comings and goings

Our congratulations go to **Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) John Francis, M.B.E.,** on commissioning, and we remind 9th Regiment that our loss is their gain. Another well-deserved commissioning was that of **Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Ray Boulter,** who has left us for the sunnier clime of 19th Regiment. Following him, we were sad to bid farewell to **Major and Mrs. Keith White,** who are also to experience the sunnier climate of 18th Regiment.

W.O.I (Y. of S.) Stan Brice joined us to replace **Lieutenant John Francis,** and we now enjoy the occasional tune of the accordion filtering from the Sergeants' Mess. **W.O.I (F. of S.) Dennis Tetlow** has also arrived to reinforce TM Troop. **Major** and **Mrs. Nick Williams** swelled the ranks of the golfers and no doubt next year will offer formidable opposition to this year's champions.

Stop Press

Our heartiest congratulations to **W.O.I John Lovatt,** Intelligence Corps, who has been with the Regiment for two years eight months, on the richly-deserved award of the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List.

A Cameo in lighter vein from 14th Regiment

The three old Crows of Robinswood

We should perhaps explain at once that they are ordinary birds; you know, with beaks and wings and things. They live for the most part in the three largest oak trees in Robinswood. We do not enquire too deeply into their marital relationship. And they do not seem over concerned about what we are up to. Except recently, when they have obviously been worried.

For men are dumping building materials, and then picking them up and moving them somewhere else; and this is a crow-like habit. What is more the men say they are doing the 'Rattle,' and when said with the right intonation, this is a crow-like noise. And the three old crows consider the men are taking the mickey.

Some of them, called donkey-jacket men, go round pointing at trees and poles in a threatening manner, as though they wanted to take all the best crow perches. But how can we, the khaki men, tell them that all is well? That the donkey-jacket men are only doing their umpteenth recce for the umpteenth about-to-start of the Robinswood Rebuild Project? That even if all the old huts do come down, nice big two-storey buildings will replace them? And what about the super new seventy-foot chimney stack? What more could a crow want?

And how can a Unit Note writer explain to them that his words will not appear in print for two months, by which time he will probably have to eat them? But they need not worry, for those particular trees will remain whatever happens, and by the time you read this, the crows will have sorted out who's who. And they will have repaired the old nest, and tarted it up with some new season's cotton waste from MT. In fact, life will be much as it ever was, and there may be a moral in that.

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

• Change is the order of the day



PRACTICING THE REAL THING
Signalman "Ringo" Radford on the dry ski slope at Rheindahlen

Welcome to COC Troop

OUR Troop at Bielefeld, finding traffic light over Christmas, have written their own notes for this issue, and, with pleasure, we reproduce them below. Just a year ago we welcomed the Troop into the Regiment, now we welcome another transfer from the Corps area—the COC Troop from 22nd Regiment. Led by **Captain Tony Bushell,** and decorated with their 'Red Hand,' we are pleased to have them join us.

Change seems to be the order just at present; so many coming and going. Amongst them we say farewell to our Second-in-Command, **Major David Cattermull,** and greetings to his successor, **Major Bob Pope,** once himself leader of the 'Red Hand Gang'—the ASSU, to give it its old-style title. Also departing are both our Chaplains. **Padre Scammell** has served long with us.

From rubbish dump to ski practice hill

Krefeld's only hill is the town's rubbish dump, so, last year, we won ourselves a D8 bulldozer at a game of dice, borrowed a Sapper and made our own hill for ski practice. Result: no snow. This year we placed a side-bet on the new Rheindahlen nylon slope, didn't win it, but have been allowed to use it.

BIELEFELD TROOP

The Troop, until January, 1967, the independent 619 Troop, is now part of 1 Squadron, 16th Regiment. We have lost a little independence, but have made compensating gains.

An early gain was **Lieutenant Lorna Windmill,** our Administrative Officer, who has carried out all usual officer duties in an otherwise all-male Troop, including butts officer on the range, member of the hockey team, and, perhaps unique in the Corps, Officer-in-Charge of football. Now we have had a large increase in W.R.A.C. strength, with the arrival of 25 switchboard operators. They, together with some German civilian girls and dependents, will shortly replace DBP operators on the military exchange. A side effect of their presence has been a noticeable smartening-up of our men's appearance—part by male effort and part by feminine make-and-mend.

Benefits of being a mixed Troop

Our married families now number eleven and, thanks to some fine catering efforts by the wives, twenty-one children enjoyed our children's party. **Signalman Brunsden's** performance as Father Christmas delighted our guests and set the seal on his dramatic career. Later, at the Troop Kellar Bar party, the benefits of being a mixed Troop were again perceptible.

Coincident with the first frost, we vacated our centrally-heated premises and operated from trucks, lent to us for the occasion by 2 Squadron. Now, we are pleased to report, we are back in the warm and occupy a very pleasing and smart new comcen. Regrettably, we were not able to show it to **Lieutenant-General Sir John Mogg,** our departing Corps Commander, who very kindly came along on 7th December to thank the telephone switchboard staff for their work. We will be ready for the visit of the C.S.O., **Brigadier Mansergh,** scheduled for the 18th January.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB—ANNUAL AWARDS

- **Sapper Officer singled out for special prize.**

Lieutenant-Colonel L. F. Ball, Hon. Secretary, writes: The following awards have been made by Royal Signals Y.C. in respect of 1967 sailing season.

Meiktila Cup: To the member with the best racing record for the year—**W.O.I S. Barrett,** 261 Squadron, Cyprus. As well as winning nine class races, and having one first, one second and three thirds in various regattas, **W.O.I Barrett** was selected as captain of the Firefly Army Team in the Inter-Services Competition.

Ship's Bell: To the member making the best cruise of the year—**Major L. D. Edinger,** Headquarters A.F.N.E., Norway. For his cruise from Oslo to Dover, reported in THE WIRE in October-November, 1967. **Major Edinger** was awarded the Ship's Bell previously, in 1958.

Bolitho Prize: To the member making the greatest contribution during the year to furthering the object of the Club, namely to encourage sailing among all ranks of the Corps—**Lieutenant-Colonel S. G. Townsend, M.B.E., R.E.** This award was made to **Colonel Townsend,** not only for his activities during 1967, but in respect of the many years of help and training he has given at the British Kiel Yacht Club to a large number of Corps sailors.

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21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43



NOEL! NOEL!
A fine turn out of carol singers from the 21st Regiment, conducted by Captain Hughes, bring the Christmas spirit to German neighbours

Visit of the new C.S.O., B.A.O.R.

The new Chief Signal Officer, **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.,** paid us his first visit this month and spent a busy morning at Laarbruch, where he met and talked to many members of the Regiment.

Christmas Activities

The festive season was also a very active one for many. We were involved in singing carols with the Station Volunteer Band, at Laarbruch, Weeze and Goch, a most successful venture, and popular with the German citizens. Our photograph shows **Captain E. P. Hughes** conducting the Volunteer Band and carollers. We provided Father Christmas, **Corporal Perkins,** of "D" Troop, for the children's party, and a magician, **Major Welton,** for the infants' party.

The wives held a most successful "Christmas Fair" meeting and collected a substantial sum for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

DECEMBER was, as always, a very hectic month. After the Wives' Club Dinner, the parties came thick and fast—H.Q. Squadron, 2 Squadron, 1 Squadron, 3 Squadron, All Ranks' Smoker, the Orphanage Party, Warrant Officers and Sergeants to the Officers' Mess, German Staff Party, Officers to Sergeants' Mess, the Christmas Lunch, the Young Children's Party, the Corporals' Mess Draw and Dance, the Sergeants' Mess Draw, the Teenagers' Party—and after two days back at work to tidy up—New Year's Eve parties in the Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess and Corporals' Mess. Those who still felt ready for more enjoyed Troop parties on the evening of 1st January. Our photo page shows a fair cross section of these activities in Churchill Barracks over the Christmas period.

G.O.C.'s visit

December has brought its quota of visitors, too, among them **Major-General V. F.Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C.,** Commander, 4th Division, who came to attend the Divisional Individual Boxing Championships, for which we were host unit.

Training

Exercise "Sitting Bear" (yet another variation on the Bruin theme) ensures that we continue to learn about our new equipment even when virtually snow-bound in barracks. Individual training continues apace in the Training Wing now under control of **Yeoman of Signals Llewellyn;** courses for Telegraph Operators, Radio Relay Men and Comcen Operators have been successfully completed and Driver and Electrician Driver Upgrading Courses are in progress now. After passing-out over 100 MPT course students at Class III and II level during the Autumn, the Wing now has its first MPT I Course in progress.

Arrivals and departures

Although the list of arrivals and departures is too long for everyone to be mentioned by name we cannot close our first WIRE notes of 1968 without saying farewell to **Major (Q.M.) Ray Richmond** and welcoming his relief, **Captain Jack Wilderspin.** We will miss **Major and Mrs. Richmond** very much indeed, and wish them every good fortune—and a speedy return to full health—in Catterick. (See photo page 63).

Christmas — and the 22nd Regiment Relax



CAROL SERVICE
A full church while Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Dowell reads the lesson



CHILDREN'S PARTY PIRATES
Pirates include Signalmen Garrett, Hindley, Elliot, Lewis, Westwood and Fellows



WARMING UP FOR THE FRAY
Left to right: Major Pitkin Staff-Sergeant Greaves, Sergeant McHaig, Sergeant Steer, S.S.M. Lindsell, Sergeant Loach, Captain Taylor, Captain Mansfield, Sergeant Hacker and Lieutenant Williams



INTO ACTION
Left to right: Lieutenant Moir, Lieutenant Williams, Sergeants Hacker, Gibson and Steer (in the background) Major Williams

Faraway Places!
Unusual Jobs!
Why not send us your story?

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts



Gan Island and the Reef

To London—Five thousand, seven hundred and fifty miles!

It's a man's world for the Corps on Gan Island

(Contributed by Gan Signal Troop)

"GAN! Where is that, for heaven's sake?" I asked, when the postings clerk told me the news. "Oh," he replied, "I believe it is somewhere in the Far East." With that scant information, I had to be content. Try as I might, even though some had vaguely heard of it, no one I asked had ever been there or knew exactly where it was, or how to get there.

Some gen about Gan

When I got home, out came my son's school atlas, and, after searching for some time, Gan was located. For the benefit of those fortunate enough to be sent to the island in the future, here's the 'gen.'

Gan itself, is approximately 600 miles from Ceylon and is just a little south of the equator. This means that the hours of darkness and daylight are about the same all the year round—no twilight or long summer evenings here. The island is approximately 1¼ miles long by ¼-mile at its widest point. Apart from the runway, roads and buildings, etc., necessary for an airfield, the island is covered with numerous palm trees, both coconut and banana, as well as the normal tropical vegetation. The climate is as one would expect from its location. Plenty of lovely sunshine, but also, recently, lots of that wet stuff called rain. Compared to Gan, Manchester is dry—14½in. in one month (September) which included 3½in. in one day. Boats, not cars, are required after a deluge like that. The temperature varies from 70-90°F.

Gracefully running into the briny—or where's the brake!

As one would expect of an R.A.F. station, the runway extends the full length of the island in an east to west direction, stopping just short of the sea at either end. At least on one occasion it should have extended into the sea, as a certain Sea-Vixon from H.M.S. *Eagle* proved, by running gracefully off into the briny, causing a certain amount of heart-searching by all concerned. The R.A.F. had a good laugh at the Senior Service's expense, until they learned that an R.A.F. pilot was in the 'driver's' seat at the time. He was heard to shout over the intercom "where's the brake?" or words to that effect. Fortunately, the only casualty was the 'plane itself, but this was quickly recovered by the Fire Section and S.A.S. Flight and safely returned to its mother ship.

'Mail' and female

The station is essentially a staging post for passenger aircraft plying between the U.K. and the Far East. These now mainly consist of VC-10s, with the occasional Comet, Britannia or Hastings, to add a touch of variety. These aircraft are always eagerly awaited by the inmates of Gan; not only might there be "mail having," but also a chance of seeing that rare bird called a "human female." By this you may gather that Gan is strictly "a man's world." Oh, I forgot, we do have one of the opposite sex amongst us, and she is the W.R.V.S. representative, who does a fine job in rather a unique position—one among 800—what interesting possibilities that conjures up!

'Mr. Ten Per Cent'

As well as these visitors from the air, we are quite often 'attacked' from the sea, when ships of the Royal Navy come to the lagoon in order to re-fuel. Not only with the liquid which drives them along, but also the kind which is obtainable in half-pint cans. On these occasions various matches are organised between teams from the ships and the station. Dare I say that invariably the attackers sadly retire, defeated, but full of good cheer—the N.A.A.F.I. has run dry again. (True story: The registration number of the N.A.A.F.I. manager's car on this island is 'MR 10 PC.' If you like your jokes explained, then translate as 'Mr. Ten Per cent').

The Army on the island is represented by eight of us and two Sappers, who look after the mail. Sometimes the Army strength is increased by the arrival of more Sappers, who come here to do the blasting on the reef to provide MPBW with the wherewithal for the construction work which is carried out from time to time. If they do much more blasting there will not be any reef left to blast, blast them!



A unique signpost on Gan Island

Our work on the island keeps us busy but . . .

We are responsible for all telephone and land-line circuits on the station, and this keeps us all as busy as we need to be. The R.A.F. have said lots of kind words to us, so we feel just a little proud of ourselves. On the recreational side, no one should be left out of it. All the normal outdoor sports, such as cricket, hockey, soccer, rugby, golf and tennis are catered for, as well as some which are not so frequently found on a station's doorstep. These include amongst others, swimming, sailing and skin-diving. If none of these appeal to an individual, there is always a means of obtaining exercise by either walking, running, or just cycling round the island—a distance of about 5½ miles. In addition there is fishing; a few sharks have been caught off the reef, as well as numerous tuna fish. Then, if one fancies oneself as a collector, there are numerous types of shells to pick up around the atoll.

Night Life? — mostly it's the self-help variety

Night life? Unfortunately, this is one great disadvantage. Apart from one cinema (with performances every night) and the very rare C.S.E. Show, all other entertainment is strictly of the self-help variety. This is one place where it is not possible to take a taxi to the nearest village or town to spend an evening at the local hop.

If you are a member of **Staff Sergeant J. R. Jacobs'** Gan Signals Detachment, you can find plenty to do, and if there is nothing arranged that suits you, you start it going, as **Coorporal F. D. Hinxman** did, with the .22 Shooting Club, and then get the others interested; he has already got **Lance-Corporal A. F. Alderson** shooting, when he can spare time from his sport and from teaching people how to swim. Our Technician and ex-Apprentice, **Lance-Corporal R. W. Branson**



Corps men of Gan: *Left to right*: Staff Sergeant S. R. Jacobs, Signalmen J. Madden, G. Wood, Lance Corporal R. W. Branson, Signalman S. A. Palethorpe and Corporal F. D. Hinxman



Sailing is a very popular pursuit on the Island — here is Lance Corporal Branson explaining a point to the Commanding Officer on one of his visits

re-learnt another of his skills the other day, when he took the Commanding Officer, who was paying us a three-day visit, out sailing in a G.P. He negotiated the 20-foot wide path through the coral reef opposite the sailing club with a minimum of centre-board and about 36 'Lee Hos' before handing over the helm. **Signalman J. Madden** likes to run as well as swim, and came fourth in a field of 46 in a station trial for the F.E.A.F. championships on the island's 5½-miles circuit. We are proud to say that he was chosen to represent the station at the championships. **Signalman G. Wood,** as well as the normal sports and swimming, manages to play basketball for the Equipment Section and, incidentally, now looks after the one Army vehicle we possess on the island. **Lance-Corporal R. J. Roe** is our social organiser on the island and, if his 32 female pen-friends are any evidence, should eventually have his own social life well organised. This, then, is the sort of team you could, if you are good enough, join if you ever get posted to 2 Squadron, 19th Regiment.

Leave possibilities

Can you get away from Gan during your tour? Well, apart from a bit of leave when you can be flown to either U.K., Singapore, Cyprus or Ceylon (on occasions) the only recourse is to visit a small R.A.F. 'enclave' on neighbouring Hitaddu Island, in the same atoll. (There is a Mali Government ban on all other visits). On Hitaddu there is a smallish static water tank, which the R.A.F. have stocked with four sharks. (The Station Commander would not say whether this was for disciplinary purposes!). In the few square yards which the R.A.F. occupy on this island, there is a small club with the inevitable bar and the equally inevitable 'nude decorations' around. Next door to the bar is a fully-equipped large-size billiards table. Let no one say the days of the British are numbered when we can transport and instal a large-size billiards table on an island like Hitaddu. In fact no one who visits R.A.F. Gan can doubt that the British nation is still made up of the same sterling, cheerful, enterprising stuff that secretly we always knew we were.

Like to help?

Finally, if the Editor will allow me another line or so, I would like to thank the various W.R.V.S. branches and those in the Regiment who so kindly send us books and magazines, we read them from cover to cover and then pass them on to our R.A.F. comrades. Perhaps you, too, can offload some of your old books by sending them to us. They will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

P.S.—A notice in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess reads:

GAN
THE ISLAND IN THE SUN
JEWEL OF THE INDIAN OCEAN
GOD BLESS THE DUMP!

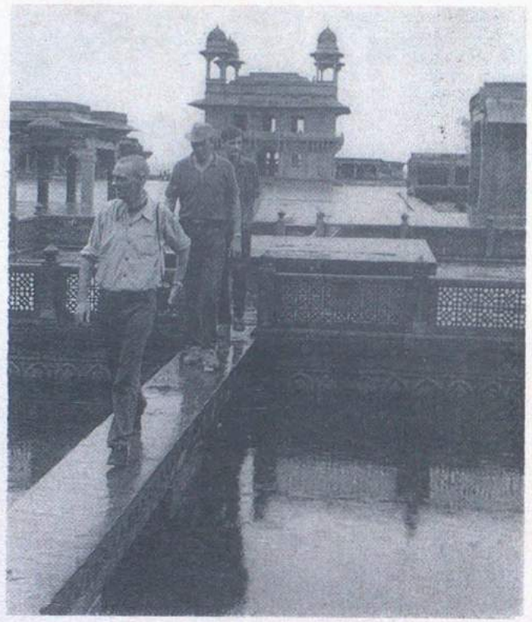
Report No. 4—Return Journey

Final phase of the Royal Signals overland expedition to Calcutta and back

Written by Lieutenant D. Mc.H. Overton

THE expedition returned to England, as planned, on the 2nd October, after a memorable journey of some 10,000 miles from Calcutta. Altogether, the 20-year-old long wheel-base Land Rover covered 20,130 miles, consuming 1,000 gallons of diesel and 40 pints of oil during the two-way journey, which began at 15.30 hours on the 14th June and ended at 12.00 noon on 2nd October.

During the outward bound journey **Corporal David Mitchell** lost about three stone in weight (although he put one stone back on during the return journey) and **Lieutenant Don Overton** managed to reduce to under 10 stone (he can now get into his Service Dress, even though Newcastle beer



IN INDIA . . .
Staff-Sergeant Forth, Corporal Mitchell and Signalman Gill at Fatehpur Sikri—the deserted capital of the Emperor Akbar, builder of the Taj Mahal

isn't helping him at all!). The other two members, **Staff Sergeant Colin Forth** and **Signalman Stan Gill,** sustained themselves well and suffered no discomforts during the trip.

The Expedition meets up in Nepal

On the 1st August **Sergeant Forth** and **Lieutenant Overton** flew from Singapore to Calcutta and then travelled to Dharan by rail to rendezvous with the other members of the expedition. On the night of the 5th August we joined forces to complete part of the hand-over. The actual handover of the vehicle and equipment was scheduled to take place in Calcutta and so on the 8th August, after a brief parting, we re-assembled in Calcutta, **Captain Kelvin Kent** and his crew travelling by Land Rover and **Staff Sergeant Forth** and **Lieutenant Overton** going down by Indian Railways, an experience to be remembered!

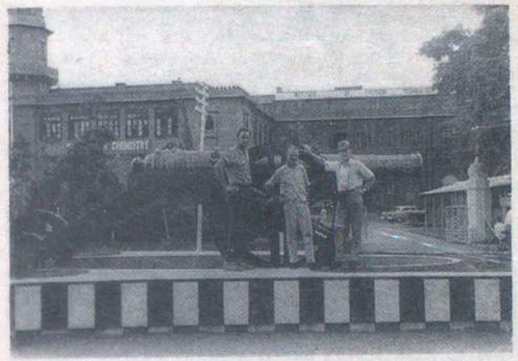
The first snags

The official departure from Calcutta had been planned for 9th August but 50 miles out of Calcutta the rear differential casing disintergrated, and so the Land Rover had to be nursed back to Calcutta on front wheel drive! **Captain Kent** and **Lieutenant Overton** arranged for the repair of the Land Rover and also obtained enough money to pay for repairs. It cost £92 and this included a 10 per cent reduction for cash! After much hard work the Land Rover was returned to us in one piece on the 12th and that night we prepared ourselves for an early departure the next morning. During the time the vehicle was being repaired we toured Calcutta and came away with some very mixed feelings. Building and sanitation-wise little appeared to have been done since partition. After monsoon rains the streets become rivers due to the inadequacy of the drainage system. With the streets being used as communal rubbish tips the whole effect was very depressing.

Start of our journey

At 10 a.m. on Sunday morning 13th August, we left Calcutta en route for Delhi. The four-day journey took us through the flat, barren parts of India and to some extent the most uninteresting. The road, consisting of a series of potholes inter-

(Continued on page 67)



IN LAHORE
Left to right: Corporal Mitchell, Staff-Sergeant Forth and Lieutenant Overton by Kim's Gun of Rudyard Kipling fame

spersed by buffalo carts, was inappropriately named The Grand Trunk Road! The single lane road with its mud verges for over-taking was truly a relic of bygone days. We left the main road to see Agra, where we visited the Taj Mahal and the famous Red Fort of Agra. We were unable to see all of it, as the Indian Army is garrisoned there. In the afternoon we visited the deserted capital of the Emperor Akbar, builder of the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, where was passed three fascinating hours. That night we arrived in Delhi, where we rested for three days. We stayed at the British High Commission and were very well looked after. After this sojourn we set off for Pakistan, travelling via Dehra Dun, the famous Brigade of Gurkhas pre-war depot. **Lieutenant Overton** stayed at the house of **Jemada Pirtansing Gurung,** ex 2/2 GR, father of **Staff Sergeant Prembabadur Gurung,** Gurkha Signals. The rest of the party spent the night at Mussoree hill station. We departed next morning for Luddiana.

Pakistan

The following day we crossed into Pakistan and made our way to Lahore where we spent the afternoon shopping and sightseeing. Lahore is the resting place of Kim's Gun, of Rudyard Kipling fame. The following day we left for Rawalpindi, where we stayed two nights before moving on to Peshawar. En route, our Land Rover's rear differential broke down again! The expedition limped into Peshawar where we were able to 'obtain' a Land Rover(?) rear differential second-hand! This was fitted on the spot and we were able to leave the following morning—£30 lighter!

Afghanistan and Persia

We crossed into Afghanistan via the Khyber Pass and the Kabul Gorge. We were accommodated at the British Embassy for three days with customary hospitality. We left Kabul on the 30th after an all-night party! Unfortunately **Lieutenant Overton** had developed an infected throat during the trip to Kandahar and we had no alternative but to stay a day there. Fortunately he recovered by the second day and we were able to push on to Herat in the morning.

This part of the journey, from Kabul to Turkey, was one of the most tedious because the roads were flat and the countryside was sparse and uninteresting. The majority of the so-called roads were really no more than dusty cart tracks which made life rather uncomfortable in the Land Rover.

We stopped for two nights in Teheran to benefit from some very thirst-quenching draught Red Barrel!

Turkey

We travelled through Turkey over indifferent roads and arrived at Istanbul on 13th September, exactly a month after leaving Calcutta. This was the end of our eastern journey. We spent three very pleasant days in Istanbul sightseeing and shopping. We are now the proud owners of four suede coats from the Bazaar there!

The home run

Once we left Istanbul we were on home ground and the journey passed rapidly. From Istanbul we went to Athens, where we saw the Acropolis and a variety of other interesting sights. We also attended a wine festival at Daphne. From there we went on to Patras, where we caught the ferry to Corfu. There we spent a very enjoyable day looking at the varied scenery which was not unlike so many parts of England. After leaving Corfu, we arrived at Brindisi by ferry and from there we travelled up the east coast of Italy to Venice.

After two nights at Venice we motored slowly through Germany (stopping at Munich for the Beer Fest) and arrived at R.A.F. Geilenkirchen where we met up with 3 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment on exercise!

The return to London

We left R.A.F. Geilenkirchen on 1st October and crossed over to England that night. Then we made our way to London where we reported to Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, who had generously organised a small reception committee for us. This was indeed a welcome sight.

Conclusions

The four of us, Lieutenant Don Overton, Staff Sergeant Colin Forth, Corporal David Mitchell and Signalman Stan Gill, felt that this was a trip of a life time. We had seen many countries, their peoples and some of their customs and most important we have learned a tremendous amount during our travels. At times the going was very hard, patience was severely tested and the driving and navigation monotonous and tedious. We did, however, manage to retain a sense of humour which was a constant companion.

We are all very grateful for the support we were given, not only from the Corps but from all the private organisations which helped us to complete such a memorable expedition. Our sincere thanks to them all.



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7th Armd Bde. H.Q. and Signal Squadron (207) B.F.P.O. 30

• **The Squadron surmounts some hurdles.**



ATTEMPTING to continue in the style of my predecessor in producing an article with a more personal view is going to prove very difficult this month because our main occupation has been in surmounting the hurdles of the Administrative Inspection and Unit Equipment Inspection, interspersed by a couple of quick turn-outs.

Like father—like son!

Admin and UEI came upon us hot on the trail of Exercise "Hell Tank II." It is great credit to all concerned that both went extremely well. Part of our Administrative Inspection was the presentation of the Adjutant's Cup to **Lance-Corporal Corcoran** (suitably it was one of the Brigade Commander's last functions in Soltau before handing over command to **Brigadier Ford**). The Adjutant's Cup is presented annually to the soldier who has done most to enhance the reputation of the Squadron over the previous twelve months. Among **Lance-Corporal Corcoran's** achievements is his continued success at shooting; he was at Bisley this year and won the ARA's Rifle Brigade Cup. It appears to run in the family, because **Lance-Corporal Corcoran's** father was also a Bisley shot.



Lance Corporal Corcoran receiving Adjutant's Cup from Brigadier R. E. Worsley, O.B.E., Brigade Commander. Major Benbow looking on

Film personalities

"A" Troop were involved in filming for a Training film. They were required to set up a Brigade Headquarters and to provide certain personalities. **Lieutenant Hunt** received the rank of local Captain and the appointment of G3. The weather played havoc with timings but eventually it did stop raining and the filming was completed.

In sport—not too much success

Now to the sporting side. On the rugger side we have not had much success, losing to 3 RTR 1st XV 36—0 and 2 RTR XV 16—11; the rugger fraternity attribute this to the fact that the soccer side borrowed some of our regular players and consequently have had quite a successful month—the most noticeable being their success in the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Cup, beating 54 Squadron R.C.T. 5—1. Next it's the semi-finals!

We have recently had an about change of commanders in the lower echelons: **Lieutenant D. Hunt** O.C. "A" Troop, **Second-Lieutenant J. McLean** Second-in-Command "A" Troop, **Second-Lieutenant M. Roberts** O.C. "B" Troop, **Lieutenant D. J. Duckworth** Training Officer and PRI, and **R.S.M. MacDonald.**

We say farewell to the following: **Captain A. C. Stutchbury, Lieutenant J. Budd, Lieutenant I. Oddie** and **R.S.M. Bibby.**

The matrimonial plunge . . .

Recently the following have taken the plunge and entered into the happy state of matrimony: **Captain A. C. Stutchbury** to **Miss A. Corbett** and **Signalman Walker** to **Fräulein Adam.** Our best wishes go with them.

. . . and new arrivals

Congratulations to the following on recent additions to their families: **Corporal Mitchell** a boy, **Wayne; Lance-Corporal Baird** a daughter, **Elizabeth Mary; Signalman Hutchison** a daughter, **Amanda.**

7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. Principal Appointments

Squadron H.Q.: O.C.—**Major R. Benbow;** Second-in-Command—**Captain P. R. Buchanan;** Training and PRI—**Lieutenant D. J. Duckworth;** Adjutant—**Captain B. O. Simmonds,** 15/19 H; R.S.M.—**W.O.I (R.S.M.) G. S. MacDonald;** Chief Clerk—**Staff Sergeant A. Smith.**

"A" Troop: O.C.—**Lieutenant D. Hunt;** Second-in-Command—**Second-Lieutenant J. K. C. McLean;** Staff Sergeant—**Staff Sergeant Williams.**

"B" Troop: O.C.—**Second-Lieutenant M. W. H. Roberts;** Staff Sergeant—**Staff Sergeant A. G. M. Thomson;** F. of S.—**Staff Sergeant D. O'Connor.**

"Q" Troop: Q.M.—**Captain F. Whennell,** RHG (Blues); R.Q.M.S.—**W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) A. Mears,** Royal Signals.

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (212) B.F.P.O. 36

AT the time of writing, 1968 has just started with a bang and a flash in the traditional German manner. The last two months of 1967 have rushed by with individual training and preparation for the Christmas festivities.

A tankard for Signalman Hudson

Going back as far as November, we ran a Class III military proficiency course for some eighteen students. At a very impressive pass-off parade, taken by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier H. M. G. Bond, Signalman Ron Hudson** was presented with a tankard for achieving the best all-round results.

In early December, that yearly dreaded day came, the annual administrative inspection. At a parade in which we mixed our 430 series armoured fighting vehicles with marching troops, our new Foreman of Signals, **Staff Sergeant Roy Kelly** was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Brigade Commander.

After the administrative inspection, **Captain Beverley Yates,** our Communications Officer, ran, very ably assisted by **Sergeant Clive Pritchard** and **Lance-Corporal 'Brummy' Hewson,** for 'A' Troop, a very successful operators' cadre. Meanwhile, **Staff Sergeant Bill Chalmers** was instructing in our 'German for Beginners' course, and 'B' Troop were re-equipping and learning how to operate the BRUIN System.

Five tickets—five prizes!

The Christmas festivities started with the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas draw, held at the Restaurant Waldschlösschen, in Osnabruck. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves and **R.S.M. Sam Peberdy** who, it is said, only bought five tickets, won five prizes! The Corporals' Mess, under the able leadership of **Corporal 'Chic' Brister,** took over the next evening by running a very enjoyable Christmas social evening.

On 19th December, all junior ranks sat down to eat, drink and be merry at a traditional Christmas meal, served by the Officers, W.O.s and senior N.C.O.s of the unit and the Brigade Headquarters. Judging by the amount of food and drink consumed, all were well filled. 21st December saw feverish decorative activity in the W.R.V.S. Room, which the unit had taken over for the day for a children's Christmas party in the afternoon and an all ranks' Christmas dance in the evening. One hundred and forty children had a very enjoyable time and all received a present from Father Christmas (**Staff Sergeant Gordon Pickard**) before they left. In the evening, the mums and dads returned for their party. Probably the highlight of the evening was **Second-Lieutenant Chris Wollaston** and his partner winning a marathon twist competition.

And so to 1968

With Christmas over, we have ski-ing courses taking place at Kranzegg, in Bavaria, at the 12th Infantry Brigade Winter Warfare Camp, and some of our members are attending more advanced courses at Silberhutte, in the Harz Mountains of Germany. **Captain Ken Adrian,** our M.T.O. is battling with the elements, snow and black ice, to run a 430 Series AFV drivers' course. The Second-in-Command, **Captain Paul Webb,** has an office full of maps prepared for future exercises, and had already disappeared by helicopter for his first recce of the year. Looking to the future, plans are already being made for the unit adventure training camp on the Baltic Coast, and a camping expedition to Holland in July.

246 Gurkha Signal Squadron B.F.P.O. 1

• **The Squadron is visited by the 'Bomber'**



Some of the damage suffered at the Gurkha Broadcasting Station which is maintained by 246 Gurkha Squadron, when a bomb was planted in the building

AT 23.50 hours on the night of 15th November, the pen in the Brigade duty officer's hand jumped and then went on to record that a loud explosion had been heard very close to or within the Brigade H.Q. area.

It was not until the following morning, at first light, that the pilot of a Sioux helicopter reported bomb damage to the Gurkha Broadcasting Station.

Our picture shows **F. of S. Porritt** near the hole which was blown in the wall. He has good reason to look worried because as he says, "you only have to blow on that old transmitter and it stops." The picture does not show the full extent of the damage; all the windows were smashed, wall fitments loosened and dislodged and, of course, the transmitter was damaged.

The station is just outside the perimeter fence and is operated and maintained by the Squadron. The 'bomber,' as they are known locally, cut his way through the perimeter wire of the station, planted his bomb, and left rapidly, using a ladder we use to maintain the aerial components on the roof.

Fortunately no one was in the station when the explosion occurred.

The station was on the air again at the scheduled time the same evening, the damage repaired and the windows IS proofed!

Northag Air Support Radio Squadron B.F.P.O. 18

THE Squadron has settled down to winter training in classrooms, with a training programme which includes English Language for non-speakers. We are now almost up to strength, personnelwise, but someone has forgotten our equipment! Anyone got a spare fuse?

Signalman Seabrook has joined the married ranks, and married **Miss Lisette Ramaekers,** in Tongeren on 16th December—congratulations go to them from all ranks.

Christmas Activities

The officers were entertained in the Sergeants' Mess, and it was the first time ALL of the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s had met in one place.

A Squadron party was held for all ranks and was a truly multi-national gathering. Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

Various Christmas draws were held in the area. The Squadron and 641 Troop were really amongst the prizes.

New Year

At the time of writing, **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Gurr** is planning to "warm us up a bit" on a winter exercise in the Ardennes, where the snow is "n" feet deep.

Question: "'Q,' what type of heater goes in a clerks' iglo?"
Answer: "————" muffled reply.
A good time **should** be had by all. Ugh!!!

Farewell

Major and Mrs. J. D. Plummer, lost to the staff; we wish them well in their new appointment.

Commandant Dantine (BE), posted to UNO Force Kashmir.

Lance-Corporal Rutherford, posted to SHAPE.

Welcome

Welcome to our new Squadron Commander, **Major F. Pedley.** We hope he and his family will have a pleasant tour here.

We also have a new Belgian Second-in-Command, **Captain Willems,** and our Sergeant-Major, **S.M.I. Kuiper,** has arrived at last from the Hague.

SPORT

At present we are bottom of the Rhine Area Soccer League. (Someone has to hold them up!).

Battle is engaged weekly against the local R.A.F. team.

Latest results: Won 4—3, won 4—2, won 4—3, lost 2—9 (must be the R.A.F. first team).

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Ellis,** who won the 3 JSC badminton final. Also to the S.Q.M.S., who lasted to the second round. (Mind, he's getting on a bit).

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

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36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)

Wanstead



ANNUAL CAMP
W.R.A.C. Netball Teams

THE close of 1967 saw the first cycle of staff changes since the formation of the Regiment.

Major Len Rogers leaves

Major (Q.M.) Frank Lindley, M.B.E., retired after more than 30 years' service in the Corps. Other Permanent Staff retirements were **W.O.II N. R. Little, W.O.II D. W. Gunstone** and **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) H. A. Simons,** all of whom had been at R.H.Q. Our Training Major, **Major E. L. Rogers,** left on appointment as Second-in-Command of 13th Regiment, and **W.O.II H. W. Jones,** P.S.I. of 45th (Essex) Signal Squadron, was posted to 30th Regiment.

The speed with which the Regiment has established itself, and its success so far, has owed much to the enormous work put in by the Permanent Staff since April. Hours have been long and duties various; the Regiment's thanks are due to them all. To pick out individuals may be invidious, but a special mention must be made of **Major Len Rogers** who, as one of the chief architects, has driven himself and us to good purpose without 'driving us up the wall.' Best wishes and good luck to them all.

Also coming and going

A warm welcome is extended to **Major P. D. Templeman-Evans,** Training Major, **Captain (Q.M.) A. G. Harfield, B.E.M., Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. G. Hunt, Staff Sergeant J. W. Clarke** and **Corporal B. Wray,** who join to fill the vacancies.

Several Volunteer Officers have been forced to retire or transfer, due to their civilian duties: **Captain T. C. Charlesworth,** Second-in-Command of 45th (Essex) Signal Squadron, has gone to 33 (Lancs and Cheshire) Signal Regiment; **Captain V. M. Sutton, W.R.A.C.,** and **Lieutenant (Tfc.) E. Phillips,** both also of 45 Squadron, and **Captain F. C. D. Taylor,** of 54 (East Anglian) Signal Squadron, have retired. **Lieutenant G. T. R. Holliman** has transferred to 37 (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment; this is a double blow, because **Officer Cadet Valerie Gilbert** will be following him in the autumn, when they are to marry. Again, sincere thanks for the contribution of time and effort they have all made, and our best wishes for their future success.

40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V)

Belfast

• Sad loss for the Regiment.

WITH very deep regret, we must start these notes by recording a death. Not the death of an officially recruited member of the Regiment, but one who was a good and loyal friend to us all, **Mrs. Mary McCartney,** our caretaker's wife.

A very good friend indeed: no extra work was ever too much trouble for her and no social function was complete without her. She had been ill for some time, but to the very end she remained cheerful, thoughtful for others, and unfailingly helpful. We will all miss her, and our sympathy goes out to her husband, **Sammy McCartney** (Drum Major in the AVR II Battalion of the North Irish Militia), and her daughter, **June.**

As a small mark of our respect and sorrow, **Mrs. McCartney's** coffin was carried to the grave by the following Regular and AVR members of the Regiment: **Major R. B. Carroll, Captain (Q.M.) M. Ham, W.O.II G. A. Aven, W.O.II S. Dinsmore (V), W.O.II H. Long (V), Staff Sergeant W. J. Lawson (V), Staff Sergeant H. J. Stanley (V), Sergeant T. P. D. Roberts** and **Sergeant R. W. Webster.** In addition the funeral was attended by the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Carroll, M.B.E.,** and the R.S.M., **W.O.I Armstrong.**

The Ladies' Club

Mrs. McCartney's illness inspired our Ladies' Club to perform a great effort on behalf of the Cancer Campaign for Research. They commenced with a very successful draw for Christmas hampers, the contents of which were ruthlessly extracted from local shopkeepers and from our Messes. They then 'persuaded' our artistic handyman, **Major D. G. Farrar,** to make them a beautiful Wishing Well. This was prominently displayed at various functions, and superstitious or be-fuddled men dropped in their small change. Whether the well is an efficient implementer of wishes we do not know, but it is certainly an efficient extractor of cash.

All told our ladies raised some £50 for Cancer Research, and they will present a cheque to the local Campaign Secretary in January. Well done our ladies.

Christmas functions

Very heavy snow and an overtime ban by local bus employees combined to reduce attendance at the All Ranks Dance. However, those who did manage to be present had all the more space for dancing, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Every other function (Carol Service, cocktail parties, dinners, dances—you name them, we had them!) went very well indeed. A few recollections from them . . . At the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner, **Lieutenant-Colonel Carroll** presented a ballet skirt to **S.S.M. Long** of 66 Squadron, as a memento of his incredibly graceful 'Fall out' during the Annual Administrative Inspection parade. The Old Vic has nothing on us . . . At the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Draw, the R.S.M. won a Spirograph. Ladies beware! Next time you are invited to see his etchings you will know what to expect! Every function held by the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes was attended by some of our IIB members who gave up a weekend of their time to cross the Irish Sea to join us. We Belfast dwellers were delighted to see them, and are pleased and proud at this indication of regimental spirit.

CATTERICK REUNION, 1968

MAKE A SPECIAL NOTE OF THE DATE AND PASS THE WORD AROUND! THIS WILL BE HELD ON THE WEEK-END 22nd/23rd JUNE

Obituary



Major (Q.M.) A. E. Winton, D.C.M., M.B.E.

MAJOR A. E. WINTON, O.B.E., D.C.M.

Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, who knew him well, writes:

The death of **Arthur Ernest Winton** on 23rd December marks the passing of one of the very few remaining whose service goes back to the days of the Telegraph Battalion, Royal Engineers. He served continuously for close on 45 years followed by ten years with the Army as a civilian. He was born in 1885 into the Army, his father being a Sergeant Major with the Grenadier Guards and when he finally retired from being a Clerical Officer with the Mons Officers' Cadet School in 1959 he had spent 75 years of life with the Army—a truly remarkable record.

In 1901 at the age of 15½ he enlisted into the Royal Engineers and was singled out for training as a Telephonist and Lineman. On leaving Chatham in 1905 he joined the 1st Telegraph Battalion R.E. and after two years' attachment to the G.P.O. sailed for South Africa in 1906. There he served with the 2nd Field Troop in Zululand, and in 1908 was promoted Sergeant in the Telegraph Section at Pretoria. After service at the South African School of Signals he was posted home in 1913 with the rank of C.Q.M.S. and after a brief period as an Instructor at the School of Signals, Aldershot, joined in 1914 the 5th Divisional Signal Company R.E. as C.Q.M.S. at Carlow in Southern Ireland, with which unit the writer of this notice was then serving as an Infantry Brigade Signal Officer. In August 1914 he proceeded with his unit to France and took part in the Battles of Mons, Le Cateau, The Retreat, Marne-Aisne and the 1st and 2nd Ypres, during which period I was commanding the Cable Section and was Second-in-Command of the unit. We saw much of each other, and I knew personally what splendid service he rendered during those difficult days.

In the summer of 1915 he was promoted C.S.M. and was supernumerary to the unit's establishment. In September, 1915, I left the unit suddenly to take command of the 24th Divisional Signal Company R.E. which had just landed in France and whose C.O. had just been posted home; it was about to commence its march to the front to take part in its first battle—that of Loos. The unit was composed of magnificent material but had no stiffening of Regulars and no one with any previous experience with the B.E.F. On the second day of our march to the front the C.S.M. was posted to the base and I was faced with an awkward position. In my dilemma my mind at once turned to **Winton** and in answer to an urgent priority signal to my late C.O., **Captain Doherty Holwell, R.E., C.S.M. Winton** arrived within 12 hours on a motor cycle. He found himself in a novel situation. With 15 years' service with Regular units, his early background with the Guards and his experience of old soldiers and strict discipline, he had suddenly become C.S.M. to a unit about to go into action for the first time and composed of enthusiastic volunteers lacking experienced officers or N.C.O.s and with a standard of discipline of their own. Had he handled them the wrong way, the unit would have been ruined, but this kindly, cheerful, highly efficient and firm man with his technical and administrative skill, coped with this fine body of men in just the right way and when he left the unit two years later on promotion to R.S.M. it was both happy and highly efficient, possibly with a somewhat novel form of discipline not so much based on regulations as on 'esprit de corps' and common sense. Few, if any, did not mourn his going. During this period the unit took part in the Battles of the Somme, the second Battle of Loos, Vimy Ridge, and spent many months in the Ypres Salient. It still holds an annual reunion which he regularly attended until severe arthritis made the journey to London impossible.

He served for the rest of the War as R.S.M. of 2nd Corps Signals, and on his return to the U.K. was shortly posted to Egypt where he was successively R.Q.S.M. of the 3rd Lahore Indian Divisional Signal Company, an all Mussulman Unit, and 10th Indian Divisional Signal Company, composed of Hindus—again a novel situation as it was his first contact with Indians—again he was an outstanding success.

He returned to England in 1924 when he was posted as R.S.M. to the Depot Battalion at Maresfield. In 1925 he was commissioned as Lieutenant Q.M. and joined 4th Divisional Signals at Colchester. In 1927 he embarked for China and served with the Shanghai Defence Force. In 1928 he was posted to 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot. In 1936 he was again on active service, this time in Palestine.

At the outbreak of the war in 1939 he was posted as Major and Q.M. to the newly formed Signal Training Centre at Prestatyn where he remained until 1943 when he was posted to the Training Brigade at Catterick. He was retired in 1945 after 44 years and ten months continuous service during which period he was awarded the D.C.M. in 1916, the M.B.E. in 1943 and was twice Mentioned in Despatches.

He died aged 82 (four years my senior) on the anniversary of his wife's death who was three years his elder. They had been married for 51 years and he was living with his married son at the time of his death. Three days before he died I received a letter from him cheerful and light hearted as ever. Full of gratitude to his family for the loving care they were giving him and with no complaints despite a series of heart attacks and arthritis which confined him to the house; he said—quote "I was only thinking the other day that when I joined the only means of communication were a few flags and a drum or two of cable."

I am glad to be able to pay this small tribute to a great friend and one to whom I owe much—small in stature but great in heart, he deserved well of his country and of the Corps he served so well.

C.Q.M.S. JOHNSON, D.C.M., M.M.

It is with regret that we record the death, on 8th December, at his home in Ludgershall of **ex-C.Q.M.S. Johnson,** at the age of 82. He had been ill for some time.

'Johnny,' as he was widely known to a large circle of friends, was a Life Member of the Association and a founder member of the Corps, having voluntarily transferred from R.E. Signals on the formation of the Corps. He was also an Old Contemptible. He retired from the Corps in 1926, and was soon taking an active participation in the life of the village of Ludgershall. He was, of course, always interested in the problems of the ex-soldier and would always lend a sympathetic ear and, if he possibly could, a helping hand.

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!



THE LATE JIMMY EMBLEM

As fully reported in the last WIRE the death occurred just after Christmas of the well-known Corps personality **Sergeant Jimmy Emblem** of boxing fame. Amongst those present at the funeral were **Major-General A. E. Morrison, Brigadier F. J. Allen, F. A. Jones, Joe Cotterell, 'Dolly' Gray, Vic Goodman** and **Vic Ient.**

Amongst the floral tributes were wreaths from Association H.Q. and the Aldershot Branch.

Association Notes

HULL BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: G. A. Soar, Esq., 164, Park Road, Hull.

The Hull Branch of the Royal Signals Association held their annual Dinner at the Yorkshire Rose Grill Room, Paragon Street, on Saturday, 2nd December—an evening that was very much an unqualified success, and round about seventy-five people were present.

The Padre, the **Rev. Jim Dearden,** an ex-Major of the Corps, called for silence for absent friends and said the Grace.

The Guest of Honour was **Lieutenant-Colonel C. O. Bound,** commanding 11th Regiment at Catterick Camp, accompanied by **Mrs. Bound.**

The Hull Branch Chairman, **Mr. Frank Shaw,** reported that much progress had been made during the year under review due to the following contributory factors:

A planned programme of regular meetings and social activities to suit all tastes; everyone pulling the same way, but yet no-one afraid to air his views or offer healthy, progressive and constructive criticism; loyal support from members, their wives and friends of the Branch, resulting in happy relationships and useful revenue from fund raising efforts; regular attendance at Branch meetings by the majority of members and (which is extremely important) the use of a well run and comfortable meeting place thanks to the committee and members of Hull Boiler Makers' Club. A leather document case was presented to **Mr. George Arthur Soar** for his untiring and devoted services as Hon. Secretary over a long period.

The Chairman stressed how fortunate the Branch was in having a keen and active committee who all attended at least two meetings per month.

The Branch is also represented on the 'Joint Council of Hull and District ex-Services' Associations' and also British Legion Executive Committee (Hull Branch).

Lieutenant-Colonel C. O. Bound expressed his confidence in the Corps and the modern soldier who is doing a grand job. He read out a long list of achievements by Royal Signals personnel in sport, etc., during the last few months and expressed pleasure at meeting so many ex-serving members of the Corps.

A varied programme of entertainment was much enjoyed by aproximately 75 members and wives and friends who were present at this happy gathering.

HUDDERSFIELD BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. T. Mellors, Lea House, Shepley, Huddersfield.

We held a successful Annual Dinner on the 15th December; thirty-nine of us sat down to Christmas Fare. Competitions rewarded with prizes donated by members ensured a lively evening. Impelled by the action of Mrs. Castle, we hired a bus which saw us all safely home.

Members look to 1968 with feelings of achievement.

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: H. Gillibrand, Esq., 12, Falkland Avenue, New Southgate, N.11.

Extracted from 'Inter-Com,' the newsletter of this progressive branch.

A quick re-cap over a period of 12 months shows that branch activities became ever more varied and increasingly successful. In the space of a year we have challenged the Diehards O.C.A. at shooting, cribbage, darts, etc.; held a ladies' night, Christmas party, A.G.M., tramps' supper and a branch dinner. We have been to Catterick, helped with a donkey derby and celebrated three wedding anniversaries in one night!

We have also shown films and slides, had a couple of good old 'natter-nights' and, just to show that this is honest reporting, we fell flat on our face in September, with an attendance of only seven members! This little disaster, however, was well and truly avenged when we got together for the October meeting. This was the branch at its brilliant best, and another social evening with a capital 'S.'

To add to the enjoyment, many varieties of cheese were enticingly displayed for the choice of the members, together with French bread and/or biscuits, pickles and some excellent beetroot, which had been grown and prepared by Joe and Mrs. Panting. Joe informs us that he grows the beetroot between his flowers, mainly for the decorative value of their leaves.

Of course, the real highlight of the evening was the excellent array of wines. These were mainly provided by our home wine-makers, who gained high praise for their products. There was wine to suit all tastes, and the more knowledgeable knew which wine for which cheese, while others, like myself, just waded in and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Eventually everyone came away highly delighted.

Obituary

MAJOR (Q.M.) K. L. UTTLEY

As we were going to press we were saddened to hear of the death of **Major Ken Uttley.** Ken was well known to a wide circle of Corps friends both serving and retired and the news will come as a shock to them, though there will be some who will know that he was a sick man for some years.

A fine example of that special product of the Corps—the ex Boy—**Ken** joined the Boys' Company in 1935. He received an emergency commission during the war in 1944 and became a regular Q.M. in 1963. His postings were many and varied but he will be particularly remembered in the G.H.Q. Signal Regiment FARELF, 2nd Signal Regiment B.A.O.R. and more recently at H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals.

Ken was a staunch supporter of the Corps and dedicated to the ex-Boy spirit, being for several years the organiser of that excellent function the ex-Boys' annual dinner.

Although ill for four years he refused to give in or admit medical defeat but soldiered on displaying a high degree of personal courage.

His tactful personality and natural friendliness endeared him to many. He will be sadly missed—not least by the many ex-Boys for whom he did so much.

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail); Twelve months **24/-;** *single month,* **2/-**).

☆

MARCH/APRIL • 1968

Vol. 22 *(New Series)* **No. 3**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

661 Signal Troop find the Ship's Guard of Honour as H.M.S. Intrepid makes a ceremonial entry into Singapore Harbour.

661 Signal Troop recently had the honour of finding a ceremonial guard for the above occasion. Readers will discern them on the open flight deck.

Our two Signal Troops, 661 and 621, have become well and truly integrated in their respective ships.

Readers may recall that 621 Troop were recently called on to provide the official guard of honour when H.M.S. 'Fearless' arrived home at the end of her current mission.

A healthy rivalry exists between these two Troops, as their WIRE notes sometimes indicate! (See page 113.)



Great Fun—But does the Corps take it seriously?

PICTURED above are (left) **Second-Lieutenant Lionel French** and (right) **Signalman Robin Fall.** Both are novice skiers having a 'bash' at the Army Championships in the Bavarian Alps. Naturally, they are 'sold' on this wonderful sport, as indeed are many other serving members of the Corps.

Yet it is disappointing to note, over recent years, how seldom the Corps achieves any real distinction in Army ski-ing events.

We can more than hold our own in all other sports—why, then, is ski-ing a Cinderella sport?

Is it because our units are too involved in exercises or are other activities more popular? Certainly, judging from the pages of The Wire, there is plenty of enthusiasm this season. Perhaps this is the beginning of a breakthrough — let us hope it is.

Special Mention

—— *Corporal W. Venus of 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment*

for being the outright winner of the Army Cross-Country Championships and also for finishing third—first of the Army representatives—in the contest between Army, Universities Athletic Association and Civil Service Athletic Association.

—— *Lance-Corporal Mick Gue of 9th Regiment*

for crowning his already impressive athletic record by winning the Army (Cyprus) Cross-Country Championships at Dhekelia recently, being successful in a field of 92 runners—a very excellent performance indeed in this gruelling race. Congratulations, too, must go to 9th Regiment who have provided the winner for the second successive time—last year's winner being **Signalman Chris Burr.**

A week later **Lance-Corporal Gue,** representing the Army (Cyprus) in an Inter-Services match, put up another fine performance. Running in wet conditions which hardly suit his fast style, **Gue** made it to second place—only 30 yards separating him from the R.A.F. winner.



Lance-Corporal Mick Gue

—— *Signalman R. Neilson of 8th Regiment*

for ably representing the Corps in the British Army soccer eleven which played the French Armed Forces in the "Kentish" Cup Triangular Tournament recently at Aldershot. It was a game the British Army could have won but missed chances led to a 1—0 defeat.

—— *A/T Lance-Corporal Campbell of the Army Apprentices' College*

for being, as a cross-country runner, in the Yorkshire Services League consistently the first man home in fields of a hundred or so competitors and for, at the age of sixteen, showing an athletic potential that should put him in the front rank of Corps athletes.

—— *Corps Boxers of B.A.O.R.*

for putting up such an excellent showing in the finals of the B.A.O.R. Individual Boxing Championships held recently in Berlin. Five Corps men reached the finals and two won B.A.O.R. Championships at their respective weights.

The two outright championship winners were Signalman F. Carr of 2nd Regiment at bantamweight and Signalman D. Wink also of 2nd Regiment in the light middleweight class.

The finalists who were runners-up were Signalman J. Thompson, 2nd Regiment, featherweight; Corporal Jones, 28th Regiment, bantamweight, and Signalman D. Pellegrenetti of 2nd Regiment, heavyweight.

From our "In" Tray

ANZIO 1969

Sir,

We have been informed that the Associazione Nazionale Marinai d'Italia are to organise commemorative ceremonies in Italy between the 22nd January and the 4th June, 1969, to mark the Anzio landings and the fighting at Cassino. A monument will be unveiled dedicated to Angelita of Anzio, a small girl who was looked after by the Sherwood Foresters when they first landed, but who was killed together with some British soldiers whilst sheltering in a trench. It is also intended during the period to move the memorial to the Sherwood Foresters to a more central position in Anzio.

A very ambitious programme is being considered, and the British Legion have agreed tentatively to send a pilgrimage to Anzio of relatives of men who are buried in the cemeteries there and in the neighbourhood, and of men who served at Anzio and Cassino during the last war.

We have promised to contact the Associations of all Regiments and Corps who served in that part of Italy, the R.A.F. Association, and the Royal Naval Association, and to pass on information to those whose members might be interested.

The Ministry of Defence have been unable to give a breakdown of the Regiments involved, and so this letter is being addressed to all Regimental Associations as well as the Associations of the other two Services.

You may wish to arrange a party to travel independently. If so, perhaps you would let me know, and I can put you in touch with the people on the Italian side. Alternatively, if members of your Association would like to travel with a British Legion party, I should be grateful for details at an early date.

Yours faithfully,
J. J. D. Rivers,
Secretary, Service Department.

British Legion Headquarters:
49, Pall Mall,
London, S.W.1.

MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM—HISTORY

Sir,

As the present Team Commander of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team, I have undertaken the task of compiling a history and records of the Team.

The Team has now been in operation for forty years. I would be most grateful if any of your readers would pass me information or news items on the Team, however trivial they may seem. Particularly requested are the names of Team Officers and S.N.C.O.s over the years, details of shows outside the United Kingdom and also any local stories or small talk connected with the Team.

Photographs would be most welcome, but should their return be required, please let me know so that they can be returned to the sender after copies have been taken. If no request for return is made, the photographs will be placed in the Team albums.

Trusting that we shall be inundated with many stories, photographs and lists of names and tricks, I am,

Yours,
A. C. M. Prince, Captain.
Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team.

Catterick Camp,
Yorkshire.

ROYAL SIGNALS CANOEING

Sir,

IN July/August, 1967, two officers of the Corps carried out a comprehensive reconnaissance of the upper reaches of the Rivers Wye and Severn. The officers concerned were **Lieutenant J. P. Theodorson** (now with 2 Division Signal Regiment) and **Lieutenant A. J. Hutt** (at R.M.C.S. Shrivenham).

As a result of this reconnaissance, the officers concerned have produced excellent recce reports for both rivers, and these reports constitute a most useful canoeists guide for the stretches of river involved.

It occurs to me that both Corps Unit Canoe Clubs and individual canoeists in the Corps would find these reports very useful, if either intended to undertake a canoeing expedition down the rivers concerned. Copies can be obtained by applying to me, as Secretary, Royal Signals Canoeing, or to the U.K. Representative for Royal Signals Canoeing (**Captain J. M. Gray,** Royal Signals, H.Q., 24 Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron, Crownhill Fort, Plymouth, Devon).

Yours etc.,

Signals 1 (Army),
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

R. P. D. F. Painter, Major,
Secretary, Royal Signals Canoeing.

THE ATHLETIC POTENTIAL OF CORPORAL HOLDEN OF 7th REGIMENT

Sir,

It was very interesting to read of **Corporal Holden's** running achievements (WIRE notes 7th Regiment January/February issue) and it would seem both 7th Regiment and the Corps can be proud of him.

It is more interesting to me because it was our then Commanding Officer of 21st Regiment who started this young man on an athletics career. No doubt **Colonel Haslehust,** an ex-Army runner himself, spotted the potentiality of this young N.C.O. in the athletic world.

T. A. Vaughan,
ex-R.S.M. 21st Regiment.

NAAFI Family Shop,
Krefeld, B.F.P.O. 35.

Records go Gay



THE annual office party was held at Balmore House, Caversham, by kind permission of OIC Records, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, and was enjoyed by more than a hundred of the military and civilian staff. Mr. S. D. R. Buck, Chairman of the committee introduced the Colonel, who in a seasonal address, paid tribute to the hard work done by the staff during the past year. An excellent buffet was provided by Mr. A. Jones and the ladies of the civilian canteen. The social afternoon that followed was arranged by Mr. F. Phillimore and the musical equipment was kindly provided by Major (Rtd.) N. Coslett, whilst Mrs. G. Humphries was responsible for the bar and raffle, and many willing hands made light work of all the mundane chores which had to be done. The highlight of the day was Balmore's own mini-skirted Miss World contest, justly won by a young lady of the Machine Wing, entered under the pseudonym of 'Miss Hap'.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. G. Hencher M.B.E., the Deputy OIC also attended and was in great demand on the dance floor. All agreed that the party was a real-ring-a-ding-ding-dinger, and look forward to the next time when once more such another social gathering can take place.

It's not a job of work — it's a way of life

• **Something about them compiled by members of the famous team.**

Many changes but all set for a good season

OLD members of the team returning are astounded by changes that have taken place recently. Inevitably a change of O.C.s produces some; a change of squadron commander produces more; a change of C.O.s adds to the fire and in addition we have physically moved. After February with a new Brigade Commander, we are prepared for anything! One thing though can be absolutely certain, the Royal Signals as a Corps continue to back us and in return, all of us, members of the team, hope that we shall in 1568 maintain the number one world position of the display team.

1967 was quite a year

The team had a good season in 1967 with **Captain Grist** and **Sergeant Biggs** at the helm. They steered the team from Coventry football ground through innumerable shows in England finishing with the memorable tour in Germany. The climax of the season was undoubtely the Berlin Tattoo where on two nights a total crowd of 140,000 watched us perform under floodlights. After this came a number of displays for units in B.A.O.R., and all units looked after us well and seemed to enjoy our shows. Our special thanks go to the squadron in Berlin, who acted so hospitably—including taking us over to East Berlin—and also to 7th and 16th Regiments, who acted as base units. On this tour, our new O.C. (**Captain A. C. M. Prince**), started to get to know us, travelling ahead or behind, acting as postman, liaison man and trying to sort out our travelling claims. He never seemed to stop doing something, but little did he know what was to come!

A few little things besides motor-cycling

The winter started with the bikes back in Coventry (**what would we do without Triumphs, who support us so well?**) and the new O.C. in command. Having sent us on leave, we came back to find we had no permanent home to go to; the Regiment was moving. For the next two months we occupied temporary accommodation before settling into our final home. During this time, all of us went on M.P.C. courses, a situation not known before in the team; some on education and trade training as well. A few managed the odd trip of cross-country riding on Gandale with humorous results for the newcomers, especially the O.C. He even laughs at his own penguin activities! After Christmas we came back to be warned of an "Admin" in early February. Who said the display team were exempt from military duties, training and administration? But in fact to be fair, our barracks look quite smart now and visitors can only be impressed by our professional attitude even in minor matters.

And so to training for the 1968 season. New prospective members arrive weekly and are tested. One new member having successfully completed his test, returned for clearance to his unit in B.A.O.R. and only 48 hours later was back riding in the team. That's keenness and action for you. Thank you, all you patient Adjutants and helpful Commanding Officers! The numbers gradually increase to normal and the team takes shape.

Home sweet home

It appears that someone has special weight somewhere and particularly with M.P.B.W., our O.C. perhaps? We now have a flat, well-banked and level training ground all to ourselves 20 yards from our block. In addition we at last have our own vehicle, which saves a lot of paint, oil and grease on the back seats of our private cars. Workshops are now transformed, offices built and **Signalman Williams** keeps us all warm by becoming the boilerman. However, we do ride motor-cycles! **Sergeant Biggs** is pressing on with team and trick riding and we battle for the honour of being in the final selected team for the season. Every morning, irrespective of weather, we train on our new ground or the old grass pitch used for so long by the team in Gaza Lines. Soon to the final practices and then the complete show. Not long now and we are determined to have a great season ahead.

Meanwhile the following comments from team members might explain a lot of what goes on:

To get along in the team, you must be a keen motor-cyclist, have plenty of nerve, accept the impossible and perform miracles.

You must be an expert in pushing buses and lorries.

After two years in the team, I can quite honestly say I am still frightened every time I get on that show ground.

To any reader who thinks it is easy, it isn't!

And finally, from a previous member who has decided to come back again:

The Royal Signals Display Team is a way of life, not work. To be in the team is to have a feeling inside one of spirit and pride. The high standards of discipline are depressing and the time spent on training for tricks is frustrating, but in the end the appreciation from the crowd and the knowledge that you are representing the Corp in public is the final and richest reward.

So now no news until we hit the headlines in April! Surprises, we hope, in store. Anyone who wants to join us, start asking now so you can come here for selection in October or November. Meanwhile good wishes to all ex-display team members, wherever you are, and let us hear your news.

WHO CAN AND HOW TO JOIN THE ROYAL SIGNALS MOTOR-CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM

Be keen, active, healthy, fit, smart and daring.

Preferably have a U.K. motor-cycle licence (not essential).

Have good eyesight (no glasses) and be physically strong.

Not mind losing all your free time from April to October.

Have a clean conduct sheet.

Apply to your O.C. and then attend a selection trial at Catterick in October or November.

If successful and Records agree, you join the team.

Are you brainy?—

Here's a problem which can test you

Two identical twin sisters lived alone in a house at a road fork. The right hand fork led to Cambridge and the left hand to Lincoln.

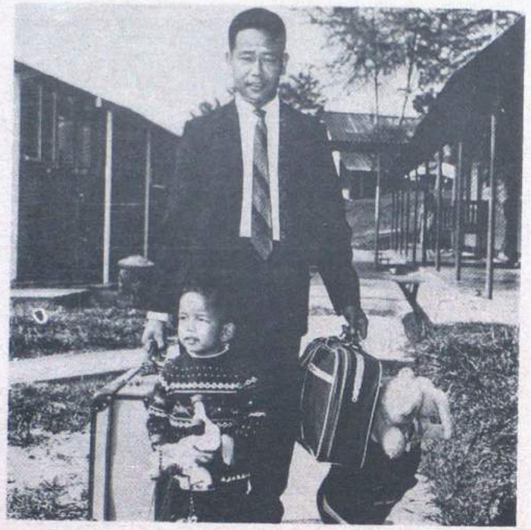
One sister always told lies and the other always told the truth. They would never answer more than one question from a stranger. A young Cambridge undergraduate, on his way back from London, arrived at the road fork and was uncertain which fork to take as the road sign was being repainted. He had heard all about the habits of the twin sisters and their rule about answering questions.

After a little thought he knocked on the door and a sister appeared. What question did he ask to get the right road?

The answer is given on page 107.

MARKET GARDENING

An interesting situation is available for a retired officer or Warrant Officer who is really keen on running a commercial market garden. Salary £750 plus share of the profits. Free house including heat and rates in a South Dorset village. Many other advantages. Full details available from the Editor, THE WIRE.



[Photo—courtesy P.R.

HOME—FIT AND WELL

Corporal Lalbahadur Pun and son Talbakadur arrive back in Seremban after the son's successful "hole in the heart operation"

A few words of thanks . . .

A Story of Compassion and Understanding

IT is always pleasant to be able to record words of appreciation to others. This issue of THE WIRE gives us an opportunity to tell the story of a young Gurkha boy who, thanks to the skill of surgeons in the United Kingdom, can now look forward to a normal healthy life.

Talbahadur Pun, was born in the family lines in Seremban in 1963. His father, **Corporal Lalbahadur Pun,** has been in Gurkha Signals for fifteen years and his home is a small hill village some fourteen days' march from Paklihawa, the recruiting depot in West Nepal. **Talbahadur** was known to have a heart condition from birth, and by the time he was two and-a-half, the specialists were convinced that without a "hole-in-the-heart" operation, the boy could live only a few years. Life in the hills is hard, even for the fit and healthy, and if **Talbahadur** went home in that condition, his life expectancy would have been even less. Armed with this sad news, in mid-1966 we started our campaign, through the good offices of the Army Medical Services, to try and get the boy to the U.K. for an operation. Now Gurkhas do not pay National Health subscriptions, so their families are not entitled to medical treatment, apart from that which they get from Army sources. We started thinking up schemes to raise the necessary money to pay for an operation privately. If there was ever a case demanding compassion and requiring rules to be broken, this was it.

Eventually, after a seemingly long wait, we were told that the boy would go to England to be examined by the specialists at the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, who would then operate if they considered this to be practical. There would be no fees.

In April, 1967, **Talbahadur** went to England accompanied by his father, and after a short time in the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, was moved up to Great Ormond Street, where the operation was successfully completed at the end of July. When he was well enough to be moved, he returned to the Cambridge Hospital and then back to Malaya with his father, where the family was reunited in September, 1967. He will go home to that remote hill village some time in 1968, but he now goes as a normal, healthy boy.

In a case such as this there are many organisations to be grateful to—to the Army Medical Services, who did all the necesary liaison with the civilian medical authorities in the United Kingdom; to the civilian medical authorities for deciding that a child's life was more important than departmental rules, and for waiving any question of a fee; to the surgeons and staff of the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital for all their interest, help and skill; to the Cambridge and Millbank Hospitals, who accommodated the father so that he could be near his son; and also to the Cambridge Hospital for looking after **Talbahadur;** to the W.R.V.S. Headquarters in London who, true to the traditions of this great organisation, saw that **Talbahadur** lacked nothing, and finally, to all those who by their help and interest gave **Talbahadur's** journey a "happy-ever-after" ending.

She knows hundreds of Corps Officers

Mrs. V. W. Smith, of The Signals Wing, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, looks back over 18 years.

Original intention six months only

I JOINED R.M.A.S. in November, 1949, when, for a matter of weeks I was posted to Victory College.

At that time Major (now **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O.,** was Chief Instructor, Signals Wing, R.M.A.S. The Wing comprised some 40-odd staff, including a Training Officer (Captain), S.S.M. and six S.Q.M.S.s, who instructed cadets, assisted by All Arms Sergeants.

Major Bradley was very 'hard-up' for someone to 'keep his office books and files straight' having had a succession of military clerk/typists who never seemed to stay with the Wing very long! I was asked if I would take on as typist and said I would, say, for about six months. Major Bradley made me so very welcome and in a very short time I found myself completely absorbed in all things 'Signals.'

As many will remember, Signals Wing started up in a set of corrugated roofed huts, next door to the picquet hut and war dog kennels, and opposite to the rear entrance of H.Q., R.M.A.S. The office accommodation was quite deadly—leaky roofs and smoky stove pipe variety fires—but the classroom accommodation was even worse. There were six classrooms; the instructors seemed to spend most of their spare time trying to make them habitable for cadet instruction.

Disbanded !

Major D. R. Horsfield (now **Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.**) took over command from **Major Bradley,** and it was during his command that War Office decided to disband Signals Wing and to administer cadet signal training with a travelling team from Hythe. Overnight almost, the Wing was reduced to about ten members—a very sad day. I was asked to stay on for 'mopping-up operations' with a view to being posted. **Captain** (now **Colonel G. Proudman, M.B.E.**) was appointed Chief Instructor, Signals Wing, for the remainder of the time of existence of the Signals Wing. Working for him was very pleasant; he combined Chief Instructor, Signals Wing, with the huge job of R.M.A.S. Ball Committee work, of which he was in charge. He was followed by **Captain** (now **Colonel**) **J. C. Clinch,** as Chief Instructor. Serving with **Captain Clinch** was one of the most happy periods. He came as Chief Instructor to practically nothing, and in no time, working like mad, he convinced everyone around of the need for a Signals Wing. Gradually the Wing started to build up—we had our own instructors again, he 'won' himself an S.S.M. and several vehicles and drivers, and gradually Signals Wing became indispensable!

Major (now **Brigadier**) **P. E. Hutchins,** followed **Captain Clinch** —I always remember his very clever work as an artist. He was followed by **Major** (now **Lieutenant-Colonel**) **T. W. Baynes, M.B.E.** Under his command we led a very 'busy' life indeed. I particularly remember his dabbling in wine-making in his off-duty hours!

Major (now **Lieutenant-Colonel**) **A. T. Scott, O.B.E.,** came after **Lieutenant-Colonel Baynes** and **Major** (now **Lieutenant-Colonel**) **W. G. Nelson** followed. It was during **Lieutenant-Colonel Neilson's** time here that negotiations were started for a new automatic telephone exchange to be installed at R.M.A.S.—he will be pleased to hear that the exchange will come into operation in August 1968!

A nautical atmosphere

After **Major Neilson** came **Major** (now **Colonel**) **E. J. Bardell, O.B.E.,** under whose command we all worked very happily. Apart from his job as Chief Instructor, Signals Wing, his interest lay in boats and the sea. He also ran the Sailing Club for officer cadets whilst at Sandhurst.

Major (now **Lieutenant-Colonel**) **H. A. J. Sturge** was appointed Chief Instructor following **Major Bardell.** The Wing led an extremely busy life under his leadership, but again it was very happy; everything seemed to tick at the right time. No one could work too hard for him; he made work for us a pleasure.

At the present time **Major F. C. Lockwood** is our Chief Instructor. Again he keeps us all to a busy life in the Wing. **Major Lockwood** is also interested in things nautical, and so once again I find myself typing Signal matters one moment and the next I am grappling with his nautical terms! All very pleasant, though. **Major Lockwood** is a sailor as well as a soldier, you see!

First R.S.M. Appointed

We now have our own R.S.M. in the Signals Wing, **R.S.M. F. M. Orr,** having the honour of being the first R.S.M. The Wing has waited a long time for such an appointment to be given. **R.S.M. Orr's** interest in boats and the sea is also well-known. He has undertaken several sea ventures with **Major Lockwood.**

Also, the Wing now has a W.O.II Yeoman of Signals, the first such appointment being **W.O.II (Y. of S.) W. Coxon.**

In my 19th year with Royal Signals I realise time has moved very fast, but I must say they have been full of interest, in particular watching the transformation of the officer cadet to an officer of the Corps and the memories of meeting so many nice people over the years.

In conclusion I send greetings to my many friends in the Corps and wish them well, wherever they are.



RADIO SOCIETY MEMBERS AT SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

The President and 12 members of the Council of the Radio Society of Great Britain visited the School of Signals on 7th February. After a briefing on the School tasks and organisation, the party were conducted on an interesting and informative tour of the Engineering and Tactics Wings and finally to the H.Q. station of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society in 30th Signal Regiment.

Corps ties were well to the fore in the party and many old friendships were renewed particularly during a most enjoyable lunch.

Altogether a very enjoyable day, much appreciated by the visitors most of whom had spent their lifetime in communications as was evident from the questions asked.

In the photo: *left to right:* Mr. A. E. Dowdeswell G4AR (General Manager R.S.G.B.) Mr. C. E. Godmark G3IWL (Radio Services Dept. G.P.O.); Mr. T. A. Preece G3TRP (Asst. Editor R.S.G.B. Bulletin); Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) H. O. Pargeter (Frequency Advisor R.S.G.B.); Mr. R. J. Hughes G3GVV; Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) Sir Evan Y Nepean, Bart. G5YN; Mr. E. Yeomanson G3IIR (Past President R.S.G.B.); Mr. J. W. Swinnerton G2YS (Vice President R.S.G.B.); Mr. C. P. Pope (Secretary, R.S.G.B.); Mr. J. C. Graham G3TR (President R.S.G.B.); Mr. G. R. Jessop G6JP (Technical Committee R.S.G.B.); Mr. P. A. Thorogood G4KD (R.S.G.B. Exhibition Organiser)

Absent from picture: Major General (Retd.) E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E., G2EC

Thank goodness at Rover there are still people who think precision engineering comes before mass production.

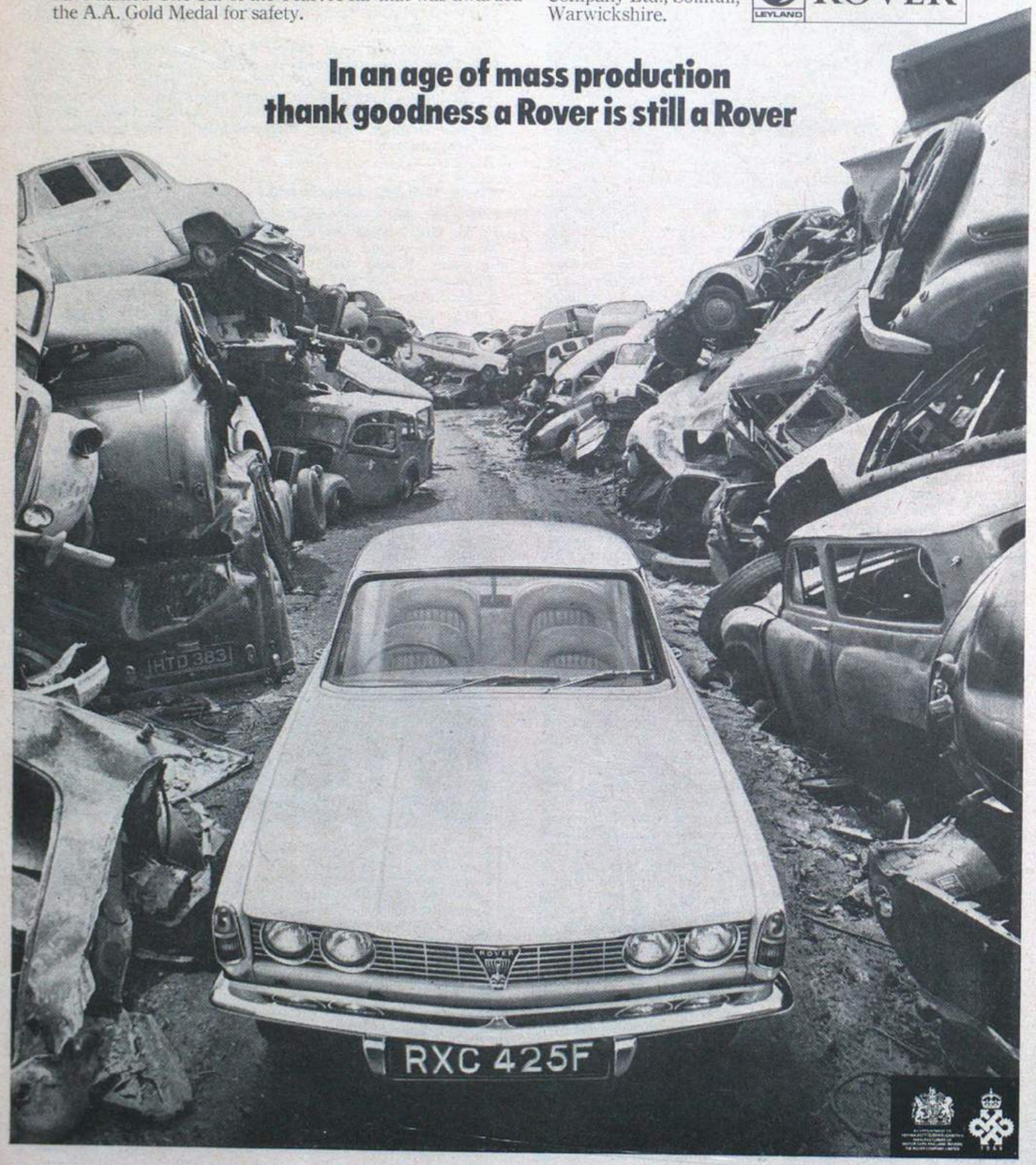
People running in every engine for perfect smoothness, before it's even fitted into the car. (And then changing the oil to remove any stray speck of dirt that might damage an engine.) All that extra care gives us a better car to give to you. A car that many countries have named 'The Car of the Year'. A car that was awarded the A.A. Gold Medal for safety.

If you're overseas or you're going in the next six months, it's a car that's a gift with the tax concessions you qualify for.

See the Rover distributor in your area. He'll tell you more about the car and the tax concessions. Or write to us: Personal Exports Department, The Rover Company Ltd., Solihull, Warwickshire.

ROVER

In an age of mass production thank goodness a Rover is still a Rover



THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in January		61
Number of clothing parcels sent		17
Amount spent in grants and loans ...	£1413	19 6

One of the Month's Cases

WIDOW of a Sergeant, who served for 22 years in Royal Signals. Since his death in 1965, she has had a long and severe illness, as a result of which arrears of rent and rates accumulated. The case first came to the notice of the Association last month, and a grant of £40 was made immediately to clear all outstanding arrears. The letter she wrote in acknowledgement of this grant is given below.

One of the Month's Letters

"MY very grateful thanks to you all in the Association. I am very relieved at being able to pay my rent and rates for this year. In 1965 I paid them by selling my sewing machine; in 1966 I sold my gas boiler and four chairs, and now this year you have paid them for me. So for the present I have not got that worry. Thank you very much also for your offer of clothing. I would indeed appreciate some very much. Please thank all concerned for so graciously helping, not forgetting the S.S.A.F.A. Representative who was so kind and so helpful. I have never in my life known such real kindness. God bless you all."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Visit to Training Brigade, Royal Signals Catterick Camp

By Captain (Q.G.O.) Harkabir Gurong, M.V.O., Gurkha Signals

WHILST I was in U.K. as a Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer, I had an opportunity to visit the Royal Signals Training Brigade at Catterick Camp, which was arranged by our ex-Gurkha Signals Officer, **Major T. E. D. Baxter,** who is now serving with 2 Squadron, 8th Regiment.

The visit to Training Brigade was very interesting, because I saw most of the radio equipments which are now in use in the British Army. I also met **Lance-Corporal Embahadur Rana,** of my Regiment, who was taking his upgrading R/Tech. I Course. A television team was in attendance at the visits. This also was arranged by **Major Baxter.** They took films, which appeared in a TV programme on 16th March.

On 17th March we had a small drinks party with the **Lady Mayoress of Richmond.** She told me: "We do not have Gurkha rum, and therefore a dry sherry will be used in lieu," but we drank triple sherry instead.

Later the same day there was a big reunion dinner party of all ex-Gurkha Signal officers and senior ranks at the Catterick Bridge Hotel. Amongst the V.I.P.s at the party was our ex-Gurkha Signals Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. I. Parkinson, M.B.E.,** and many other officers and senior ranks. All Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants were talking about Gurkha Signals. I could not understand why they were so fond of Gurkha Signals.

Finally, my compliments and thanks to **Major T. E. D. Baxter** and **Major A. C. Dexter,** who arranged the visits for me.

59 Army Youth Team, Royal Signals

Lieutenant Mike Martin, of the Corps, writes a further report on the activities of his Youth Team, and concentrates on some of the experiences met with as—with a possible expedition to Norway in the offing—the team learns to ski.

WE reported in the last issue something of our hopes of ski-ing, and although they were dashed as far as Scotland was concerned, due to the foot and mouth epidemic, we did learn to ski, however.

The Army paid for a week's course at the latest indoor ski slope at Wednesbury, near Wolverhampton. This school was opened by **Arne Palme,** who was extremely impressed by its potential when he made the first run. The man-made slope is in an old high building which provides a 70ft. run. The slope, running from 25ft. to 0ft., is made of wooden supporting beams covered by plywood on which are placed hundreds of 6in. diameter "nylon polos."

Ending up in a muddle of skis, sticks and legs

It has two dips, and you feel as though you are on ice as you shoot down the first few times, ending up in a muddle of skis, sticks and legs.

Our instructor, like all good instructors, made it look easy, and consoled us by saying that it was much easier on snow. To get to the top, there were three ways, none involving a ski lift—to herring-bone, side-step, or walk up the wooden path to the side of the ski slope.

By the end of the second session we could all keep our feet (*sorry skis*) and were learning the art of turning. This was difficult because of the lack of friction between the ski and the slope. To give an example, even with a sharp stem one still slides down the slope.

Ski-ing round the gasworks!

At the end of the week our instructor thought we were well ready to try our skill on snow, and with the weather we had around Christmas and the New Year, there was no shortage of snow in the Midlands. The most memorable occasion was on some council waste ground at Bilston—not quite the scene one sees advertised, with mountains, fir trees, and beautiful girls. Ours was more gasworks, factory chimneys, and cloud instead of sun. However, scenery was not important, for we were still experiencing ski-ing on snow instead of nylon, and thoroughly enjoying the contrariness of the ground compared with the indoor slope, and falling over without landing with a bump.

There are plans for us to visit Scotland in February, trusting that the foot and mouth epidemic has then finished, when we shall take some members of youth organisations with which we deal and teach them to ski as well as doing some "langlaufing."

Our concentration on ski-ing was really in preparation for an adventure training period in Norway this summer with the young men with whom we work. This has unfortunately been cancelled, owing to the amount of Army training in Norway next summer and the fact that we, amongst others, haven't the priority of Army units under training which, after all, is quite understandable.

We shall therefore continue with our canoeing and mountain activities during the summer and perhaps consider Norway again next year.

THANK YOU!

Since the beginning of the year, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., hae been gratefully received from the following:—

W.O.I A. Murray
A. Walsh, Esq.
Major D. S. A. Hutley, G.M.
Lance-Corporal M. S. Poile
Major F. W. Moseley
Mrs. K. E. Killick
Mrs. K. Walker
W. E. Osborne, Esq.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Welsford
Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. S. Eraut
Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Nanney-Wynn, D.L.
R.S.M. and Mrs. Gibson
K. C. Howard, Esq.
W.O.I F. Stockdale
Major J. L. Donne
Captain (T.O.T.) C. J. Bayfield
Major R. E. Wells, Australian Army
Mrs. B. Bonas
Major and Mrs. R. P. D. Painter
Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.
Major J. H. W. Roake
Major and Mrs. R. Lawrence

RESERVE ARMY OFFICERS' BALL

Friday, 24th May, 1968

All officers of the present T and AVR as well as retired officers of the AER and T.A. are invited to attend. Regiments and units who have not attended in the past are especially invited to make up table parties for what has proved to be a very enjoyable evening.

Venue: Rainbow Room, Derry Street, Kensington, W.8.

Timing: 7.30 for 8 p.m. Dinner 8.30. Dancing until 1 a.m.

Dress: Mess Kit, No. 1 Dress, tails or dinner jacket.

Dancing: To the Dance Band of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Tombola: A large tombola will be run in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

Tickets: £2 10s. 0d. per person, which may be obtained from: **Captain A. L. Felton,** Royal Signals, 29, Chelsea Gardens, London, S.W.1.

(Cheque with application, please.)

Early application is advised as tickets are going fast.

UPGRADING COURSES IN CATTERICK

2/023	Conversion Course. Comcen Op. to Cipher Op. BII	19 June '68 - 30 Aug. '68
64/65	Radio Op. Class II-I ...	25 June '68 - 6 Sept. '68
42	Electrician Dvr. Class III - II	11 June '68 - 2 Aug. '68
43	Electrician Dvr. Class III - II	25 June '68 - 16 Aug. '68
18	Draughtsman Class III-II	4 June '68 - 19 July '68
1/26(E)	Technician TE Class II-I	9 July '68 - 6 Feb. '69
X/1	Conversion Tg. Tech. Class I to Tech. TE Class I	23 July '68 - 29 Aug. '68
2/33 (Tg)	Tech. TE Class III-II ...	23 July '68 - 12 Dec. '68
42	Telegraph Op. Class II-I	2 July '68 - 11 Oct. '68
66	Radio Op. Class II-I ...	23 July '68 - 4 Oct. '68
1/45	Lineman Class II-I ...	30 July '68 - 5 Dec. '68
1/28	Cipher Op. Class II-I ...	2 July '68 - 23 Aug. '68
4	Dvr. R. Signals Class III-II	16 July '68 - 6 Sept. '68

Movements

Officers

Captain M. Allan ... ... To Jun. Tradesmen's Regt., Troon
Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Beale ... ... ,, Cabinet Office, S.W.1.
Major D. H. Briggs ... ... ,, 4th Regiment
Major (T.O.T.) D. J. Chetwynd ... ,, 13th Regiment
Captain P. Chilvers ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Major G. A. Cox ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Captain M. J. Ford ... ... ,, H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps
Captain (Tfc.) J. E. Gill ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel N. G. Gallyer ... ,, Royal Signals Records
Major B. O. Haw ... ... ,, MOD (Sigs 6)
Major D. Hall ... ... ,, H.Q., Land Forces Gulf
Captain (Q.M.) R. E. Howard, B.E.M. ,, 18th Regiment
O/Cadet D. L. M. Killingbeck ... ,, 21st Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) W. R. S. Kennedy ... ,, H.Q., A.F.C.E., B.F.P.O. 26
Captain (Q.M.) T. W. Jackson ... ,, 35th Regiment (V)
Major (T.O.T.) E. J. Larner ... ... ,, M.O.D. (D 150 A)
Lieutenant (Q.M.) P. W. H. Lafferty ,, 16th Regiment
Major P. F. Larrington ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Captain D. G. Newton ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Major F. M. Partington ... ... ,, H.Q., AFCENT
Lieut.-Colonel W. P. W. Robertson ,, H.Q., 5th Div. (AA & QMG)
Major D. D. Ranft ... ... ,, C.S.O., UNFICYP (Lt.-Col).
Major G. W. A. Stephenson ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Major C. G. Sandys ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Captain R. Sampson ... ... ,, 638 Troop
Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Scott ... ,, A.A.C., Harrogate
Major J. N. Taylor ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Captain W. P. B. Thomas ... ... ,, 17th G. Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major J. H. Williams ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Captain S. Wood ... ... ,, 639 Troop
Lieutenant J. V. Williams ... ... ,, 255 Squadron
Major J. Westlake ... ... ,, 209 Squadron as O.C.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I I. D. C. Currie ... ... To 10th Regiment
W.O.I (F. of S.) G. Moore ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
W.O.II A. Gibson ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
W.O.II E. W. Johnson ... ... ,, School of Signals (Courses)
W.O.II E. J. Mann ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
W.O.II A. G. Maxwell ... ... ,, 224 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) D. Prime ... ... ,, 259 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) A. R. Jarratt ... ,, 636 Troop
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. L. E. Walke ... ,, 9th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) E. E. Nugent ... ,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) G. E. Shakeshaft ... ,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. G. Bayman ... ... ,, 224 Squadron
Staff Sergeant M. Harrison ... ... ,, School of Signals (Courses)
Staff Sergeant J. R. Jacobs ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Steel ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. P. S. McNally ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. Mannion ,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. A. McKay ,, Royal Military College of Science
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. G. Blakelock ... ... ,, 4 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) G. E. Rawlins ,, 621 Troop
Staff Sergeant R. T. Hamilton ... ,, 252 Squadron
Sergeant E. W. Anlaw ... ... ,, 252 Squadron
Sergeant R. Bemrose ... ... ,, Army Apprentices' College
Sergeant R. G. Miller ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant R. D. Starling ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant R. C. Edwards ... ... ,, ACE High Comms
Sergeant D. H. Muir ... ... ,, H.Q. AFSE
Sergeant R. G. Lyddon ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant G. D. Corbett ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant W. Lee ... ... ,, 5 Inf. Bde H.Q. and Sig. Squadron
Sergeant A. McDonald ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant A. Roberts ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant W. G. G. Williams ... ... ,, 227 Squadron (AFCENT)
Sergeant J. H. Wise ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant F. T. Toole ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant E. W. Whiffen ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant C. C. King ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant C. Mærkie ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant W. L. Willcock ... ... ,, 30th Regiment 4 Squadron
Sergeant M. B. McPartland ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
A/Sergeant I. D. McManus ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant D. Jessop ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Bayne ... ... ,, R.M.A. Sandhurst
A/Sergeant G. A. Foggo ... ... ,, 19 Infantry Brigade
Sergeant J. P. Byrne ... ... ,, Royal Signals Records
Sergeant I. K. Ryder ... ... ,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant W. Smithson ... ... ,, 3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment
Sergeant F. T. Costello ... ... ,, H.Q. British Forces Cyprus
Sergeant S. R. Church ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant J. C. M. Young ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant R. S. Demdasty ... ... ,, 4 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were most gratefully received during December, 1967:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	10	9	10
Junior Leaders Regiment (Rear Party)	5	0	0
21st Regiment (Laarbruch Fete)	103	16	10
647 Troop (Wives' Club)	7	10	0
F. C. Wilson, Esq	3	16	0
F. G. Key, Esq.	1	1	6
H. Liley, Esq.	2	10	0
Captain E. J. Brooks	1	16	0
J. F. Benson, Esq.	3	0	0
Major T. F. Jenkinson	2	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. G. Cook	5	0	0
G. J. Feakes, Esq.	1	0	0
Major-General S. W. Joslin, C.B., C.B.E., (Collection at Maresfield Church on occasion of Corps presentation)	17	5	0
Various individual donations	2	3	0
Total receipts	£166	8	2
Expenditure during December	£897	0	0

IF YOU ARE A MUSICIAN . . .

. . . and can play a wind instrument then why not ask to be posted to 21st Regiment in B.A.O.R.? Some chaps like Brass Bands, some like dressing up for a parade, some people just like to hear martial music. We don't mind for what reason you come but we will lend you an instrument and afford you good facilities for practice. At present we have ex-factory, Colliery, Salvation Army, Town and even Army Musicians; we would like you too! So if you are about to fill in your pre-posting proforma and your trade is Lineman, Driver, Technician, Clerk or Storeman, say that you would like to join us and, most important, give your reason.

Roaming microphones were out — one does not tickle the bearded chin of an Italian Surgeon-Admiral

"The Thing"

A Technical Saga for up-and-coming Foremen of Signals

* * *

A high-powered international medical conference and Signal Troop, Works, Chatham, of the 10th Regiment, were up against a humdinger of a P.A. problem until Foreman of Signals 'Nick' Carter came up with his brainchild—'The Thing.'

* * *

What was 'The Thing'? Read on and you may find the solution to what could be your problem some day.

* * *

AT Chatham you don't have to be crazy to work here, but if you are not, you are apt to be lonely. If you doubt this, come and have a look at the O.C., **Foreman Carter** and **Joe Spafford** (yes, he's here), this will make you think! We do, however, pride ourselves on coming up with the result required, even if we sometimes act a bit strange. Now take for example the job at Millbank . . .

The Requirement

C.S.O., London District, asked us if we could do a PA job at Millbank. We said we could. This proved to be at the Royal Military Medical College. They have a sizeable lecture hall with very high ceilings. There is the usual wall-size blackboard, in front is flat floor space, about 60ft. x 30ft. Thence the auditorium rises to the rear, 200 seats in tiers like a cinema. At the back is a gallery.

We were required to provide public address facilities:

For a lecturer at the blackboard;

For a brains trust of a chairman and twelve, seated at a long table on the flat floor space; and

For anyone amongst the audience who spoke.

We also had to record the three days' proceedings on tape.

The occasion was an international conference at NATO level on frozen blood techniques or something. We gathered that the sort of rank content we could expect was a Lieutenant-Colonel as hat-check! Copies of our recordings were required by the Office of Naval Research, U.S.N . . . Fail not at your peril!

The Recce

At first this assignment seemed straight-forward, or comparatively so. Roaming microphones were out; one does not tickle the chin of a Surgeon-Admiral from Italy with a request that he pass this on to his neighbour and get his beard disentangled.

The O.C. thought that this was all very simple . . . borrow a few microphones—thirty or so (Forces Broadcasting are friends of ours) and Robert is Thine Uncle. Then we saw the auditorium and the results of the Ministry of Public Building and Works and 'modernisation.' Accoustically, all very well, but not a beam or girder in sight; and, of course, we could not disturb the virgin surface, no matter how the O.C. felt. Sky hooks?

What to do? **Major Paris** uttered one of those short prayers for those in peril up the creek! Unto them appeared the Commandant—a Major-General—no less. He sympathised with our predicament, but himself was more fortunately placed, Jack! But **Nick Carter** was up to it. A benevolent smile behind those horn-rims beamed upon military medical majesty. Generals mean nothing to Nick! All would be well now that 'Tricky Nicky' was in action.



Foreman 'Nicky' Carter and "The Thing"

The Solution

This was triggered off by a chance remark by **Major Paris.** He didn't know what he was starting, but then, of such was the Garden of Eden. Something about AARA sound ranging equipment being a method of concentrating sound.

Nicky had an idea (this one is printable).

What we did.

The lecturer was easy, he wore an omni-directional moving-coil microphone round his neck. Since he was not lecturing whilst the Brains Trust was in action, four table microphones along the table covered them.

We covered the audience and everyone else, including even bird songs from the quad outside. It was so simple. A hand microphone was pointed backwards at the centre of a parabolic sound reflector. It worked perfectly—every sound, including the birds and a couple of caustic comments by some unsuspecting British workmen in the quad outside—it appeared that there was something wrong with the tea!

C.S.O., London District, tried this out himself. He faced away from the microphone, behind it, and read sottovoce from a newspaper. No good—we recorded every word, even the rustle as he turned the pages.

What was this magic concentrator of sound? How had Nicky done it?

We blush—it was a DUSTBIN-LID. Yes, 'tis true. We can show it to you. Fitted to a stand, polished, beaten into shape, IT WORKED PERFECTLY. The office of U.S. Naval Research have tried the tapes—the verdict, perfect.

The Method

The following were fed into a mixer of our own devising:

The all-embracing 'Dustbin' microphone.
The lecturer's neck microphone.
Four microphones on the Brains Trust table.

We used:

Two column speakers, one at each corner at the back, five units in each.
A power amplifier, with a spare in reserve.
A spare mixer in reserve.
Two REH Is tape recorders, working in parallel.

The Result

Well done chaps, we have earned for 10th Regiment some recognition. Well done, our side! The C.O. said you had better write it up—or else!

Tailpiece

The Royal Army Medical College has a museum over which they delight to conduct visitors. In gratitude they showed us round. If you'll take our advice and are ever in a similar position don't go. It completely spoils lunch—the exhibits you know! (*See also page 112 in reference to another "Thing."—Editor.*)

Promotions

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To W.O.I	2549024	A/W.O.I	Alborough, D. H. A.	580	770
	14191893	A/W.O.I	Gwynne, W. G.	590	890

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23666952	Cpl.	Saunders, J. W.	6300	12870
	23722323	Cpl.	Smith, T. P. M.	6447	13568
	23666820	Cpl.	Sambrook, M. S.	6470	13640
	23849844	Cpl.	Cadman, J.	6485	13930
	23675386	Cpl.	Sims, S. M.	6495	13772
	23256922	Cpl.	Vallance, A. D.	6499	14940
	23878615	Cpl.	Smith, H. P.	6505	12700
	23734800	Cpl.	Symonds, M. J.	6515	12470
	23473131	Cpl.	Catley, M. E. R.	6520	12020
	22827768	Cpl.	Howell, E. A.	6530	11265
	23708168	Cpl.	Egan, K. D.	6540	12370
	23878329	Cpl.	Carre, P. D.	6545	12629
	23878880	Cpl.	Bowes, A.	6550	12868
	23878808	Cpl.	Luis, R. A.	6560	13099
	23744751	Cpl.	Appleton, P. R.	6575	12850
	23744832	Cpl.	Portlock, R. P.	6580	13219
	23744868	Cpl.	Scriven, P.	6590	13280

OPERATING ROSTER

	22329376	A/Sgt.	Daws, T. L.	14140	3840
	23030155	Cpl.	Wilmott, N. J.	14150	8700
	22696741	Cpl.	Beale, K. S.	14180	14630
	23497088	Cpl.	Simons, P.	14200	15680
	22765574	A/Sgt.	Wall, D. T.	14220	18460
	22569640	A/Sgt.	Calverley, B. W.	14230	20630
	23658848	Cpl.	Blackburn, J.	14250	21120
	22537881	Cpl.	Hemstock, C. J. F.	14260	21384

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	730			
W.O.II	1040	1940	2420	2740
S/Sgt.	70	1740	2910	

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	410

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

S/Sgt.	890

TECHNICAL ROSTER

W.O.II	620

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	2790	7270	8180	12500

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The Aldershot Branch will hold its Annual Dinner at the Masonic Rooms, Alexander Road, Farnborough, Hants., on Saturday, 27th April, at 8 p.m. Full details and bookings may be made to the following: A. V. Ient, 111, Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants., or Telephone Aldershot 23658. All are welcome, so come and have a Reunion Dinner.

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 2s. a month.

Name and rank

.....

.....

.....



HAPPY OCCASION

Captain Iain Kerr supported by his bride about to cut their wedding cake

School of Signals, Blandford Camp

Wedding of Captain Pip Scott and Captain Iain Kerr

HEADQUARTERS Mess Royal Signals held its first wedding reception on 21st December, 1967, when **Captain Pip Scott,** W.R.A.C., and **Captain Iain Kerr,** Royal Signals, were married.

The wedding took place at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary and St. Cecilia at Blandford.

The bride, who was given away by **Major Basil Complin,** looked lovely in a white velvet dress, and a headdress of white marabou.

After the service the guests were welcomed by the families of the bride and groom at the reception at H.Q. Mess.

The photograph shows the cutting of the wedding cake, beautifully decorated with the badges of the Royal Corps of Signals and the W.R.A.C. All good wishes for a lifetime of happiness go to Pip and Iain from their many friends at the School of Signals).

(Continued on page 83)



A LIGHTER MOMENT

The Reserve Army weekend at Blandford was a cheerful occasion as well as producing much useful discussion

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS *(continued from page 82)*

Reserve Army weekend

H.Q. Mess Royal Signals was full to capacity when the annual Reserve Army Weekend was held at Blandford.

Over seventy-five officers appeared from all parts of the country, and expressed great interest in the new School of Signals which they were seeing for the first time.

Comments on the modern and comfortable Mess were very favourable and great interest was shown in the recently hung paintings of H.M. The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh and The Master of Signals.

The Corps guest night, attended by **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** was much enjoyed.

Ron Shove

Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. J. Shove is retiring from the Army after forty years' service, and will live about two miles away from H.Q. Mess, Royal Signals, at his present address, White Gates, Pimperne, Blandford, Dorset.



Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Shove

At the age of fifteen, in 1928, Ron Shove became a boy soldier. He recalls his three years' boy service when he trained at Catterick and for eighteen months as a telegraphist at the G.P.O. Liverpool.

In his youth, he served with the 11th Hussars, the first regiment to replace their horses with armoured cars.

His long and varied service includes time spent in Shanghai, China, Hong Kong, Palestine, Dunkirk, M.E.L.F. and FARELF.

After twelve years in the ranks reaching the rank of R.S.M. at the School of Signals in 1946, he was commissioned and ends his service as a Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.).

Friendly, and with a fresh sense of humour, known often as "Konk" because of his nose, Ron Shove played golf—"ockey at the alt" as he calls it—for the Corps.

During his forty years' service, his philosophy as a Q.M. has been "Never say no when you can say yes" and as a man "Do unto others as you would be done by."

The School of Signals wishes Ron Shove the very best of luck and will be sorry to see him go.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

A/T R.S.M.



A/T R.S.M. W. J. Hitchens

W. J. Hitchens is College A/T R.S.M. this term. He is 18 years old and was educated at Tulgus School, Redruth, Cornwall. Since joining the College, he has taken a keen interest in boxing and cross-country. He is captain of the College boxing team.

In December he went with a ski-ing party to Norway and obtained his one-star badge for ski-ing.

He hopes for a posting to a Signal Troop on H.M.S. *Intrepid* or H.M.S. *Fearless.*

Cross-country

The College entered two teams for the newly-formed Yorkshire Services Cross-Country League. This consists of 13 teams from all the major Army and R.A.F. units in Yorkshire, and a meeting is held weekly, in turn, at each unit. With



EARLY DISTINCTION IN CORPS SPORT

Left to Right: Maurice Harkin, Brian Parkhill, Trevor Brooks, Michael Heneghan, all Apprentice Tradesmen, who were selected to play football for the Corps against Sheffield University

only one fixture left, our 'A' Team is currently first in the league and our 'B' Team sixth.

The team consists of three Permanent Staff members, all the remainder being apprentices. We entered a Permanent Staff team as a Minor Unit in the Northern Command Championships, but as we were the only Minor Unit Team entered, we were not allowed to compete with the Major Units. We did, however, put in three runners as individual entries, and they finished—second, **Sergeant Escott;** third, **Sergeant Bradley;** fifth, **Staff Sergeant Hall.**

Both the Permanent Staff and Apprentice Teams go forward now to the Army Championships. The Apprentice Team is also entered for the Northern Counties Championships at Sheffield and the Great Britain Championships at Sutton Coldfield on 2nd March. We wish both teams the best of luck in their forthcoming competitions; they have worked very hard, and the "loneliness of the long-distance runner" is especially trying on a 16-year-old apprentice. **A/T Lance-Corporal Campbell** has consistently been first home in the Yorkshire Services League, and this, in an average field of 100 is certainly worthy of mention, especially to his future officers-in-charge of cross-country.

Association football

The College's XXX Club, 'managed' by **Major Philip Spooner,** has achieved the remarkable distinction of having no fewer than four Apprentices selected for the Corps team. **Apprentice Tradesmen Maurice Harkin** and **Brian Parkhill,** at centre-half and left-wing respectively, in a 1—1 draw with Leeds University at Catterick Central Ground last December. They were again selected, along with **Apprentice Lance-Corporal Trevor Brooks** and **Apprentice Tradesmen 'Mick' Heneghan,** to travel to Sheffield to play for the Corps against Sheffield University. The match again ended in a draw, 2—2, **'Paddy' Parkhill** having distinguished himself by scoring the Corps' first goal.

All four apprentices are members of the highly-successful Scott Squadron soccer team which defeated Phillips Squadron 7—6 in the "all Harrogate" final of the Army Youth Soccer Cup last term.

Stop Press.—A/T Harkin has been selected to represent the Corps, at centre-half, against R.E.M.E., Bordon, in Hampshire, on Wednesday, 7th February.

Dedication of St. Christopher's Church

St. Christopher's Church was dedicated by the Deputy Chaplain General, the **Reverend D. H. Whiteford, Q.H.C., M.A., B.D., Ph.D., C.F.,** on Wednesday, 7th February.

The church is for the Church of Scotland, Methodist, Baptist and Congregational apprentices at the College.

The Service of Dedication was truly ecumenical; as well as a large congregation of College Staff and Apprentices, the following members of the clergy were present: **The Reverend**



IN GOOD VOICE
The College Choir at the recent Dedication service of St. Christopher's Church



FAREWELL VISIT
The Chief of the General Staff inspects the Quarter Guard at 11th Regiment

J. N. M. Davies, C.F., Assistant Chaplain General, Northern Command; **The Reverend C. Rawlinson, C.F.,** Chaplain to the College; **The Reverend A. Walter Selby, O.C.F.,** from Trinity Methodist Church, Harrogate; **The Reverend D. Murray Main, O.C.F.,** Church of Scotland; **The Reverend Fr. P. Loftus, O.C.F.,** of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Harrogate. Army Chaplains from Catterick included **The Reverend P. G. Whiting, C.F.** and **The Reverend A. C. Jones, C.F.**

The Lessons were read by the following apprentices: Gospel, **A/S.S.M. Philip Rainer,** of Rawson Squadron (Reorganised Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints); Epistle, **A/T John Roberts** (Methodist) of Penney Squadron; Old Testament, **A/Lance-Corporal Maurice Farquhar** (Church of Scotland) of Rawson Squadron. The organist was **Mr. Elsworth,** of Harrogate.

St. Christopher's is one of three churches, of strikingly unusual pyramidal shape, which have been built for the College; the others are for members of the Churches of England and Rome, and are to be dedicated later in the year.

The architects of these unique buildings are **A. M. Gear and Associates,** of London.

Basketball

In the Northern Command final of the Army Junior Inter-Unit Basketball Championship, played at York on Wednesday, 7th February, the College beat the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon, by 54 points to 47.

The College team comprised the following apprentices: **Sergeant James Kerr, Corporal John Patterson, A/T Thomas Hall, A/T Alan Ridley,** of Penney Squadron; **Lance-Corporal Stanley Grimmitt, A/T Peter Kelly,** of Phillips Squadron; **Lance-Corporal Richard Licence; A/Ts Alan Jarwood, Victor Baines, John Mold,** of Scott Squadron; and **A/T Edwin Marsh,** of Rawson Squadron.

The team, which is in the charge of **Captain Robin Ingram,** and coached by **C.S.M.I. Proctor,** A.P.T.C., now goes through to the Army semi-final, to be played later in February against a team—as yet unknown to us—from Southern Command.

Training Brigade, Royal Signals
Catterick Camp

Brigade Study Period

The Brigade Study Period, Exercise "Change Mate" took place on 14th December. Over seventy officers from the Training Brigade attended, and for the day left their trainees in the very able hands of the Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s.

We also had a goodly selection of officers from other units in Northumbrian District.

In the morning we considered Home Defence, a subject which few of us had thought about before. We were helped in our deliberations by the kindly arm of the law (members of the North Riding and the Durham County Constabularies), without their 'kits!' and also by representatives of the North Riding County Council.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. F. Webb, M.B.E., Commanding Officer of 3rd Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, came all the way from Bulford to talk to us in the afternoon about Strategic Reserve operations. The build-up of a joint force in a mythical country was gradually revealed in its various phases—simple to follow as it was shown, but when one is left looking at the completed diagram, one tends to wonder how on earth it all got there!

Then followed a vivid account of the operations of his Battalion in Aden by **Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Downward, D.S.O., D.F.C.,** late Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment (P.W.V.). The Colonel also commanded the Aden Brigade for the four week immediately following the rioting in the Federal Forces. His description of the challenging task which faced the Lancashires, operating mainly in Tawahi and Mansura, was excellently illustrated by colour slides and also by a tape-recording of the more than pithy comments over the Battalion radio net of a Lancashire soldier under heavy fire in an O.P.—the only word he used which we can find in the Voice Procedure pamphlet is "Over!"

Visit by the C.G.S.

On 5th February, the Chief of the General Staff, **General Sir James N. Cassels, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O.,** paid a brief farewell visit to Catterick prior to his retirement. He inspected a quarter guard mounted by 11th Regiment, but time only allowed him to see some of the training carried on in 8th Regiment. We think he was impressed by the standards achieved in the now rather antiquated surroundings; we look forward to the day when visitors to the Training Brigade will be shown our projected Vimy Trade Training School, which will house trade training elements of both 8th and 24th Regiment under one roof. **General Cassels** was entertained by the senior N.C.O.s of the Garrison in 11th Regiment Sergeants' Mess before departing for lunch in the Northumbrian District Officers' Mess.

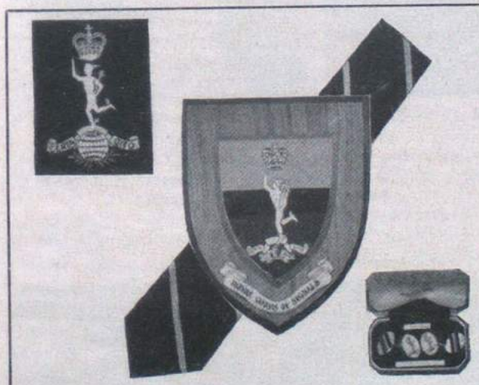
Visit by Israeli Officers

On 8th and 9th January, **Lieutenant-Colonel S. Inbar** and **Lieutenant-Colonel H. Varmeli,** of the Israel Defence Forces Signal Corps visited the Training Brigade. We were delighted to have them visit us, although unfortunately their time with us was limited and their tour of 8th and 24th Regiments was only brief. On their departure, **Lieutenant-Colonel Inbar** presented a mounted chromium-plated plaque on behalf of the Israeli Signal Corps. He hoped he would sometime have the opportunity of entertaining officers of Royal Signals in his own country, which he informed us was assuredly a "peace" country. (Explanation: A piece of Egypt, a piece of Syria, a piece of Jordan!!!?)

Northern Command Cross-Country Championships

Foot and mouth disease restrictions meant that the 1968 Northern Command Cross-Country Championships, held at Catterick on 24th January, had to be run entirely on roads. There was a total field of nine teams, including entries from three Infantry Battalions, 8th, 11th and 24th Signal Regiments, and 8th Regiment went to the line hopeful of winning for the fifth successive year. **Lance-Corporal Jarrold,** of 24th Regiment ran very strongly to lead the field home and win the Individual Championship by some 200 yards, but, in the team event, the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers produced a well-trained team which packed well and finished with the remarkably low score of 61 points, with 8th Regiment scoring 206 points as runners-up. In subsequent Catterick District League fixtures, 8th Regiment managed to reduce the gap between themselves and the Irish Fusiliers and are looking forward to meeting them in the Army Championships on 23rd February. We wish them the best of luck.

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Plenty Happening *in the 1st Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment*



S.S.I. HELLICAR AND HIS JUDO TEAM MADE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES

Left to Right: Corporal Jordan (Orange Belt), Corporal Pawlow (Yellow Belt), Signalman Joynes (Green Belt), Lance-Corporal Teggart (Orange Belt), S.S.I. Hellicar (Blue Belt)



THE C.-IN-C. B.A.O.R. HAS A HAPPY ENCOUNTER WITH REGIMENTAL FAMILIES

Families in the photo include those of Captain Wallis (R. Signals), W.O.II Hunter (Devon and Dorsets) and S.Q.M.C. Norris (Royal Horse Guards)



GENERAL SIR JOHN HACKETT, C.-IN-C. B.A.O.R. INSPECTS THE REGIMENTAL GUARD

Captain C. T. Garton (with sword) was officer I/C and Sergeant Waugh was Guard Commander. Looking on Major-General Ward (G.O.C. 1st Division) and the C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel Macfarlane

☆



THE REGIMENTAL SKI TEAM THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THEMSELVES IN BAVARIA

Left to Right: Corporal Davies (2 Sqn.), Signalman Wilkinson (1 Sqn.), Signalman Hyland (2 Sqn.), Lieutenant McLuckie

1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 32

Commander-in-Chief, B.A.O.R., visits

JANUARY has been a very quiet month. We are still receiving our Bruin vehicles and equipment and slowly beginning the change-over from conventional to, shall we say, newer conventional signalling. Our first exercises are in the wind, but all is still quiet—perhaps too quiet. We are in the calm before the storm.

Looking back to 18th December, we were delighted to welcome a most distinguished visitor to Verden—the Commander-in-Chief, B.A.O.R., **General Sir John Hackett, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.** After inspecting a guard of honour commanded by **Captain Conrad Garton**, the General presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Captain (Tfc.) Derek Wallis** and **S.Q.M.C. F. A. Norris,** Royal Horse Guards. He also presented the clasp to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.II W. R. Hunter, B.E.M.,** Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. These presentations were followed by a visit to 1 Squadron, who gave a very realistic practical demonstration of the defence of a Comcen. Liberal use was made of thunderflashes and blank ammunition to add a touch of realism. The gymnasium was the next focal point, where **Corporal Gentles** had arranged a display of close combat training and **S.S.I. Hellicar** was putting the Judo enthusiasts through their paces.

After a drink with the Sergeants and lunch with the Officers, we said farewell to the General, who had very obviously been impressed with what he had seen.

SPORTS

Cross-Country Team excel

Our cross-country team has given a very good account of itself. On 10th January we entered and won the 11th Infantry Brigade Meeting, and the result was the same when on 27th January we entered the 7th Armoured Brigade meeting as guests.

At the Divisional Saturday meetings we have achieved four first, one second and three third places. The highlight of the team's effort was their win in the Divisional meeting in Hameln on 3rd February. Our congratulations go to the team captain, **Signalman Richardson,** and his team, composed of **Corporal Smith, Lance-Corporal Scott, Signalmen Neighbour, McMasters, Rees, Bullock, Lumgair, Brown** and **Trooper Harrison.** The victory was not one of individuals, but of the team as a whole, and praise must go to all.

Having qualified for the B.A.O.R. final, which is being run on 9th February, we await the results with great interest.

Judo Team achieve third place in B.A.O.R. championships

S.S.I. Hellicar, our local unit A.P.T.C. agent, led a team of twelve to the B.A.O.R. championships at Sennelager on 10th January. Our actual team of five, consisting of **S.S.I. Hellicar, Signalman Joynes, Lance-Corporal Teggart, Corporal Pawlow** and **Corporal Jordan,** were placed third to 4 Canadian Provost Company and 5th Field Regiment, R.A.

In the individual championships, **S.S.I. Hellicar** came second in the lightweight; **Signalman Joynes** came fifth in the middleweight and **Lance-Corporal Teggart** came fourth in the Special Kyu.

Hockeyites unbeaten in League

In the league, the hockey team is doing well, winning all six of the matches played so far. In the second round of the Army Cup, we came to grief against 11th Hussars (P.A.O.) and conceded a 1—0 victory to them. The opposing defence was extremely strong and although the play was in our favour, the freedom of their 'D' was denied to us.

The league championship still lies open, and although leave, duty and injuries have affected our team selection, we are keeping our hopes high. Mention must be made of our team stalwarts—our captain and inside-left, **Captain Jim McLuckie,** whose class alone spurs others to greater efforts, and **Sergeant Mulcahy,** the inside-right, whom we shall miss when he departs for civilian life in the near future.

(Compiler's note: This paragraph is obviously written by **McLuckie** the younger; I wonder if it is because **McLuckie** the elder is Adjutant? How much leave is the younger asking for now?).

Football Team promoted

Our early hopes proved well-founded; we won the Soltau Garrison League, Division 3, and are now in Division 2. Our first match in this elevated position was an away game against 7/11 O.F.P., who had also been promoted to Division 2. We were very satisfied with a draw, as our opponents had been the only side to beat us in Division 3. Honours must go to **Lance-Corporal Vaughan,** our captain, and to **Lance-Corporal Fuller,** our inside-left, who have done much to help the team with their recent promotion.

Ski-ing

Our team, led by **Captain Mike Chandler,** took part in the Divisional Ski Meeting at Mittenwald, Bavaria, in January. The team consisted of **Second-Lieutenants Robin Farey** and **Derek McLuckie, Corporal Davis, Lance-Corporal Carse, Signalmen Hyland, Hathaway** and **Wilkinson.**

Finally, a word on the social round. This time from the Sergeants' Mess. On 23rd December, the members of the Sergeants' Mess dined-in our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. McFarlane.** For some obscure reasons, perhaps it was the time of the year, part of the evening became an impromptu carol-singing session. However, the evening went well—even though the R.S.M. did not recognise the words.

3rd H.Q. & Signal Regiment, Bulford Camp

Potential skeletons in the cupboard

JANUARY 25th was the day of our Fitness for Role Inspection. The Inspecting Officer was our G.O.C. **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C.,** who is also Representative Colonel Commandant of the Corps this year, so we were doubly on our mettle. Beforehand we had the usual heart searching and soul searing moments lest the odd cupboard might produce its skeleton. However, came the day and the General.

His first job was to inspect the Quarter Guard and present L.S. & G.C. to **R.Q.M.S. Pinkney,** S.C.L.I., **S.S.M. Upfield, Staff Sergeant Wheeler** and **Corporal Leadbitter.** The guard performed well, the recipients received their medals and the General's congratulations, then we moved to the heart of the matter.

Our orders, received only 24 hours in advance, were to produce an Advanced Joint Force H.Q. and Tac H.Q. ready to move by air to an unknown destination, the remainder of 1 Squadron to be prepared for airportability and 2 Squadron to do the B.E. test.

Whisked off to the far end of Scotland

The General inspected the Advanced J.F.H.Q. and Tac H.Q. and then sent them off to Boscombe Down Air Station where five aircraft awaited to whisk them off to Macrahannish in Scotland, where they were to open up to Malta and Bulford at 17.00 hours. He then watched the Mov. Con. system at work in the Unit check point.

Next to be seen were 1 Squadron formed up ready for any eventuality. Prominent among their gear was a 1,260 watt generator still in its Ordnance packing case. It has been regularly appearing on these air portable parades since 19 stroke slash, and is fondly known as "our 3rd line spare in case of major breakdown." "Get it out and start it up," said **General "Tony,"** and carried on down the line. A very ad hoc group including the S.S.M. and some clerks from S.H.Q. got busy with jack-knives in lieu of screwdrivers, and Jimmy must have looked down from his Olympian abode with sympathy and understanding, because the old third line spare "geny" gave a couple of hicoughs and then ran sweet as a nut. The General said "Well done" and moved on to watch 2 Squadron complete their B.E. test by firing their S.M.G.s. They had marched 10 miles, done the wall, ditch and carry and then they had to fire 10 rounds.



CLEARLY FIT FOR THEIR ROLE!
Major-General Deane-Drummond accompanied by the C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel P. Webb) inspects part of Adv. J. F. H.Q. which included W.O.I (F. of S.) Ashton and Sergeant Drayton

Comforting scores and honest answers

A nice psychological touch was the calling back of the scores to the firer by **Sergeant McKenzie,** one of our cipher N.C.O.s, who for reasons of security or integrity or something was checking targets. As the G.O.C. listened it was "No. 1 target, nine," "No. 2 ten, No. 3 eight, No. 4 ten." Very comforting. Those who had finished were standing drinking tea, and gently steaming, and when the General asked how they were, the answers ranged from "Very hot, Sir" to "B—— shattered." We are nothing if not honest.

The inspection finished up at Division H.Q. where some of the branches were given a going over, amongst them being H.Q. R.A. This made the R.S.M.'s day as he is usually at the other end when H.Q. R.A. send "snotty" little notes about discipline in Bulford and its environs.

All ends well

Everything went off well and **Major-General Deane-Drummond** was kind enough to tell us he was pleased with what he had seen. Added to which the C.S.O., **Colonel J. R. Piddington,** even though his tent was blown down at Macrahannish, gave us a pretty good chit for our efforts there.

And so to sport

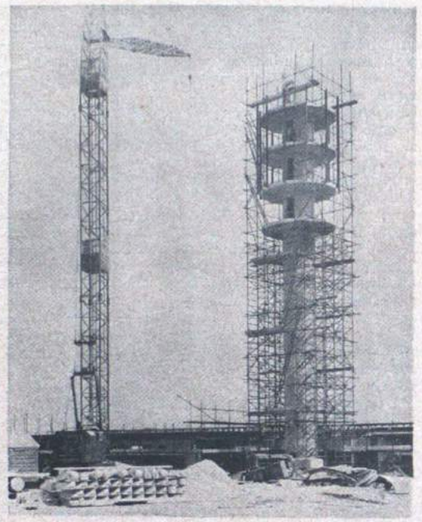
Our Regimental boxing team met its Waterloo at the hands of the 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars so our hopes of further success were dashed. It was a very creditable performance on the part of the boxers and considering that for various reasons we had to concede three walk-overs we are not too downhearted.

The Soccer teams, 1st and 2nd, are doing very well and we have hopes of some League and Command success. The Rugby team is on a winning streak just now and reckons that it stands a good chance in the Southern Command competition. The Hockey team have no great successes to report, but are enjoying their games.

We have now got a couple of Enterprise dinghies in the Regiment and the sailing fiends are planning great things for this season.

The Divisional Safe and Skilled Driving competition was held in our camp on 26th January **and though up against strong competition from R.C.T. Squadrons in the Division our M.T. Troop team, consisting of Corporal Stevenson, Driver Peckham, Driver Lloyd, Driver Hobbs and Driver Cambell won the Team prize, the Best All Round Driver prize (Driver Peckham), the Best 3-ton Driver prize (Driver Lloyd) and the Runner-up ¼-ton Driver (Driver Hobbs), a very satisfactory result which does credit to our M.T. Troop.**

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4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

SKI REPORT

R.M.Y. writes:

JANUARY has been skiing month in the Regiment. I have just returned from the Divisional Championships in Austria where the Regiment was represented for the first time in all events. Our Langlaufers, having come second in the Division, have qualified to go on to the B.A.O.R. Championships at Oberjoch. As I am an Alpine enthusiast I therefore returned to Herford. Apart from my disappointment at leaving Austria early I had the doubtful honour of being detailed by the C.O. to write some WIRE notes before I left. So here goes!

A pleasant surprise

The snow fall in Herford this month can be measured in feet and this has enabled many soldiers to practise the real thing, after weeks of skiing on the tufted nylon bristles of the dry ski school (apart from the apres-ski, snow gives a softer surface to sit down on!).

It was a very pleasant surprise when I was told in January to report to the Regimental ski team in Lermoos forthwith in order to replace a frost-bitten team member. This year the Regiment had entered for both the military and Alpine combinations and I arrived there to compete in the Alpine events only—two days after my arrival!

Team in fine form

I found our team in fine form after a month's training, having recovered from the odd bout of flu and in one case a damaged toe. They had been hampered by lack of snow for the first fortnight and I was sorry to have missed the sight of the Langlauf team, fully equipped apart from skis solemnly training downhill on mud and grass.

The first race, run on Friday, 12th January, was the giant slalom run down a fast but almost invisible course of gates. Light conditions were very poor. A reasonable team time by **Major Moore, Lieutenant Lowe, Lieutenant Yolland** and **W.O.II Marshall** gave us ninth position out of 20 teams. The next day the Langlauf team of **Lieutenant Lowe, Captain Ridlington, Signalman Lee** and **Major Moore** stormed to third place out of 28 teams in the 4 x 10 kms. relay event. This was raced in a temperature of minus 23 degrees below and during the race **Captain Ridlington,** having lost his bonnet, suffered severe frost-bite in one ear.

Splints and bandages!

The downhill race, scheduled for Tuesday, 16th January, had to be postponed after the Monday's practise run on sheet ice had kept the doctors busy with splints and bandages (speed does kill and maim!). The downhill was run, despite a minor blizzard, after the slalom on the afternoon of Thursday, 18th January. In the slalom, with 45 gates, the Regiment came fifth out of 18 and in the downhill seventh. Visibility in the heavy snow was again a problem and racing was slow—no more than 40 m.p.h. I am assured! After crossing the finishing line I was introduced to the C.-in-C., who said he remembered my father! (**Brigadier Robin Yolland.**—Editor).

Cross-country success

Meanwhile the Langlauf team had gone exceptionally well in the 15 km. cross-country race. We entered two teams and our "A" team, consisting of **Major Moore, Lieutenant Lowe, W.O.II Marshall** and **Signalman Lee,** came second out of 33. Our "B" team, with **Captain Ridlington, Corporal Camille** and **Signalman Newman,** was fifth. There were 178 starters in the cross-country and our two teams had the following individual placings:

1st, **Major Moore;** 6th, **Lieutenant Lowe;** 12th, **Captain Ridlington;** 16th, **Signalman Lee;** 29th, **W.O.II Marshall;** 34th, **Corporal Camille;** 39th, **Signalman Newman.**

During this race, **Signalman Lee** had a nasty fall when in sight of the finshing line. He got the tip of a ski in his eye but nevertheless finished the race to come 16th out of 178. After the race he had a splinter removed from the pupil of his eye!

(Continued on page 91)

It's "Ski Heil" with the Fourth Regiment at Lermoos



ON, ON, REGARDLESS!
Captain Michael Ridlington nears the end of the 4 x 10 km. relay. The event took place in sub-zero temperatures and having lost hi cap he suffered severe frost bite in one ear

4th Regiment skiers

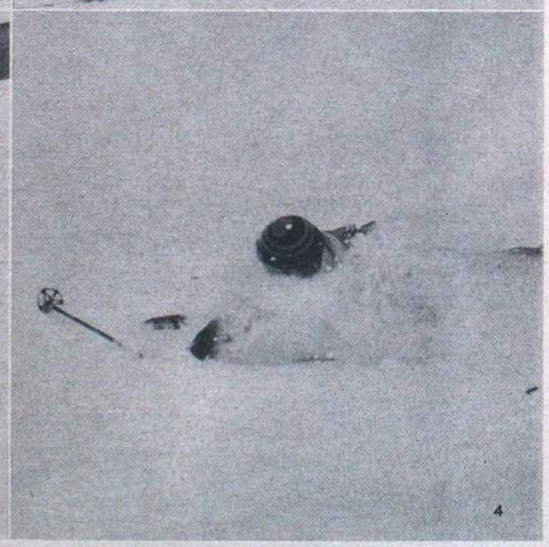
have plenty of fun at Lermoos



1


2


3


4

1. **WAITING FOR THE OFF.** Signalman Newton at the start of the 15 km cross country.
2. **GETTING INTO HIS STRIDE.** Corporal Camille competing in the 4 x 10 km relay.
3. **FLAT OUT.** Lieutenant Michael Yolland at high speed in the downhill race.
4. **CRASH!** A skier—unknown—wonders what hit him!

(*Continued from page 89*)

For the all-important patrol race **Lieutenant Lowe** led **W.O.II Marshall, Corporal Camille** and **Signalman Lee** to a well-deserved third place out of a total of 24 teams. The race was over 20 kms. up mountains and through forests, all deep in newly fallen snow. **Major Moore** kept fit by marking out the whole course first and then collecting the flags afterwards! **Capta'n Ridlington** became a turn-coat and led an officer-less 20th Armoured Brigade team to a good eighth place.

Missed third place by only a point

Overall the Langlauf team came second in the military combination and the downhill team came fifth in the Alpine combination. In the combined results the Regiment came fourth, missing third place by only one point. So with one ashtray each the team moved into Oberjoch for the B.A.O.R. meeting. Incidentally, with over 100 competitors, we had two in the first ten best all-rounders. Next year we hope we shall do a good deal better.

MATTERS OTHER THAN SKI-ING

Visit of Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Records

We were very pleased to welcome **Colonel T. H. C. Grigg,** a former C.O. of the Regiment, for a three-day visit in January. Senior Royal Signals N.C.O.s from our Brigades and Units in the Division came up to Herford on 11th January to hear an informative talk, and this was followed by interviews. **Colonel Grigg** also gave an inspiring talk to our junior N.C.O.s on their career prospects.

In spite of the fact that he seemed to work 15 hours a day we managed to fit in for him a dinner/dance in the Officers' Mess rotunda, and a wine and cheese party followed by a dance in the Sergeants' Mess on successive evenings. He was able to meet a large number of wives on both evenings and it was a great pleasure to entertain him again in his old haunts.

Athletics—Divisional cross-country meeting

The Regiment entered a team of ten for the Divisional cross-country championships which were held this year near Paderborn. The race was run in bad weather with lots of rain and the going was very heavy, so much so that some competitors, including **Corporal Archer** of our team, lost their running shoes in the first few hundred yards of deep plough! **Second-Lieutenant Richard Anderson** had organised the team who had been doing some pretty hard training in the snow in Herford during the last couple of weeks. The result was a vast improvement on last year and the Regiment came fourth out of 14. **Corporal Brazil** was our first man home in fifth place and all our runners were in quite early on. On the strength of this performance the whole team were given a long weekend.

Hockey

The Regiment played 45 Med. Regiment R.A. in the second round of the Army Cup on 31st January and won 2-1 after a hard, fast game. We fielded two reserves as two of our team were skiing for the Regiment in the B.A.O.R. Championships at Oberjoch. Although we scored first the gunners equalised from a short corner just before half-time. It was not until three minutes from the end that **Corporal Smith** scored the winning goal for us after smart work on the right-wing by **Corporal Le Carpentier** and **Lance-Corporal Lalabaluva.**

New arrivals

Having said goodbye to **Lieutenants Dick, Galloway, Taylor** and **Smith** in December, we welcomed, on 4th January, **Second-Lieutenants Brill, Farrimond, Lillie** and **Garrod.** They will long remember the reception the subalterns laid on for them, on their arrival at Gutersloh, and during the remainder of the day.

Stop press from Oberjoch

News has just come through that our skiers have won the B.A.O.R. Biathlon Relay.



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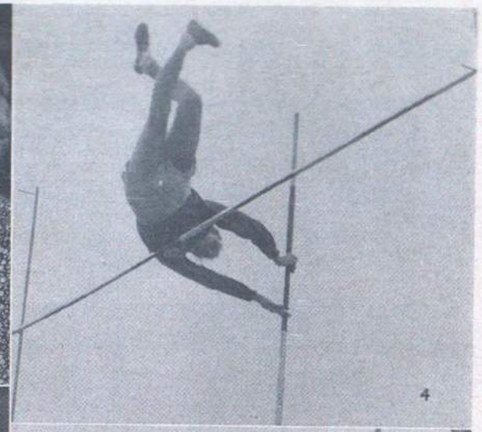
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Some events which show the way of life at 8th Regiment











Much has happened which we shall not forget in a hurry during the past few months. There was, of course, the 'Hippie' dance and the camera catches the R.S.M. (on left) taking a 'flowery' view of life with W.O.II Wilson (1)

Nor shall we forget the CD Exercise 'Survival' when the Regiment provided faked casualities, stretcher teams and communications (2)

Or the Families Day when the children flocked to put themselves in safe Corps hands on the trampoline (3)

Then there was the Northern Command Athletics won by the Regiment; they also won the NORCO Championships and (4) is an action photo of the pole jump.

There were little 'spots of trouble' too and (5) shows Sergeant Fox-Roberts leading a party of 'demonstrators' in conflict with the Adjutant, Captain Colin Brown who is trying to run a practice mobilisation.

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

• **Regimental Quarter Guard gets plenty of practice.**

THE Christmas break always gives a super Monday morning feeling in January but it was soon dispelled in a flurry of visits, study days, troop training and preparations for exercises —to say nothing of stores checks and sports events.

High-powered visitors abound

Our visitors included the new Corps Commander, **Lieutenant-General Sir Mervyn Butler, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.**; the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.**; and O.-in-C. Royal Signals Records **Colonel T. H. C. Grigg.** Our Quarter Guard was as usual as near perfect as ever—it should be, it gets enough practice.

Study days have covered aspects of operations and administration in the field.

V.H.F. conference reaches important conclusion

An exclusive meeting of V.H.F. signallers took place on 17th January in the Regiment chaired by O.C. 4 Squadron **Major P. A. Thompson,** when officers and seniors from 1, 2 and 4 Divisions concerned with V.H.F. nets got together to discuss ways and means of providing good communications this coming exercise season and to iron out mutual problems. The convention, which started inevitably with coffee and biscuits, was opened by C.C.R. Signals 1 (B.R.) Corps **Brigadier Page,** and there followed some lively exchange of ideas which will no doubt prove invaluable. **The general concensus of opinion at the end of the convention was that the chap at the other end is not such a bad fellow after all.**

We are still pressing on with plans to have an indoor automatic bowling alley and bureaucratic processes are still grinding away at it.

Big plans for the Hobbies Centre

The Hobbies Centre continues to attract our artists, inventors, model makers, railway enthusiasts and "hams." There are rumours of super hovercraft designs and a computerised tape recorder and juke box.

The canoe club is well set up with equipment and instructors and **Captain Patrick Burns** is looking forward to a good season.

Sergeant Fayers has an eye on successes in Continental Motocross and has bought a Greeves trials motor-cycle. It looks very lean against our B.S.A.s.

Hockey—increased confidence in the Army Cup

The first attempt at arriving at a result in the Army Cup first round hockey was made on 11th December after clearing the barracks square of snow (five hours' work and half-a-ton of rock salt!). It was a scrappy game ending in a 1-1 draw. The replay was held at 3rd Queens barracks Lemgo on a fine day, one ideal for hockey. Both sides were a bit edgy at the start but **Corporal Coldwell** managed to settle our team down fairly quickly. The first goal of the match came from a short corner when **Corporal Coldwell** passed the ball across to **Captain de Bretton Gordon** who crashed it home without committing his normal offence of "sticks."

In the second half **Sergeant Luis** had a good game, scoring two fine goals, and **Staff Sergeant Bayliss** netted an excellent shot. **Captain de Bretton Gordon** scored a fifth.

The Queens scored one goal in the second half, splitting the defence which was basically sound throughout the game. **Second-Lieutenant Clarke** had a good game at left-back.

We now approach the next round against the Royals with added confidence after this good 5-1 win.

H.Q. Squadron won the Inter Squadron Football Knockout by beating 1 Squadron 2-1 in a snow storm.

The Regiment was well represented at the B.A.O.R. Judo championships at Sennelager. The team placing was third.

Corporal Cairns again!

Corporal Cairns won the B.A.O.R. heavyweight title beating **Captain McDonald,** R.A.O.C. **Corporal Cairns** was also runner-up to **S.S.I. Dalev.** A.P.T.C., in the open championships.

Lieutenant Gardner, who took up judo only last November, did well to win a Special Kyu contest. Both **Lieutenant Gardner** and **Corporal Cairns** qualified to go to the Army championships at Aldershot in March.

4th Division rugby team selectors paid us the compliment of an invitation to play against a trial team for the Division. We hope they were satisfied as we won 28-10! As a result of the match nine of our players are in the Divisional team chosen for a series of B.A.O.R. trial games shortly.

Corporal Peter McMillan of 1 Squadron won the 4th Divisional cross-country championships at Paderbern. The going was heavy—ploughed field much of the way—and running shoe losses were high! Despite a loss of some three hundred yards when he took a wrong course, Corporal McMillan finished first with a 150-yard lead.

We wish him luck in the B.A.O.R. championships at Iserlohn and hope to include the result in a stop press signal for this issue.

Signal later received reads:

("Corporal Peter MacMillan came second in B.A.O.R. cross-country championships, only 25 seconds behind winner—an excellent achievement."—Editor).

The social side of life

The New Year, brought in noisily at a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess social, has seen a large influx of new faces and we welcomed to the Mess **W.O.II Cockcroft, Staff Sergeant Wood** (A.C.C.) and **Sergeants Donnithorne, Roche, Parry, Ryan, Barton, Booth, Moffatt, Light** and **Bailey.**

January was taken quietly after the Christmas and New Year festivities but we rallied towards the end with a cheese and wine night with a German "Umpah" band. We have just rocketed into February with a racy "night club" night where we were entertained by Mrs. Zoing and her friend with Fijian singing and hula dancing, and a rather dubious female pop singing group (who looked suspiciously like some 2 Squadron seniors we know, miming to a tape recording).

H.Q. 3rd Signal Group, NEARELF

Visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant

MAJOR-GENERAL A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., Representative Colonel Commandant, came to Cyprus last month wearing two hats! In his Representative Colonel Commandant's hat he had a quick look round the Units of 3rd Signal Group.

The General arrived at an early hour on 30th January and came to our headquarters to meet the staff later on that morning. He chatted informally to us all from **Staff Mays** to **Miss Marion Williams** and then left for 259 and 261 Squadrons. The idea was to give the General the chance of meeting as many people as possible and at pre-lunch drinks in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess most of our seniors were introduced. Then at the Officers' Club he lunched with Royal Signals Officers and their wives from the Episkopi Units and UNFICYP, **Commandant E. Doyle** and **Captain J. R. Manning,** Royal Canadian Signals, came with **Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Wythe** from Nicosia for this.

The last event was a supper party at 9th Regiment in their new "risen from the ashes" Phoenix Officers' Mess. This was a big affair held in near total darkness—buffet followed by dancing and clearly enjoyed by everyone.

9th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 53

Cross-country

A HUGE field of 92 runners gathered for the start of the Army (Cyprus) Cross-Country Championship on 19th January, at Dhekelia. Despite a strong wind, the runners left at an extremely fast pace, and soon **Corporal Sabin,** a Sapper, and **Lance-Corporal Mick Gue,** of 9th Signal Regiment, were dominating the race.

After some 4½ miles **Gue** began to draw clear and eventually won fairly comfortably; **Sab'n** finishing second. For the second successive year the Regiment had provided the individual winner. It may be remembered that the 1967 winner was **Signalman Chris Burr.** The race saw a welcome return to form for **Gue,** who has been plagued by an injured ankle since his arrival late in 1967.



AWARDS FOR LOCALLY ENGAGED PERSONNEL
On Wednesday 31st January two of our MT Section, Savvas Haji-Constantinon and Georghios Kouskounos, were presented with awards for long service. Savvas known as 'Little Pop,' and Georghios as 'Big Pop', were both in the Cyprus Regiment 1940-1946, and afterwards joined 17 Coy R.A.S.C. In 1954 they joined 2 Wireless Regiment, which is now, of course, 9th Signal Regiment.
Left to Right: Little Pop, W.O.II. J. Downes (M.T.W.O.) and Big Pop.

The following week, the Inter-Service Championship was held at Episkopi. Contrary to expectations, the course was very wet and very heavy, which hardly suited **Gue,** who had come prepared for a fast, dry course. In the circumstances, he ran an excellent race. Always in the first two, it was only in the final sprint for the line that he was beaten. Just three seconds separated him from the winner, **Sergeant Bulley,** of the R.A.F., and the third man home, **Corporal Sabin,** was several hundred yards behind.

Already **Gue** has many successes under his belt, most notable, perhaps, being his win in the Army (U.K.) Mile Championship in 1967.

Winter Warfare Course—Troodos

Two Land Rovers left the unit on 15th January for Troodos, the mountainous north-west of Cyprus. The party, destined for a Winter Warfare Course, consisted of **Lieutenant Hetreed, Second-Lieutenant Vaughan** and **Signalmen Etchells, Truswell, Turner, Hardstaff** and **Merrell.**

For the most part the journey was uneventful, but when the snow line was reached the fun really started. There are two roads which go up the mountain to Troodos—naturally, we had to choose the most difficult. The snow became deeper. The wind blew stronger, and after the comparative warmth of Famagusta, the cold was terrific!

Eventually we found ourselves part of a small convoy; this presented problems. Constantly we were forced to dig out and push the vehicles in front. At about 5,500ft., on a completely exposed ridge, a U.N. Rover became embedded and immovable in our path. After abortive efforts had been made to free it, we decided to walk, abandoning vehicles and kit for the present. None of us will quickly forget that walk. We stumbled through a blinding snowstorm up the mountain track to the Winter Warfare Centre. We had difficulty in finding the road, it had disappeared under the drifting snow. The cold was intense; later we heard it had been 20° below freezing point.

At last we came to Troodos, only to find the power supply had failed. For the first week we lived under candle-power. A tale of woe, but more than made up for by the excellent ski-ing and some really glorious weather later in the week. Incidentally, we were all complete novices on skis.

With the course ahead a day late, the first day was spent recovering the Land Rovers.

When it did start, the weather immediately changed for the better, and the first six days we spent ski-ing on the Sun Valley Nursery slopes. The instruction was excellent, and soon a number of us felt capable of ski-ing on the north face of Mount Olympus. Swirling mists and thick cloud made the face hazardous for even the experienced skiers—we novices found the face hair-raising, to say the least, but apart from the odd twisted ankle, there were no serious injuries to the 9th Signal Regiment party—and we all arrived back on 26th January far fitter than we had left.

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) B.F.P.O. 53

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet

DURING the last six months or so we have been known as 259 Signal Squadron (COMCAN)—259 Signal Squadron (D.C.N.) — 259 Signal Squadron (RISTACOM) — 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay), in fact it has been a signwriter's nightmare. We now seem to have settled for a touch of the "Radio Relays"—at least for the time being! **Staff Sergeant Angell,** having been appointed O.-in-C. Unit Sign Boards, hopes so anyway.

Revival

We are happy to report that having run down to a mere skeleton towards the end of 1967 we are now gradually building up again for our new radio relay role. We are quite pleased so far with the raw material being sent out to us—the last batch of five Lance-Corporals arrived completed with M.P.T. II and A.C.E. I—keep it up Records, you are doing a fine job.

The expensive ones

The Squadron boasts no less than five Foremen of Signals at the last count, namely: **W.O.I (F. of S.) George Hughes, W.O.II (F. of S.) Mike Butler, Staff Sergeants (F. of S.) Geordie Carr, Ray Edwards** and **George Brindle,** with **W.O.II (F. of S.) Prime, W.O.II (F. of S.) Layon, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Charles** also heading our way. Should the latter three arrive before any departures, we reckon we may hold some sort of record for a Squadron outside the School of Signals. (Letters of sympathy to the R.D. types gratefully accepted). However, these rather expensive gentlemen are certainly being kept fully employed training our newly arrived Radio Relay Technicians on the unfamiliar R.A.F. equipment we are due to take over soon.

Thank you to the R.A.F.

We are already busy infiltrating the R.A.F. run Radio Relay Stations on the Island. We take our hats off (if the R.A.F. will excuse the pun), to our R.A.F. friends for the 100 per cent-plus co-operation they have given us up to now—so much co-operation in fact that it has been suggested they are colour blind. We "Brown Jobs," therefore, thank you "Blue Jobs," and have deliberately recorded our thanks here for posterity.

Hello and Goodbye

We have now said goodbye to our old O.C., **Major B. C. Complin,** and hello to our new O.C., **Major G. J. Chitty.** We wish both them and their families a happy time in their new surroundings. **Sergeant Paddy Byrne,** having been "Kebbabbed" out of the Squadron in usual style, has now left us on promotion to Staff Sergeant at Records; good luck **Paddy** and **Betty.** In **Paddy's** place we welcome **Sergeant Bob Pearce** who unfortunately knows more rugby songs than the O.C.—this could limit his stay with us—this and his reluctance to produce Squadron Nominal Rolls.

Sport

Sport is still being played but we are down to the last man. The football team has just kept its head above water. The hockey team is slightly better, having won all our league fixtures so far (all four games) and is playing the league winners East for the winner of the overall league. **Corporal Green** and **Staff Sergeant Angell** gained Army Colours this season.

Visits

Right at the end of January we were honoured by a visit from **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C.,** who was paying a flying visit to the Island in a dual role of Representative Colonel Commandant and G.O.C. 3rd Division. Being in a state of flux we had very little real estate of our own to show the General; however, after a visit to the Squadron Headquarters and the Episkopi Radio Relay Terminal the General, our O.C. and Seniors adjourned to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where we all found a common interest.

Generally

Our new lads are settling in well and have quickly accepted our do's and don'ts. To all those under warning for posting to us in the near future, we wish you a safe journey and we guarantee you a happy tour of duty with us, "ad vitam aut culpam."

261 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 53

General

CHRISTMAS and Annual Inspection now a thing of the distant past we settle down in the Squadron to weather the next storm. Literally, howling gales that blew roofs off, trees down and, of course, telephone poles so that our 'hairies' had plenty of climbing to do to replace and repair overhead lines. The plastic 'golf ball' which protected the sattelite tracking station disintegrated and disappeared into the night and no doubt local villages now sleep comfortably on foam mattresses. Our CAFSO couldn't find enough buckets and basins to catch the rain that streamed in through his gaping roof. The tiles were eventually replaced only to be removed again with the onslaught of the second wave of gales. However, Episkopi has survived and with heavy falls of snow on the Troodos Mountains, ski-ing is in full swing. The Squadron was lucky enough to have several people go on ski courses and notably **Corporal Ken Ross** survived without losing any more teeth.

Personalities

In February we lose two of our Officers, **Captain Ron Clayton** to T.E.(A) Course on premature R.H.E. and **Captain 'Jock' Souter** on posting to U.K. **Lieutenant 'Barny' Barnaby** has arrived to fill the post of Administrative Office and **Corporal Dave Osborne** has arrived from B.A.O.R. to strengthen our football team.

Sergeant Taff Gore has taken up residence in our Episkopi Station Troop.

Sports

Our football team hasn't been as successful as during last season but at least are into the semi-finals of the Command 3rd Signal Group Champion Squadron Cup. But our team cannot be faulted for not being tough: **Corporal 'The Baron' Essig** received a bruise on the leg during a game and was walked across the pitch by **S.S.M. Eddie Bailey.** At the hospital next day the bruise turned out to be a broken leg. **Mr. Keo Dixon,** one of our G.P.O. Technicians, played two months before he discovered he had a broken toe.

Signalman 'Jock' Donoughue is making a name for himself in the boxing world, and so far has won four bouts and the start of a collection of medals and cups.

W.O.I Stan Barrett is to be congratulated on his successes in the sailing world and has made quite a name for himself locally. Finally, our basketball and hockey teams go from strength to strength; the basketballers being led by our senior G.P.O. Technician, **Alistair McLellan.** One of the stalwarts of hockey is our Squadron Commander, **Major Ian Simpson,** who swings a very nifty stick.

Also **Captain Robin Hutley** has represented the Army several times in Cyprus at hockey.

Rationalisation Project

Progress on rationalisation has continued. During Autumn of 1967 a team, of **W.O.II (F. of S.) B. A. T. Godfrey** and **Corporals Olive** and **Chapman,** installed a further 400-line PABX Number 3 exchange at Akrotiri.

The first step was the design and building of a new battery shop which was duly completed on 1st September, 1967. Then followed the move of our old battery, the installation of a new one and finally the cut over. The new battery shop was fully commissioned on 14th September, 1967.

The next step was the demolition of our old battery shop and the incorporation of the space into the exchange. This gave us the vital 8 feet needed to enlarge the exchange.

Six further racks of equipment were to be installed together with two extra positions in the manual exchange room. Local knowledge was then added to the team. **Corporal Harrison** and **Lance-Corporals Peel** and **Collins** joined the team. Our resident G.P.O. technician, **Mr. Brian Dixon,** and his technician, **Lance-Corporal Hunt,** also became involved at this stage. They were defending their own exchange.

The installation went well and as might be expected was completed in time for the team to leave us for Christmas.

All that now remains is the final cut over of extensions to reduce the loading on the original exchange and bring the second exchange into use. (The two exchanges are to work in tandem with a seven-level access between them.) This is planned for the weekend 27th/28th January, 1968. Numbers have been allocated, a new directory printed (incidentally, financially self-supporting through the advertisements of the local traders). The frame has been re-jumpered. On 27th January we will light the blue touch paper, stand clear and let the Royal Air Force answer the enquiries.

In addition to the exchange the cabling has proceeded well. Small 'Test Point' buildings have appeared at various points on the airfield. Many extremely large holes have been dug eventually to become pits with either pillars or cabinets attached. Cable laid—now nearly 9,000 yards of 50 and 100 pair cables.

All in all the Project is making good progress at the moment, only hampered by the torrential rains which are filling in the trenches which the contractor digs just as fast as he can dig them.

11th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

Arrivals/Departures

MAJOR **Malcolm Wise** left us this month to go to B.A.O.R. where he will be doing a staff job. A far cry from the Recruit Training Squadron he leaves. His place as O.C. 1 Squadron is taken by **Major Terry Ross** who arrived, complete with war stories, from 15th Regiment, Aden.

Second-Lieutenant Judy Kinchin left us to go from one depot to another. She is to be a Troop Commander at the W.R.A.C. Depot and Training Establishment, Guildford. Before Judy left her engagement to **Lieutenant Peter Smith** was announced. We wish them all success for the future.

Corporal Paddy Pywell is now most probably on winter exercises with 7th Regiment and **Corporal Tony Davies** will now be getting his knees brown in Cyprus.

Brigadier Woodrow 'Dined out'

On Tuesday, 30th January, the Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Catterick, dined-out **Brigadier John Woodrow,** and, as can be seen from the photograph he left the Mess in true tradition. The photograph was of course taken by the 11th Regiment official photographer.

No. 3 Leadership Course has been progressing throughout the month. The course is designed to test and develop the powers and qualities of leadership of the students. Now that the majority of the Foot and Mouth restrictions have been lifted the course officers will have a few less headaches and the course will have to do some really arduous training.

Pass-Off Parade—12th January

The Pass-Off Parade on 12th January was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel I. H. Baker, M.B.E.,** Commanding 1st Royal Tank Regiment. Afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Baker looked round the Regiment and made many interesting comparisons between his Regiment (Recruit Training R.A.C.) and ours. It is hoped that even more of his Officers will visit the Regiment in the near future, to find out how we do it! (Aside — our wastage is approximately 10 per cent, the lowest in the Army). The best recruit was **Signalman M. A. Codd.** Signalman Codd was a machine operator in Wigan and joined the



POPULAR WITH THE LADIES?

Brigadier John Woodrow gets a lively send off—not least from W.R.A.C. officers when being 'dined out' at Catterick

Army for a different life and to learn a trade. He is a keen cross-country runner and is a member of the Wakefield Harriers; he naturally hopes to continue his running in the Army. Signalman Codd has now gone to 8th Regiment to be trained as a Signals Technician.

Wanted

Patient, dedicated, enthusiastic, sincere junior N.C.O.s as Recruit Troop Instructors in No. 1 Squadron, 11th Regiment. Hours of work are long but the satisfaction, at the end of a Recruit Troop training cycle of eight weeks, more than compensates for the effort put into the training. Volunteers in writing to Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Records.

Situations Vacant

Recruit Troop Instructors in No. 1 Squadron, 11th Regiment. Normal tour of 2½ years. Chances of upgrading at trade and education unequalled elsewhere.

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Snow, or putting it where nature didn't

IN our last notes we bemoaned the fact that we had bulldozed a ski slope but had no snow. Since then the snow has come but not enough of it. Undaunted, we calculated that if we took the snow from the parade ground and put it on the ski run we would be in business. Photographed is **Corporal Mac McInnes** doing just this while **Signalman Jack McFarlane** and **Signalman Pete Mills** practise for the days when they are Sergeants.

Rugby—some good aggressive playing

Congratulations to 7th Regiment on reaching the B.A.O.R. finals; we left the arena after the Rhine Area finals. 16th Regiment's team, while not outstanding, has been playing some good aggressive rugby this season and is well represented by the photograph of **Lance-Corporal Tony Lynn,** scrum half, breaking loose, in a game against R.A.F. Wegberg. (Photograph by **Corporal Perkins**).

Chess!

We don't get as much time for chess as we would like; it seems that if we had a TARE (Telegragh Automatic Relay Equipment) we would all have more time to do what we like



SNOW FATIGUE IN REVERSE

Nature did not put the snow where we most wanted it—on our ski slope—so we gave her a helping hand

Corporal McInnes doing the work while Signalmen McFarlane and Mills look on, obviously practicing to be Sergeants!

and we could blame the machine if anything went wrong. To test these theories we organised a study day with the Technical Intelligence from H.Q. B.A.O.R. and H.Q. R.A.F. (G.) guests and Marconi of Chelmsford doing most of the work. Marconi sent **Major Eric Rose,** late of H.Q. COMCAN, to give a very polished presentation on the Marconi Automatic Relay System (MARS). We know what we want and its just a matter of money—about £0.5m., they say.

A case for the S.I.B.?

The Officers' Mess challenged the Sergeants' Mess to a games evening, quietly confident of a comfortable win. In the event, fiddled result sheets, which would have kept the S.I.B. busy for a week, forced a draw. Half-way through the evening a surprise item was a written B.F.G. driver's test for six members of each Mess. Qualifications required were to have held a B.F.G. licence and driven in B.A.O.R. for the past twelve months—results: one disqualified and eleven failed!



A TRIANGULAR SITUATION

The Regiment has been playing good aggressive rugby this season. This action photo taken by Corporal Perkins shows Lance Corporal Tony Lynn scrum half breaking loose in a game against R.A.F. Wegberg

High Life at the 18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Social

SINCE our last notes were written, the Regiment has nearly completed the whole series of religious festivals for this part of the year, starting with Christmas and finishing with the Chinese New Year on 30th January. The new moon was sighted on New Year's Eve, so Hari Raya Puasa, the Muslim feast marking the end of Ramadan, fell on New Year's Day. The next festival is Thaipusam, which is on 12th February, three days before the annual inspection.

Hari Raya Puasa was celebrated by visits to and amongst the families of the Muslims serving in the Regiment, a special lunch, served by their seniors for those living in barracks, and a Hari Raya celebration held on 13th January. This was an excellent evening's entertainment with dancing, a Malay buffet and a raffle. The newly-formed Regimental dance band—'The Drifters'—played some very lively music and the joget girls were kept busy dancing throughout the evening.

The Chinese New Year party, for the Chinese soldiers and civilians with the Regiment, was held in the Great World this year. A nine-course meal was consumed by the hundred stalwarts attending, accompanied by the quaffing of Tiger Beer and an ever-growing chorus of Yam Seng. Judging by the noise level, a good time was had by all.



AT THE CORPORALS' MESS BALL

In heavy disguise *(left to right)* **Signalman Larkem, Corporal Seals, Lance Corporal Jinks and Corporal Hunter**

SPORT

Rugby

The Regimental 1st XV is made up of players from the Regiment, 237 and 249 Squadron, including U.K.-based civilians, under the energetic leadership of **Captain Dai Rees,** of 237 Squadron, who has sworn to hang up his boots at the end of the season for the third year running. Although knocked out of the Army Cup Competition in the semi-finals by the Engineer Group, the team has had a very successful season so far, having won 18 and drawn two out of the 30 games played, with 430 points for and 250 points against us. The team's finest hour was when they won the match against the up-to-then unbeaten Bucks Rugby Club by 13 points to 3. **Captain Blackwell** (249) and **Sergeant Crowe** (237) were both selected for the Combined Services Team and for the Army side. **Corporal Davies** (237) and **Lance-Corporal Allen** (237) both won their Under 23 Army Caps, and **Corporal Buxton** (18) has now scored over 150 points this season.



AT THE TRAMPS' BALL

In mellow mood *(left to right)* **Signalman Marriner, Lance Corporal Gray, Corporal South, Corporal Stout, Signalman Bradley, Signalman Trigilas, Corporal Richard and Corporal Streetley**

Hockey

The Regimental team is half Malay and Indian and half British, which has produced a happy and successful blend of the quick and skilful Asian style with that of the rumbustious European. The team has played 25 matches so far and

lost only three, one of which was unfortunately the quarter-finals of the FARELF Cup against the Army Depot Police. In the FARELF Major Units Cup, the team goes forward to a replay against 3 B.O.D. in the semi-final, having drawn the first game one all after a hard duel.

Sergeant Forster was selected to play for the Inter-Services' side, and he, **Sergeant Harun** and **Sergeant Hyde** were selected for the Corps team.

Sailing

The Regimental team, despite high hopes, was knocked out early in the District Championships in November, and does not have the opportunity to compete again as such for many months. However, we still have four crews competing regularly as individuals in the series of regattas now taking place whilst the North-East Monsoon is with us. The Round the Island Race proved no exception, and an Osprey (**Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson** and **Major Barker**), two GPs (**Major Bird** and **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Littlejohn**), (**Corporal Birch** and **Corporal Richards**) and one Firefly (**Second-Lieutenant MacCulloch** and **Staff Sergeant Dewney**, R.E.M.E.) took part. This annual marathon is the longest dinghy race in the world, and involves sailing from the west side of the Johore Bahru Causeway to the Naval Base—a course of at least 63 miles. The race was sarted at 4 a.m. on 28th January and finished at between 4.0 and 8.0 p.m. All our contestants were well up in their class, and qualified for a 'Brass Island.' **Second-Lieutenant MacCulloch** and **Major Bird** did particularly well, obtaining 12th and 37th place overall out of the 170 contestants. The Regiment was also deeply involved in the provision of radio communications and spotters for the extensive control and safety organisation required. This is organised by the Army Yacht Club, of which **Major Bird** is Sailing Secretary and **Major Johnstone** House Member.

Old for new — transfer to new auto and manual exchange in Tanglin complex

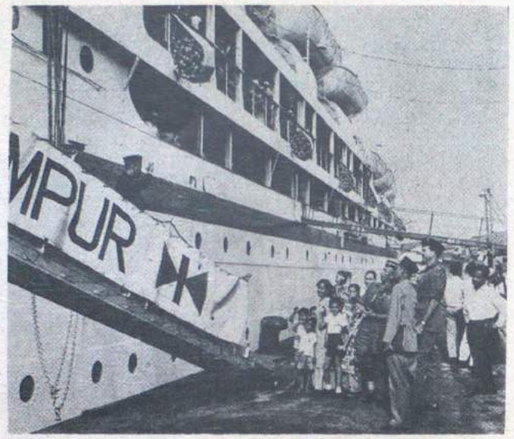
At seven o'clock on 11th January, the lines between the old exchange and the new exchange in the Tanglin Complex were transferred. The transfer was completed in one hour, at the end of which a team of ten exchange operators began their mammoth task of testing and proving 1,030 lines (both ways).

The transfer was an unqualified success and much credit is due to the integrated installation teams found from G.E.C., G.P.O. and Royal Signals technicians, exchange operators and linemen responsible.

The catastrophe of the collapse of the trunking containing the eighty or so tie cables between the two exchanges was described in the December/January edition of THE WIRE. This was a major set-back and held up the project for three months. The tie cables were a complete loss and 2 Squadron's UG



THE BLACK MARIA
18th Regiment's new security patrol scheme works well



PILGRIM TO MECCA
Corporal Amran departs on his unit sponsored trip to Mecca. Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson, Captain Yahaya, the Imam and Corporal Amran's family see him off (See page 99)

Troop had to dig in and transfer the tie cable between exchanges.

The new exchange is housed in a brand new air-conditioned building and has a capacity of 1,050 lines. It is planned to reclaim and instal a further 450 lines from the old auto exchange to bring the capacity up to 1,500 lines.

The effect of the new equipment is readily apparent. The manual board is a model of spacious efficiency and 1 Squadron's operators' environment is bright and airy. The board is far easier to operate, and subscribers are already benefiting from a much better service from both the auto and the manual exchange.

The Warren opens a new clubhouse

The new club premises of the Warren Golf Club were officially opened by **Major-General D. N. H. Tyacke, O.B.E.,** G.O.C. Singapore District, on the evening of Saturday, 27th January. Representatives from all the other golf clubs on the island, as well as the greater part of the Warren members were present and kept a heavily reinforced bar staff more than busy. 'The glow' set in quickly and, amidst many startling and no doubt verbose accounts of achievements both on and off the course, from 'rabbits' down to 'scratch-tigers,' the party went with a well-timed swing.

Security patrols

In efforts to deter wrong-doers in our spacious and largely unfenced camp, we started a semi-permanent nightly patrol in November, in place of the usual "two hours on and four off" guard. For six weeks at a time, twelve picked men do two nights on patrol and one off, for which they are excused all other duties. Prepared by special training and equipped with an impressive black, spotlight-fitted Land Rover, pocket-sized radio and truncheons, their enthusiasm, knowledge of the area, speed and unpredicted movements, have already produced results, the most notable on 27th December. Late that night **Signalmen Mariner** and **Lim** saw a taxi and a suspicious gathering of men. They radioed for help and moved in to investigate what turned out to be a hold-up. Four men ran off, two to be caught by the civilian police, who were warned by telephone, and two by **Sergeant Shields** and **Signalman Tregilgas**, coming from the guardroom to help. The evening ended with a fine crop of vicious-looking daggers, bruised knuckles and a hilarious interlude when one of the prisoners made a dash for freedom through an unguarded door—unguarded as it led into a small fenced enclosure. Our thanks for the original idea for this scheme go to **Major Stork,** who shortly leaves us for 4th Division.

Pilgrimage to Mecca

Nearly all the Malay soldiers in the Regiment are devout Muslims. As such, one of their normally unattainable ambitions is to fulfil the last of their five commandments and make a pilgrimage to Mecca. The cost, of some $1,500, is too high for the average soldier to meet.

It has therefore been decided to send a pilgrim from the Regiment each year as long as we continue to exist.

Corporal Amran, of 2 Squadron, was chosen as the first Regimental pilgrim, and left for Mecca on the s.s. *Kuala Lumpur* —formerly the *Dilwara*, on which many readers may have travelled in the good old days of trooping—on 5th January. **Corporal Amran** joined the British Army on 17th April, 1950, and has served in both 18th and 19th Signal Regiments as a lineman. He is married and has three children. He has devoted his spare time to giving religious instruction to the children of Malay soldiers in the Regment housed in Clementi Estate. Over $200.00 was contributed towards the cost of the pilgrimage by the M.O.R.s and a similar sum from **Corporal Amran** himself, the remainder being met by the Regimental Benevolent Fund.

W.O.I (R.S.M.) I. D. C. Currie

Both the Officers' and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes dined-out W.O.I (R.S.M.) Currie in January. He and his family return to U.K. for his last six months on 1st February. We are all sorry to see him go and wish him and his family every success in the future.

17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
Seremban, Malaysia

Farewell—Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. W. P. W. Robertson

WEARING three "hats," those of Commander Gurkha Signals, Commander Royal Signals 17 Division/Malaya District, and Commanding Officer 17th Gurkha Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Robertson** had a considerable amount of real estate to cover, and an equally large number of people to say farewell to before he could hand over his responsibilities after a two-and-a-half-year tour.

Early October found him in Hong Kong bidding farewell to 246 Gurkha Squadron, where memories of his previous tour as O.C. of the Squadron combined with his present farewell visit, made the occasion very personal. He then came back to Singapore and 99 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron before returning to Seremban and the heart of the Regiment to celebrate Dashera, the major Gurkha festival of the year at which the famed headcutting ceremony is performed.

By early November, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Dacre, M.B.E.,** the new Commander Gurkha Signals, had arrived and the handover of responsibilities got under way with numerous social functions heralding that sad but inevitable day when a Regiment says its final farewell to a departing Commanding Officer.

Early on the morning of Thursday, 16th November, 1967, with its final preparations completed, the Regiment was ready to receive the **Colonel and Mrs. Robertson** for the last time.

At 9 o'clock, a lonely figure arrived at the Queen's Gurkha Officers' Mess and was met by the Gurkha Major; within moments he was no longer alone but surrounded by his Gurkha Officers, who as personal friends each wished him a happy journey, long life and a continuing successful career as they placed a garland of flowers around his shoulders to mark their friendship. As he left the Mess, the Gurkha Major expressed the hope that the Colonel would long remember them and retain a close association with the Regiment and the men he has known in the future.

The road through Sikamat Camp was lined with soldiers and the Colonel mounted his decorated Landrover, accompanied by the Gurkha Major, and with the Pipes and Drums leading, passed slowly through the ranks of cheering men who threw flowers into the vehicle, a traditional Gurkha way of expressing their feelings when a great man is in their presence. As the Landrover passed by, each man joined the ever increasing throng escorting the Colonel to the gates of the



WILL YOU NAE COME BACK AGAIN?
Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson says goodbye to 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment

camp where a ceremonial quarter guard stood fast to pay its military respects to the departing Commanding Officer. In contrast to the preceding events, silence prevailed whilst the quarter guard went through its ritual, broken only by the bugle calls and the quiet, emotion filled words spoken to each man as the Colonel inspected them. The spell was broken by the Pipes and Drums setting off for the Family Hospital to announce the arrival of the Colonel.

At the Hospital, the Colonel joined his wife and young Timothy, and in a most colourful scene set by the Gurkha wives in their best saris, the wives bade their own farewell by placing flower garlands around the shoulders of the Colonel and his family.

The final chapter in this story occurred at the railway station, Seremban, a building which has witnessed the comings and goings of the Regiment for so many years; the gathering of Officers, their wives and families, and the many friends which **Colonel Peter** and **Shirley** have made during their tour, must have rivalled the numbers present at many of the auspicious occasions which have taken place on the "down" platform in



C.O.'s COME AND C.O.'s GO
Left to Right: Lieutenant-Colonel W. P. W. Robertson, Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Dacre M.B.E.

the past. The presence of the tailormaster, resplendent in an astrakan hat, and the No. 1 Boy from the Officers' Mess bear witness to the wide circle of people who wished to say goodbye.

The train drew into the station, **General Patterson** said his personal farewell, and as they boarded the train the haunting melody of "Will you nae come back again," then, as the train slowly left, it was escorted by the Pipes and Drums playing "Scotland the Brave."

Commanding Officer's postscript

These notes are appended in the interest of those of the Corps who have served with the Regiment. Is it much changed? What has happened to old so-and-so? These queries, and many like them, have been put to me in letters and Christmas cards since I returned a couple of months ago.

First impressions reassure one that perhaps changes have not really occurred or are only modest improvements. Sikamat Camp, Seremban, is much the same. The old attap bashas litter the little valley on either side, interspersed with even older nissen huts and backed with the more recent additions for the Training Squadron.

To the right of the main road the family lines are as crowded as ever. The Gurkha children's school has been re-housed in the old Hawa Ghar and the old school building is now the Hawa Ghar! The improvements wrought to quarters are mostly inside and not apparent to the casual observer.

The old planter's house which affords the Officers one of the most homely Messes in Malaya is still surrounded by colourful shrubs and creepers. The Mess inside is quite delightful, almost baronial with rows of pipe banners standing proud of the walls. Many more portraits have been added and now those of **Gurkha Majors Dhanbahadur, Birendrasing** and **Birbahadur** have joined that of **Parsuram,** with **Brigadier Tucker's** adding a touch of benevolence to their rather austere martial aspects.

In Hong Kong I found 246 Squadron in good heart and very busy. The border tit-for-tat which doubles for diplomacy was in full swing and the Squadron was deployed along the border with units of the Brigade, providing normal communications and manning powerful P.A. equipments. Atop Tai Mo Shan a permanent rebroadcast station is maintained. It was freezing cold whilst I was there, and life under an open tin-roofed shelter was not easy. Nevertheless, the job has to be done and the rum we took up must have made life appear to be more reasonable.

On returning to Singapore the Gurkha Major and I visited 99 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. As an ex-Commander of 248 Squadron I was keen to see how integration was working in this, the first Gurkha Brigade to undergo the change. The increased size of the Squadron and diversity of cap badges is immediately obvious. It takes a little longer to appreciate that the dilution of the Gurkha Signal family atmosphere has been replaced by a stronger corporate Brigade H.Q. spirit; this in the future will undoubtedly make for more functional efficiency. I was pleased to see there **Foreman of Signals Angus** whom I remembered arriving as a young Corporal Radio Technician in 1952.

The Gurkha Signals Troop of the Gurkha Parachute Company was quite new to me, although I recognised many of the faces. This is necessary for with their red berets and parachute badges it is not otherwise possible to pick out Signals from Infantry. **Captain Keith Ryding** is just leaving the Company to become my Adjutant and is to be replaced by **Captain Johnny Fielding.**

The changes so far are not many; they are beginning, however. During my first two months I have seen two redundancy parties off. During the next eighteen months a further two hundred men will leave us. All are first class soldiers with a wealth of signals operational experience. Seremban station will become used to the more frequent skirl of the pipes during the next few months as "Will ye nae come back again" lingers over the farewell handshakes. Then to be succeeded by "Scotland the Brave," as the pipers step off with the departing train.

The Gurkha Officers and soldiers accept, as we must accept, that all this is necessary, even though they may not understand the reason why. **Captain Narbahadur Thapa** was one of the most recent departures. Up until the day before he left he was on the Redundancy Conference giving his unbiased advice on what was best and—"in the interests of the Regiment." This is the spirit which prevails throughout. I found the Regiment in good heart, carrying out its duties diligently and well. I have no doubt that despite the problems ahead this spirit will continue.

I finish on a more cheerful note and record how delighted the Regiment was when Her Majesty appointed Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., to be the Colonel of The Regiment. He succeeds Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., whose unfailing energy on our behalf we remember with grateful thanks.

If any of you want further news of the Regiment you should contact Major A. C. Dexter, Royal Signals, Tactics Wing, School of Signals, Blandford Camp. He is the official U.K. Liaison Officer, Gurkha Signals. Copies of Gurkha Signals Newsletter and Association News can be obtained from him, also the dates of Reunion Dinners. If you are in Catterick, contact Major T. E. D. Baxter of 8th Regiment, who acts as our Northern Representative.

Overseas Appointments
(East Africa)

RESIDENT MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS

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2 Squadron 19th Regiment parade for the camera

Sitting: Left to Right: **Corporal A. Kharman, Corporal Lindsay, Corporal Grubb, Corporal McLaren, Lieutenant Ahmad, O.C. Malaysia Troop, Staff Sergeant Holland, W.O.II Webster (S.S.M.), Major F. V. B. Philip, O.C. 2 Squadron, Sergeant Loke, Captain M. Y. Miller, O.C. Radio Relay Troop, Corporal Ashmore, Lieutenant E. W. Firth, O.C. Operations Troop, Corporal Betton, Corporal Griffin, Corporal Lowe and Corporal Leong.**

Second Row Standing: Left to Right: **Signalman Hashim, Signalman Ismail 695, Signalman Kamis, Signalman Ibrahim, Signalman Shukor, Lance-Corporal Teoh, Signalman Peters, Signalman Ambrose, Lance-Corporal Anang, Lance-Corporal Polden, Lance-Corporal Peter, Signalman Lewis, Signalman Pinder, Lance-Corporal Widdowson, Signalman Kelly, Signalman Robinson, Signalman Sinfield, Signalman Coathup, Signalman Rogers, Signalman Mohd Noor, Signalman Price and Corporal Brooker**

Third Row Standing: Left to Right: **Signalman Ranasamy, Signalman Anthony, Signalman Haron, Signalman Yusoff, Signalman Ismail 495, Lance-Corporal Cheah, Signalman Aliuddin, Signalman Tan, Signalman A. Bakar, Lance-Corporal T. Yahya, Corporal Ali, Corporal Merican, Signalman Carter, Signalman Cank, Signalman Marchant, Lance-Corporal May, Lance-Corporal Ghani, Signalman Lau E. P., Signalman Romli, Signalman Rajoo and Signalman Yeo.**

Fourth Row Standing: Left to Right: **Signalman A. Tahir, Signalman Esa, Signalman Azit, Lance-Corporal Ismail, Signalman A. Rahman, Lance-Corporal Jaafar, Lance-Corporal Loh, Signalman Otham, Lance-Corporal Cartin, Signalman Hocking, Signalman Mullen, Signlaman Brown, Lance-Corporal Wood, Signalman Seow, Lance-Corporal Chong and Signalman Quah**

19th Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O. Singapore

• Brief History of the Regiment.

AT the outbreak of the Second World War the role of the very small air forces in India was purely defensive, and these forces operated almost entirely from permanent air bases on the N.W. Frontier. With the expansion of the war in the Far East, the requirement for air formation signals increased. In 1942 the 19th Air Formation Signal Regiment was raised in the United Kingdom and was moved to India in late 1943. From 1943 to the end of hostilities, the Regiment formed part of 14th Army and was the only British air formation signal unit operating on the Burma front. Personnel of the Regiment wore the Indian Air Formation flash.

Affiliated to the Far East Air Forces

In late 1945 the Regiment moved to Malaya, leaving one Squadron in Burma and a detachment at Saigon. In 1947 the Burma Squadron and Saigon detachment were disbanded and the remainder of the Regiment became permanently affiliated to the Far East Air Forces. The greater part of the Regiment was in Singapore, but there were detachments in Ceylon and Hong Kong. In 1949 the Regiment was Malayanised. Today, about three-quarters of the Regiment are local men recruited into the British Army. In 1959/60, the Gan Island Signal Troop was formed and the Ceylon Squadron was withdrawn. On 1st September, 1960, the Regiment was redesignated with its present title.

A share of the excitement

On 1st April, 1962, the Hong Kong Troop ceased to be part of the Regiment and became part of 253 Signal Squadron. The Regiment has had its share of excitement. In June, 1962, a small detachment moved to Thailand during the Laos crisis. In December, 1962, detachments of the Regiment were deployed to Brunei and Labuan as a result of the revolt there. When the Indonesians started confrontation, futher detachments were deployed on the airfields at Kuching (Sarawak) and Tawau (Sabah).

Since 1964 the Regiment has been reorganised internally to meet the redeployment of the Far East Air Forces, with one Squadron responsible for airfields and installations on Singapore Island and another (2 Squadron) responsible for all other commitments.

2 Squadron's Far Flung Empire

This month features 2 Squadron, 19th Regiment, and its 'Far Flung Empire.'

The Squadron is based at the R.A.F. Station, Seletar, and in the accompanying photograph many readers will probably recognise a few faces. (*Sorry we cannot give this photograph more spread.—Editor*). As a photograph, it is very incomplete, because the Squadron is dispersed between such widely separated locations as Gan Island, in the Indian Ocean, and Labuan, in the China Seas. The Squadron is comprised of Operations Troop (all British) and Malaysia Troop, who both provide a number of airfield line detachments, either already situated on an existing R.A.F. airfield or prepared to activate one. Incidentally, 'line detachment' rather underrates our capabilities. We do anything from laying UG cable to installing and maintaining exchanges and R.A.F. intercom equipment. 2 Squadron is responsible for providing, together with 6 Tactical



NOTHING LIKE A REFRESHING CUP OF TEA!
Members of Operations Troop, 2 Sqn. 19 Signal Regt.—on return from a local exercise
Kneeling: Corporal Betton
Standing: left to right: Signalman Robinson, Signalman Brown, Signalman Coathup, Corporal Lyon and Signalman Price

Signals Unit, R.A.F., communications to support the Tactical Air Force in the field in the Far East, and as a result, the Squadron has taken part in every major exercise in the past year in Western Malaysia and Thailand. To this end we keep very fit physically, taking a very active part in Regimental and R.A.F. Station sporting activities. Members of the Squadron have taken a very prominent part in the winning of the station rugger cup, athletics cup, and swimming cup (which are now exhibited in our Squadron showcase). We would particularly mention **Lance-Corporal B. K. Polden, Lance-Corporal Mohd. Yusoff, Signalman H. C. Yeo** and **Signalman Sheikh Ibrahim,** who won Army (Singapore) Colours for athletics; **Lance-Corporal Mohd. Ghani,** who was selected to represent the Republic of Singapore in diving at the SEAP Games, held at Bangkok in December, and won a silver medal. To give our readers some idea of what life is like in 2 Squadron, we will hand over to the 'scribes' of the out-stations. The first is from an ex-out-station at Kuching (Sarawak).

News from Kuching

Order No. 3 of Station Routine Orders, by **Wing Commander G. H. Surleigh, A.F.C.,** Commanding R.A.F. Kuching, reads: "19th Signal Regiment detachment will cease to operate as from 1st November, 1967. All telephone faults are now to be reported to the exchange supervisor."

With this order ends yet another overseas posting for the Corps—one that won't be missed by married personnel, since it has always been an unaccompanied station.

Kuching was one of those small stations where everybody knew everybody and, as a result, worked and played as a team. The Army, R.A.F. and Royal Malaysian Air Force all mixing together at every level.

For the last few months it was a two-men detachment and we were kept pretty busy doing maintenance and repair on the phones and cables on the airfield. We found time for other activities, though. **Corporal J. Watts** played football and rugby for the station, and was selected for the station six-a-side football in the Singapore championships; he also played in the Ground Radio volley ball team. **Staff Sergeant R. B. Coleman** kept fit and happy by playing volley ball for the Sergeants' Mess, acting as Treasurer for the Kuching Camera Club, and sweating it out at weekends with the expedition team. He climbed just about every hill and mountain in sight, and even used a local quarry for practice.

No notes on Kuching would be complete without a word about the open market, where you can get wonderfully-cooked Chinese and Malay food at almost any time of the night, and beer all night, if you can stand the pace.

The general feeling was that if you had to do an unaccompanied tour, you couldn't find a better and happier place than Kuching.

THE HELPING HAND

Staff-Sergeant R. B. Coleman, Royal Signals, N.C.O. I/C Kuching Detachment giving a helping hand in adventure training for the local Boy Scouts in Kuching



News from Labuan

Sergeant Haskell writes:

Labuan is an island eight miles by six, and approximately 20 miles from the coast of Borneo and the area known as Sabah.

On my arrival at Labuan in July, 1966, I was amazed to see so many people on such a small island. There were over 6,000 Servicemen, mainly in the Army and R.A.F.

The detachment was, at that time, twelve strong, and was hard put to complete the day's allocated tasks, having normal airfield faults and maintenance to do, and a project of nine cables to lay to a schedule. We had the luxury of having all the trenches dug for us by local labour, and then filled-in, once the cable was sanded and slated. One drawback, however, was that two men had to be detailed daily to watch the labourers digging, as they had the bad habit of putting their picks through a cable and failing to mention the fact, with the usual results on the next rainy day.

During confrontation, the detachment had only the airfield cables to worry about, but in November, 1966, when confrontation ended, Joint Communications Unit, Borneo, handed over their cables to the detachment prior to their disbandment. This, of course, increased our cable commitment, and our cable area now extends over half the island.

Life at Labuan now is much quieter than before, but we are still able to demonstrate to the R.A.F. and others that the Corps motto of 'Certa Cito' is upheld. Three times recently contractors have cut a cable and the detachment (two men!) has repaired and returned it to service in less than eight hours: our best time for a 28 pr. armoured was five hours.

Here at Labuan we have also to help the Malaysian forces, in particular the R.M.A.F., who are now doing most of the jobs previously performed by the R.A.F.

Should any member of the Corps be passing through Labuan, they can be assured of a welcome and a 'cuppa.' Any R.A.F. (penguin) would point out 19th Signal Detachment (Ponguin) office, where we can be found.

News from Western Hill, Penang

R.A.F., Western Hill, is situated on top of a 3,700ft. hill on the Island of Penang, on the north-west coast of Malaya. The camp itself is more or less inaccessible to the thousands of tourists who visit the island's hilltop paradise every year. A journey there from anywhere on the island entails a ride to the island's only railway station, nestling at the foot of Penang Hill. From there a cable-drawn railway car carries one slowly up to a height of 3,000 feet. Many tourists come up every day to admire the excellent view and to luxuriate in the comparative coolness. However, to reach the R.A.F. camp means a sickening fifteen-minute bumpy ride in a Land Rover.

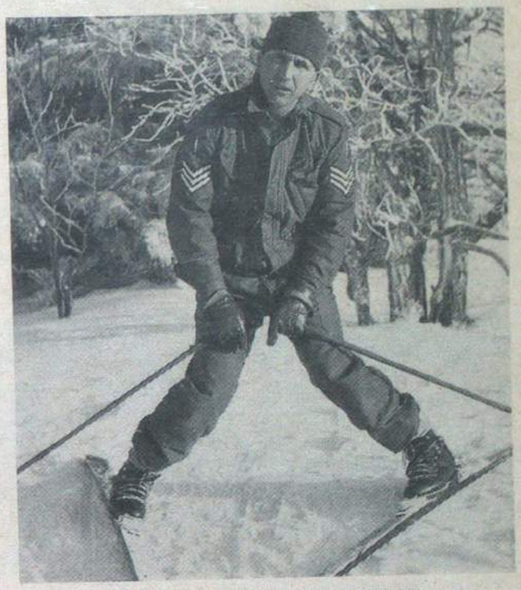
The station is built on the highest point on the holiday isle and offers a beautiful panoramic view into the distant hills of Thailand. The many Service visitors who arrive here for "inspections" (jaunts) are always disappointed when told that no filming is allowed, which explains why we cannot submit a photograph.

There are only four 'brown jobs' fraternising with the 'blue jobs' at the moment, but we shall increase in numbers shortly. On the face of it, their responsibilities are very few, but in the chameleon-like environment which seems to be a peculiarity of certain units, they are kept fully occupied moving telephones and lines. There is also a Fault Control which they run.

One of the disadvantages of the 'hill' is the fact that during the monsoon season we sit right in the middle of the clouds. This, of course, means that any lightning in the area invariably strikes inside the camp—usually the lines. As yet we have only had one slightly damaged cable, but we use about 200 carbons and heat coils per month.

This is an independent sort of life, where we can carry on with our jobs, and are trusted to do so. Relations with the Royal Air Force are a model of what joint service relations ought to be, and we all 'get on with it' in harmony. If you like an idependent and interesting life in the clouds on Paradise Island, why not join us.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16



A CLASSIC SNOWPLOUGH POSITION
Sergeant Moody shows how it should be done

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

Rhine Area Cross-Country Championships

THE Rhine Area Cross-Country Championships were held at Birgelen on a dry but chilly afternoon. A field of some 80 runners set off on a well-organised course with the spectators giving them plenty of encouragement round the route.

We were delighted when **Signalman Fry, Corporal Storer** and **Corporal Brighton** all came in within the first five runners; **Corporal Howard** came in 17th, **Corporal Oyedepo** 14th, then there was a slight gap until **Corporal Jennings** took 23rd place and **Craftsman Bigham** 27th. **Lance-Corporal Moodie** came in 44th, making our total 131 points, which was over a hundred points better than our nearest rivals and won the championships for us for the second year running.

Visit of Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Records

Colonel T. H. G. Grigg paid us a visit again this month and spoke to personnel at Laarbruch on various aspects of soldiers' careers. We were all impressed by the keen interest that our records branch take in each individual.

E.T.R. Ranges, Sennelager

For the first time the Regiment was able to fire the S.L.R. on an E.T.R. range and, as a sideline, to throw the .36 grenade.

There was a great satisfaction in hitting the target and seeing it fall (though it did announce the death of the friend in the butts with the sharp pencil keeping your score up!).

All those armed with the S.L.R., and a good number of soldiers whose second weapon it was, had the opportunity of firing during the three days we were at Sennelager, and all agreed that the effort of leaving their airfields had been worthwhile.

THANK YOU WIVES!

The Wives' Club at Laarbruch and Wildenrath collected a total of £50 for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund with their Christmas activities, which were reported on last month.

Hey! Look me over

THE most important event in January has been the visit by a large party from Rear Headquarters, 1 (B.R.) Corps, led by **Brigadier P. A. L. Vaux, O.B.E., A.D.C.** The visitors quickly grasped that we are their Signal Regiment and subjected us and our equipment to a very close scrutiny. Everyone was kept on his toes by the constant stream of questions. As part of the demonstration we provided a link terminating in a telephone in the AQ Branch at 1 (B.R.) Corps. Judging by the questions asked of the Sergeant at the far end our visitors wanted to verify that the other terminal really was at Bielefeld, and not hidden in an adjacent garage by the cunning Signals! All in all, a most worthwhile day, and well worth the effort that we put into it.

A close examination

Brigadier C. E. Page, M.B.E., the C.C.R. Signals, spent a morning on Monday, 29th January, inspecting 1 Squadron's gleaming new Bruin equipment. On 8th February the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.,** also visited us, and he went round the whole Regiment watching us at our normal work. He showed a great interest in our various tasks, and we were all, from Squadron Commanders to individual Signalmen in the detachments, subjected to a close examination.

Regimental Cooks make it on recount

The other big event has been the success achieved by our cooks in the 1 (BR) Corps Troops Cookery Competition. The team, comprising **Staff Sergeant Atkinson, Lance-Corporal Clarke** and **Lance-Corporal Cappleman,** won the Unit Team Competition, while **Corporal Dau** won the Individual Advanced Cookery Competition. There was considerable excitement when it appeared that 20th Heavy Regiment, R.A. had won the team event, but a lynx-eyed competitor gave up his lunch to recheck the scores—a worthwhile sacrifice, because he discovered that the Gunners' score should have been 301.2 instead of 310.2. This made our team the winners by 0.55 over

32 Armoured Engineer Regiment. **Corporal Dau's** victory was also close. He got off to a bad start when he unfortunately broke his magnificent model tortoise (made of brandy-snaps!) on the way to the competition. We will include a further report and a photograph in the next issue, by which time we hope to be able to report further successes in the knock-out competition against the winners of the Divisional Competitions.

The ski-ing courses have continued at Winterberg, where **Lieutenant Tilson, Sergeant Moody** and **Signalmen Forsythe, Williams** and **Newton** have instructed over a hundred soldiers in the gentle art of sliding downhill without breaking a bone.

Coming and Going

We have welcomed this month **Major Tony Hill,** who arrived from H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps to take over 1 Squadron from **Major David Pitkin. Captain David Miller** has taken over from **Captain Dick Smith** who left us for 7th Armoured Brigade. **Captain Smith** will be missed throughout the Regiment. He has taught many of our soldiers to ski, and his enthusiasm and dash enabled us to produce a good Regimental team.

Signalman Williams is departing soon to the Signal Troop on H.M.S. 'Fearless'; so ahoy there, 'Fearless,' if you're ever near some snow, let **Williams** teach you all to ski.

MEDALS ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY—AND DOUBTLESS SOME PINTS AFTERWARDS!

Major General R. H. Whitworth presenting L.S. and G.C. medals at 24th Regiment. To :



W.O.II (S.S.M.) Jackson — **W.D. Police Constable Williams** — **Sergeant Jackson** — **Sergeant Simmons**

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

A new sparkle

THIRTY-NINE pints of paint; all for H.Q. Squadron. A painters' and decorators' course? No, just self-help to brighten up the old accommodation vacated by the School of Signals. The Regiment completed the first stage of the move and was ready for the visit of the G.O.C. Northumbrian District, **Major-General R. H. Whitworth, C.B.E.,** some three weeks later. All went to plan; progress in the "Never-say-die" Regiment forges ahead.

To our success

The regimental soccer team, having recovered from their Christmas festivities, have spent many of their spare evenings getting fit and in practise for their various matches, including the finals of the Northumbrian District Soccer Cup. Their hard work has paid off. After a very exciting game, in which they were losing by one goal to nil after fifty minutes, they finally beat 49 Light Regiment R.A. by three goals to one.

The Regiment's sporting success has not stopped at soccer. **Lance-Corporal Jarrold,** who was one of the seven Regiment representatives in the Northern Command Cross-Country Championships, won the competition. The seven-and-a-quarter mile race was a tough one with stiff competition. In addition, **Captain Hughes,** our W.R.A.C. Administrative Officer, won the Northern Command Badminton final.

Congratulations to the four recipients of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Jackson, Sergeant Jackson, Sergeant Simmons** and **W.D. Police Constable Williams** were presented with their medals by the G.O.C. Northumbrian District on 13th December.

The W.R.A.C.

The W.R.A.C. element of the Regiment is spreading its net. **Second-Lieutenant Erskine** has infiltrated the seat of power (R.H.Q.) and is now Assistant Adjutant, while **Second-Lieutenant Halsey** has gone to the aid of the hard-pressed Chief Instructor.

The future

We have still a great deal of work ahead of us before we are fully settled in Messines. That we shall succeed is beyond doubt but a few weeks of kind weather would certainly help at this stage.

In the meantime training continues without interruption and now that the foot and mouth restrictions have been lifted we shall soon start our Adventure Training again. No more for now—I am off to prepare my Bergen rucksack.

"Having earned a reputation unmatched in our experience"



Aden Rearguard Squadron B.F.P.O. 69

THE LAST WORD

Introduction

OUR worthy Editor can be forgiven for heading our previous contribution "Last Days in Aden—The Final Story." It reached him late, and we had left Aden long before its publication in the January/February number.

If there is anyone, however, who reads these scribblings with attention, he will have realised that when our previous notes were written, we had merely prepared for the final operation of withdrawal from Aden—not completed it. We have not yet told you about our final month, November, 1967. So here goes:

The setting

The Naval Task Force was by now very impressive; the aircraft carrier *Eagle,* the commando carrier *Albion,* the assault and H.Q. ship *Fearless* (later *Intrepid*), several frigates, minesweepers, RFAs (Royal Fleet Auxilliaries) from which the Army, Navy and R.A.F. were supplied—even a fleet tug. Helicopters were everywhere, flown by pilots of every Service. There were Naval shore parties, soldiers afloat, Royal Marines of every sort.

Terrorism against the British had died down into an atmosphere of uneasy expectancy, but sometimes erupted wildly. No one could relax their alertness—vehicle escorts, sentries, with weapons loaded and ready. The Infantry and Commando secured the main road, but in the back streets savage feuds continued between Arab factions struggling for power.

We hoped to be home in late November but until only a few weeks beforehand, we had to be prepared to stay until January. The exact date of withdrawal ("W Day") was kept secret to about W-10.

Administrative elements, and some others, were thinned out on 8th and 23rd November. The Q.M., T.M. and S.W.S. Departments did a tremendous job of packing and despatching equipment by sea and air, for very little that was moveable could be left behind. The small Squadron Office staff worked all hours on movement documentation, and a small advance party was established at Blandford under the helpful umbrella of old friends in 30th Regiment. The stage was set.

The task

With the Naval Task Force and the R A.F. providing the long-haul circuits and the Comcen facilities, our job was to provide lines, radio relay and tactical radio ashore. We served both the Joint Force H.Q. ashore and H.Q. Aden Brigade, with its five Infantry Battalions.

Since the Force had to be prepared to withdraw in the face of opposition, and by a combination of R.A.F. aircraft, R.N. helicopters and Landing Craft, we had to be able to provide very flexible communications for a wide variety of uses, ranging from the control of movement to the co-ordination of Naval gunfire and air strikes, yet with the minimum number of men, vehicles and equipment.

Although we were not allowed to hold back resources to meet extra commitments the latter inevitably arose as the end drew near, so that, for example, many operators were watching three or four radios at different states of readiness.

The withdrawal

On the night 25th/26th November, the whole of Tawahi, Maalla and Crater—three battalion sectors—were handed over to the South Arabian Army, exactly on time and without a single hitch. The Squadron earned its share of the credit for a complex operation which depended particularly upon good communications. This left the Force concentrated around Khormaksar airfield, with a Landing Craft outlet at Obstruction Pier, and another Company area around the new Embassy at Tarshyne, where we had radio relay and a small comcen.

At midnight on the last night, 28th/29th November, Joint H.Q. in the secondary school closed, and at first light H.Q. Aden Brigade closed at the education centre and re-opened in a new Command Post in our Squadron H.Q. building near the runway.

The few remaining linemen had wired up the Command Post. **Corporal Blood** (RR Man), after many frustrating attempts to place antennas so that they did not receive 57 other unwanted signals, had succeeded in establishing his radio relay aboard H.M.S. *Intrepid,* the H.Q. Ship, which by now had more circuits aboard than a porcupine has quills. The C41s had to stand outside on an upper deck for there was no room below. Onto this link we put a teleprinter and telephone circuits from shore to ship, as the R.A.F. Comcen at Khormaksar had now closed.

While these communications were being established, we began to realise that the remaining Staff Officers had left themselves without many of the normal facilities of a H Q.; there were no signs, no police, no sentries, not even a Tea Brewer for the CP. So Royal Signals, without consulting anyone else, decided on Integration overnight. **Sergeant Ryan** (RR Man) and a team of Linemen were nominated as Regimental Police. Signs were found, pointsmen and sentries posted, and "Brewing" arranged. Command passed to the new CP at first light, and from then on, officers arriving there were directed, protected, saluted and completely looked after by Royal Signals in best "Integrated" fashion.

It was not long before the bouquets started coming in, starting with the G.S.O. 3s and ending with the Brigade Commander, BGS, and **Major-General Tower.** They all expressed their surprise and delight that not only were the communications they had demanded all working perfectly, but that so many extras had been provided, from circuits to hot coffee, without being asked for at all.

All vehicles, except those cargo ones being left behind, had to embark on Landing Craft by 09.30 hours, but we had to continue communicating until 11.30 hours, when 42 Commando would take over responsibility for the last few hours. This meant that we had to retain a lot of radio after the FFR vehicles had gone. To do this, TM Troop had worked overtime a few days before to convert two half-ton radio relay trailers to take C42/C11. These could be lifted out by Wessex helicopters to H.M.S. *Intrepid* at the very end.

It was at about 09.00 hours that the FFR vehicles drove in a tight convoy down to Obstruction Pier, watchful for last minute trouble, but the roads were almost empty. The Adenis seemed stunned to see that we were really off at last; we had not been bluffing; tomorrow there would be no British soldiers left to blame for anything that went wrong. They would be on their own. A picquet of Q.O.H. armoured cars and 45 Commando watched the Al Casino roundabout for the last time, and at Obstruction Pier the vehicles were marshalled and backed on to the LCMs of H.M.S. *Intrepid* quietly and without haste.

No one had had time to arrange any formal instruction for Radio Troop in how to prepare their trailers for helicopter lifting; but somehow **Yeoman Martin** and his men had, in the few days beforehand, obtained the necessary gear and know how. When our radio closed at 11.30 promptly and neatly on the prescribed nicknames, the operators set about showing their equipment for the final lift out as if they had been doing this sort of thing for months. Most men had to go out by R.A.F. Hercules Transports, which were being turned round in 30 minutes at the loading points. The trailers, some boxed freight and about 15 men had to go from a helicopter pad 400 yards away. We had therefore to watch two separate sets of timings simultaneously, so that men going by Hercules might work first on the trailers—tricky, with the knowledge that no man could afford to miss his allotted flight!

At one time, things looked awkward—the trailers and their helicopters were behind schedule! The Hercules were if anything running early. The Squadron Commander, anxious to see the helicopter party safely away, began to wonder if he would miss his Hercules. But just as he was getting worried, a Wessex cruised up to the helicopter spot at about 10 feet height; the two operators waiting by the first trailer jumped up on it and hooked the sling to the aircraft, leapt clear, and off she went, smooth as cream. A few minutes later, another Wessex did the same with the second trailer, and the happy Major was soon able to drive the cast-off Land Rover that he had found shortly before, to the emplaning point, and join his chalk waiting to take off for Bahrein.

This, the last chalk for our Squadron, was the second last to leave Aden. Packed in the great belly of the Hercules, we suddenly realised we were very tired.

Aftermath

About thirty men with the vehicles aboard H.M S. *Intrepid* and the Landing Ship logistic *Sir Gerraint,* had still several days' sailing to Sharjah and then Bahrein. Another week's work handing over stores awaited them in a chilly transit camp beside the airfield there. It was strange, and pleasant, not to have to carry weapons, and to go shopping freely but it was an anti-climax to be kept back from home for a fortnight longer than the rest. We spent the balance of the Troop fund on a party, and tried to be patient, but at last, on 12th December, the last of us emplaned for London.

Finale

The death of a good unit is inevitably sad. To disperse like this, immediately on the successful completion of a historic if melancholy operation, having earned a reputation unmatched in most of our experience, is particularly hard to bear. Never mind! We take our experience with us, and we hope it will be of use to others with whom we shall serve.

* * *

The honours recently bestowed upon us speak well. Before we left Aden the following were awarded Commander-in-Chief's Commendations:

W.O.II (S.S.M.) R. Cockcroft;
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) T. Martin of Radio Troop, who for the last weeks was without a Troop Officer;
Corporal P. G. Rossall, Lineman.

Since we have returned, an O.B.E. and five Mentioned in Despatches have been awarded to former members of 15th Regiment and its Rearguard Squadron. (See January/February and February/March WIRES.)

* * *

Writing these notes, the memories come flooding back. One tries to remember the names; perhaps it is unfair to mention just those who happened to have stuck in the memory: Lance-Corporal Maynard, the ED who entirely on his own initiative obtained and installed floodlights so that the operators could dismantle their antennas more easily on the last night; Corporal Blood, arranging the helicopter movement of his radio relay from Fort Mortbut to H.M.S. 'Intrepid' and installing and testing it aboard, without any senior guidance at all; Corporal Rossall getting his Linemen out to work on Sundays without any orders from above, because he thought it was necessary; Yeoman Martin after his third night without sleep, cheering on his operators like a huntsman on a hot scent; S.S.M. Cockcroft making sure that no man or his kit or bedspace became scruffy just because we were to disband, and convincing every man he was right; Signalman Reade, who could have slept on the last night but chose to stay awake by his C15 and teleprinter 'just in case.' Most of all, though, one remembers the bearing of Signalmen who realised that they had done a historic job surpassingly well, and that their masters appreciated it. They held themselves like no others I have known.

20th Arm'd Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (200) B.F.P.O. 41

SINCE contributing notes to THE WIRE last summer, our life has continued in the usual pattern for a B.A.O.R. unit. For this article we have decided to make the efforts of our ski team form the backbone of its content.

A small Unit's approach to ski-ing

The team, consisting of **Lieutenant M. D. Patterson, Corporal F. R. Hayden, Lance-Corporal D. S. Bryden, Signalman R. O. Fall** and **Troopers Fogg** (4/7 D.G.) and **Ramsay** (15/19 H.) left Detmold for Bavaria on 17th December. Their plan was to train hard until 8th January, and then move on to Lermoos in Austria for the 4th Division Ski Championship until 20th January. The carrot for a good performance at Lermoos would be another fortnight's ski-ing at the Army Ski Championship at Oberjoch in Bavaria. How they fared is recounted below by **Lieutenant Mike Patterson:**

The training ground

The worst part of our two-day journey to Bavaria came in the last 5 km.—we had to leave our Land Rovers and climb 2,500ft. through soft snow with all our kit to our destination, the Kirchsteinhutte, at 3,341ft. on the Kirchstein Ridge near Lengries. The area was a good training ground and ideally situated for Langlauf ski-ing. Its isolation also provided little distraction for the team so we were always early abed.

All members of the team had previous ski-ing experience of varying degrees, but none were expert and none had experience of competitive ski-ing. Training was taken seriously, and in the excellent weather conditions initially found it proved surprisingly enjoyable. We did find difficulty in persuading **Signalman Robin Fall** not to emulate some kind of polar ostrich at first. After Christmas the weather deteriorated, making satisfactory training difficult. Administration proved difficult, too, and our only contact with the outside world was a Unimog which usually managed to visit us twice weekly. We were living on Compo rations and this was not an ideal training diet.

Good Samaritans

Shortly after Christmas our assistance was requested by some Germans who lived even further up the mountain than we did. One of their party had broken her leg and they wanted help to remove her to hospital. This we gladly gave, and after splinting the fracture and tying her to a sledge we set off down the mountain to our Land Rover. There we transferred the girl to the vehicle and took her to hospital. In recognition of our efforts the Germans entertained us to a party in their hut the following evening, and ski-ing back to our own hut after the party, feeling very full of Glühwein, bonhomie, and other things, was no small feat of judgment (as all the laughter would have indicated)!

So we eventually moved on to Lermoos, leaving behind for subsequent recovery some stores and a ½-ton trailer which could not be retrieved from beneath a 6ft. snowdrift. At Lermoos we were delighted to find we were accommodated in a bakery. Apart from the warmth, it proved a delight to **Corporal "Tosh" Hayden** and **Signalman Robin Fall** who reacted to their enforced diet of Compo rations in Bavaria by scoffing very large numbers of fresh hot rolls—equally bad as a training diet.

A setback

Unfortunately the first race, the 4 x 10km. relay, proved to be a disaster for the team when on the second leg, and lying 8th, **Lieutenant Patterson** wrenched his knee and had to withdraw. This was a bitter blow, especially as we had been doing quite well. But the accident did have the effect of giving more spirit to the team, and of course we did have a reserve for future events. We ultimately came 6th in both 15km. and patrol races and this was sufficient to clinch an entry to the Army Championships in Oberjoch.

Disaster again

Off we set for Oberjoch in the ailing minibus, which made it quite clear that it was suitable only for downhill events. At Oberjoch disaster again struck in the 4 x 10km. relay race when **Trooper "Dusty" Fogg,** running Number 3, had his boot torn from his ski. At this stage we had been lying 20th out of 33, but by the time running repairs had been improvised we had dropped to a final position of 28th. This, too, was our final position in the 15km. and patrol race. We were clearly outclassed, but as beginners to competitive ski-ing and as the first-ever entry from this unit we were not despondent. It was perhaps no small achievement to reach the Army Championship.

We were surprised to see so little in the way of Royal Signals participation at the event. At the moment the predominant entries are from Royal Artillery and Cavalry regiments. Is it perhaps not time we devoted some Royal Signals talent in this direction? For those who might consider making a serious onslaught at the Army Ski Championship next year the main benefits of our experience can be summarised as follows:

a. In midsummer start organising the financial side and applying for grants. Also select a suitable training hut. For administrative convenience it should be in Germany, and strike a happy medium between isolation in the interests of training, and non-isolation in the interests of administration.

b. In early November start dry training, and overhaul ski equipment. Fitness is of the utmost importance—it is indeed the biggest single factor. The courses chosen for competitions are not difficult for reasonably competent skiers, and it is the fitness of a team which counts immensely.

c. Get on the ground as early in December as possible—with reserves! Then, hard training with a disciplined team.

We intend to be there again next year. What about you?

Corps Band

We were pleased to be able to entertain the Corps band on 8th December when, as part of their B.A.O.R. tour, they played an Anglo German concert in Detmold. The concert was well supported and enjoyed by a mixed military and civilian audience despite the worst efforts of the winter weather.

We do, of course, boast our own unit band! They have never seen Kneller Hall, but are nevertheless Army Beat Group Champions. Formerly known as "The Shades of Blue," they have been forced for copyright reasons to change their title and are now called "Persimmons Peculiar Shades." In reality they consist of **Signalman Dawson** (Manager), **Trooper Dutton** (base guitar), **Craftsman Linguard** (lead guitar), **Lance-Corporal Pollard** (drums) and **Signalman Trewhella** (rhythm guitar). They have just returned from England where they have made a record, already released, of two of their own compositions. The P.R.I., it is heard, is endeavouring to negotiate what he considers is his fair share of the royalties. Meanwhile, from the other side of the campus, mutterings indicate he might be out of luck. Anyway, not bad for the efforts of five individuals.

Christmas festivities

The Christmas social round proved once more to be the annual test of stamina. We were particularly pleased to be able to entertain two Chelsea Pensioners at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas draw. Having recently had a change of command in the Brigade, it was amusing to hear the wife of **Staff Sergeant T. Sharrock,** on seeing one of the elderly gentlemen enter upright, resplendent, and bemedalled in full dress, make the comment, "Oh! Is that the new Brigadier?"

Sports

Our sports teams are all acquitting themselves well in their respective fields. The cross-country team has won Brigade and Divisional Minor Units Competitions and is now in the B.A.O.R. competition. **Lance-Corporal C. J. McNeilly** was outright winner of the Brigade competition. Special mention must be made of **Lance-Corporal Collinson** who looked so "used up" at the end that he must be praised for his determination to finish.

The soccer team goes from strength to strength, and additions to the team this year include **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Noon, Corporal Elcox** and **Signalman Brimble.** The positional change of the captain, **Signalman Hartley,** from left-back to inside-left has proved a great success to our goal-scoring record. The team has reached the final of the 4 Division Minor Units Competition and hope to beat 5 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E., holders for the last three years, in the final to be held shortly.

The rugby team and the basketball team have all been having successful seasons. We are fortunate to have so many talented sportsmen in the unit.

28 Comwel Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (208)

c/o G.P.O., MALACCA, MALAYSIA

A well-deserved win

YET another sporting trophy is now in the Squadron's possession. This latest is the 17th Division Minor Units' Hockey Championship, which the Squadron won by beating 3 Squadron, 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment 1—0 in the final, held at Terendak. It was a good, clean and hard-fought game, the winning goal coming in the second half from **Corporal Friend** from a good pass from **Corporal Manderson.**

The team, under the coaching of **Captain Barnes,** has had a very successful season and richly deserve this championship. This is a truly integrated team, captained by the G.S.M., **W.O.I Collins,** and containing five Royal Signals, one Royal Australian Signals, two R.A.O.C., one R.E.M.E., and one Gunner from the Brigade Flight. Our picture shows the team after the match, tired, hot, but obviously pleased with their efforts.



A HIGHLY INTEGRATED HOCKEY TEAM

Back row, left to right: Corporal Manderson, Sergeant Poingdestre, Corporal Friend, Signalman Witherington, Private Harrison, Sergeant Ennis, Gunner Green, Corporal Brett

Front row, left to right: W.O.II (Y. of S) Leech, Major Gilbert (O.C.), W.O.I Collins (Captain), Captain Barnes (Hockey Officer), W.O.II Turnbull

Off to Thailand

The 1968 training season opened with Exercise 'Nerve Centre VI,' one in a series of CPXs aimed at testing the Brigade communications, or to break the Brigade Signal Squadron Commander's spirit. Although lasting only a few days, the Squadron is now well aware of what it is like to deploy at night in the jungle. By the time this article goes to press, half the Squadron will be in Thailand taking part in a large SEATO CPX—more about this in our next issue.

Just before Christmas the unit held a barbecue and raffle, the proceeds of which were aimed at helping a local hospital. Five hundred Malayan dollars were raised and a tape-recorder was bought for the Tanjong Kling Orthopaedic Home and a presentation made to the matron; **Sergeant Rollings** collected a box of toys, and these were distributed to the children.

Coming and going

We welcome **Captain Cook** and his family from the School of Signals to command 'A' Troop. No mercy is shown nowadays; he was out on exercise within six days of arriving in Terendak. **Captain Collins,** our Australian Second-in-Command, has just returned from a month's tour with 1 ATF South Vietnam.

This month sees a change in Quartermasters. **Captain Stan Barnes** leaves us for the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment at Rhyl, having handed over to **Captain David Neal. Captain Barnes** has had an unenviable two years with the task of integrating the 'Q' accounts of five units when the unit was formed. He will be remembered for his enthusiasm in coaching the unit hockey team, and being in great demand around Malaya as a hockey umpire. We wish him and his wife good fortune in their new posting.

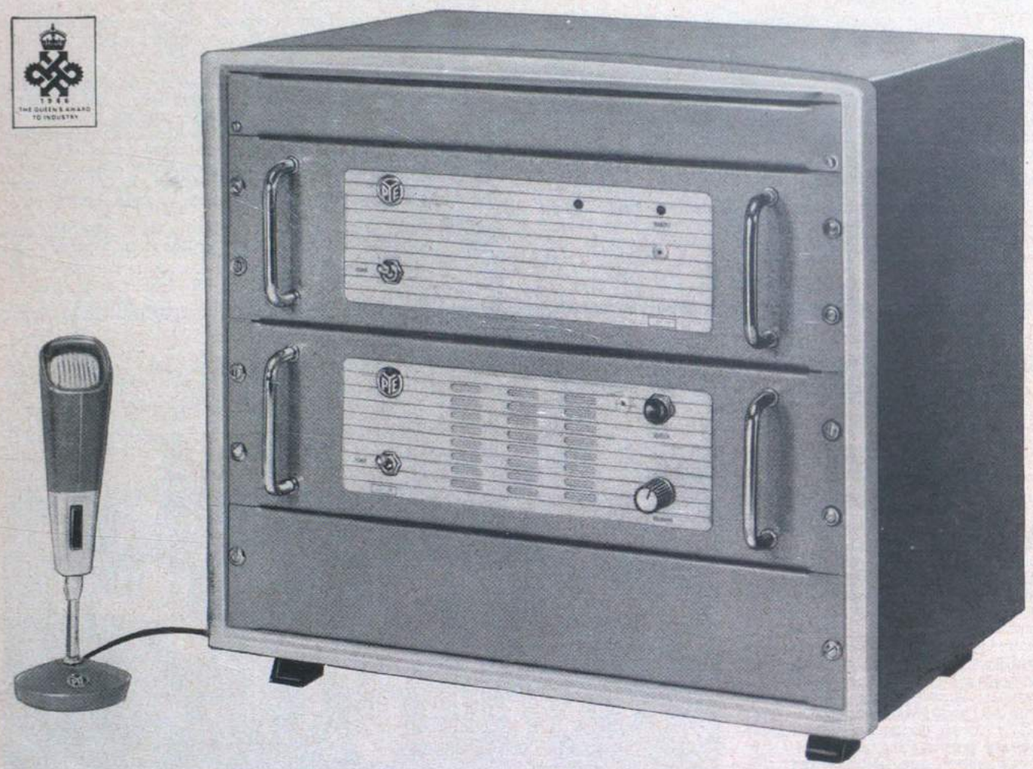
WERE YOU RIGHT?

The solution to the problem set on page 76 is as follows:

The question asked was, "Which fork would your sister say was the correct one for Cambridge?"

The lying sister would say "left fork." The truthful one, knowing her sister lied, would also say "left fork."

The young man would know from this that the right fork was correct.



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MR15

Royal Signals (Gulf)

222 Signal Squadron
B.F.P.O. 64

- Up to full strength and equipment plentiful.
- Soccer team's achievments.



222 Squadron Soccer Team—winners of the Sharjah knock-out competition — with some of their trophies

The O.C. leads the way in the fitness stakes

WE are now almost up to our full strength, and equipment is becoming more plentiful. W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Wood and his warriors fight valiantly against the masses of paper work.

The annual PE Tests will soon be upon us, and in order to be up to par, the youngsters in the Squadron (under 35s) pound around the camp three times a week, ably led by the gallant O.C., who claims that his 35th birthday is a long way off!

Engaging in the gentle art of 'bondu-bashing'

Sharjah does not have a thriving night life to boast of. We do have plenty of quite excellent sand and, of course, the sun, though. One of the results of this is that spare time activities and sport really come into their own. A pleasant way of spending a few days is to engage in the gentle art of 'bondu-bashing,' or to put it more conventionally, desert trips.

Appreciating that map-reading in the desert is an art in itself, our first sally-forth was in company with the R.A.F. Mountain Desert Rescue Team. Having 'rescued' a couple of Arabs and their trucks from the sand in the first hour of the trip, we felt we had justified our existence and gave up rescuing for that weekend and concentrated on enjoying ourselves. A further couple of weekends out with the R.A.F. succeeded in giving us sufficient knowledge of the desert to divorce ourselves from the 'Blue Jobs,' apart from **Signalman Murland,** of Airfield Troop, who had formed some sort of affiliation with them some time before most of the present Squadron arrived in Sharjah.

The next time we left the security of camp for the wilds beyond was with the R.C.T., for whom we were providing communications on one of their local exercises. Most of us, having got at least one trip under our belts, could talk confidently of the great unknown to the desert novices from the R.C.T. Apart from the inevitable boggings in the sand, we managed to shepherd our hosts to a successful conclusion of the exercise.

Home departures

For the past few weeks **Sergeant Duncan,** our Orderly Room king, has been happily wandering about the Squadron, permanently in cloud cuckoo land, singing snatches of Scottish ditties. Perhaps the fact that he is about to exchange the sun of Sharjah for the rain and snow of England has something to do with it! **Captain M. J. Ford, Sergeant Wilson** and **Sergeant Britt** are also about to make their departures, whilst **Sergeant Cowie** joins our ranks.

The sporting highlight of the month has undoubtedly been the achievement of the Squadron soccer team in winning the Sharjah knock-out tournament. This does not sound much, but there are some strong teams in the Garrison, since we have an R.A.F. Station and an Infantry Battalion, apart from other units, to contend with. In the final, acclaimed as the best game of soccer seen in Sharjah, the Squadron beat 90 Squadron R.C.T. in extra time, after two hours' play by 4—3. **Wing Commander Bishop,** Wing Commander, Administration, at R.A.F., Sharjah, presented the trophy to the team. Our picture shows the Squadron team with their trophies, plus other members of the Squadron who played in previous matches but who were not available for the final.

The soccer team—a wonderful season

Our soccer team has had a very successful season, and our team of selectors, led by **Sergeant Britt,** have done a good job. We finished fourth in the Garrison League, after playing some wonderful games, interspersed, unfortunately, with one or two poor displays, usually against weak teams. Had we consistently played to our best form, the team was unbeatable by any team in Sharjah. Vocal support from **Captain Ireland** and **Captain Ford** seemed to lead to success on several occasions, but the presence of the O.C. Squadron seemed a jinx on the team. This month sees the departure of **Captain Ireland, Captain Ford** and **Sergeant Britt,** so it would appear that the team will require new cheer-leaders at our matches. There are, fortunately, many people lined up for the job, so we look forward to the new season starting in a fortnight's time.

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
(212) B.F.P.O. 36

SINCE last appearing on these pages a period of visits, sporting and catering successes, individual training and demonstrations has passed.

On a very cold and snowly 10th January the Unit welcomed the new General Officer Commanding Second Division **Major-General C. Blair, O.B.E., M.C.** The Divisional Commander was met at the Barrack Guard Room by a multi cap-badged Quarter Guard commanded by **Sergeant "Nobby" Hall,** our N.B.C. Sergeant, who is a member of **Major-General Blair's** old Regiment, the Queen's Own Highlanders. The brief visit included a look at the Bruin Comhead and the Brigade Command Post, the Corporals' Club and the Dining Room.

C.S.O. receives FV 432 driving tuition

The 26th January saw the arrival of the new Chief Signal Officer British Army of the Rhine **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.** After a short discussion with the Squadron Commander, **Major Alan Yeoman, Brigadier Mansergh** made a tour of inspection of the Unit. Over a cup of coffee in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess he was introduced to all the



CONVERSATION PIECE
Left to Right: Brigadier Pat Mansergh, Major Alan Yeoman, Captain Paul Webb

members. This was followed by a change into warmer clothing and a quick flight to the local training area in a Sioux helicopter of the Brigade Flight, piloted by **Sergeant "Jeff" Jukes,** Royal Signals. Waiting at the training area with the FV 432 driving course was the M.T.O., **Captain Ken Adrian,** Royal Corps of Transport, who gave the Chief Signal Officer a briefing on how to drive the FV 432. After the preliminary instruction was over off went a suitably star plated FV 432 across the training area with **Brigadier Mansergh** at the controls. The flight back was followed by a glass of beer in the Corporals' Club where he met and chatted with the Junior N.C.O.s of the Unit. Lunch was taken in the Brigade Officers' Mess after which **Brigadier Mansergh** left the Unit, determined to return some day to continue his instruction on the FV 432.

Cross-country team go through to B.A.O.R. final

Due to icy conditions in the early part of January the Unit cross-country run had to be postponed until the weather changed. From the results of the run the Unit cross-country team was selected and put into training under the eagle eye of **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston.** The team did well in the Brigade cross-country meet, which took place only some seven days after the team had been selected, by winning the Minor Units trophy. The team was subsequently runners-up at the Divisional meet and has now progressed to the British Army of the Rhine finals. We wish them good luck.

Cooks notch up a success

Another, somewhat behind the scenes, success achieved by the Unit in January was the winning of the Divisional Minor Units cooking competition. This success was achieved by **Corporal Kevin Wilson,** Army Catering Corps, and his team of cooks.

Captain Ken Adrian has now successfully completed running his FV 432 drivers' course without incident and M.T. Troop are now engaged in instructing a "B" vehicle drivers' course. Our technicians have been attending conversion courses and by the end of February all will have been converted. Meanwhile operators and drivers have been attending upgrading courses and other members of the Unit have been ski-ing in Bavaria and the Harz Mountains.

Bruin demonstration very effective

On 6th February the Unit's Bruin equipment and command post were on display as part of the Commander Corps Royal Signals commanders' briefing on the Bruin communications system. Sited tactically we linked into the Divisional Signal Regiment's communications. The whole demonstration proved a great success.

It appears that the quieter months of winter are over for next week, the 13th February, the Unit goes out on its first exercise of 1968. On this exercise the Brigade Staff will use Bruin for the first time in the field. Although somewhat apprehensive of the outcome of this at the time of writing, no doubt by the time these notes are published all concerned will be fully conversant with Bruin and will have forgotten such antiquities as the F. and F. exchange and the TeleJ.

235 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 51

Visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant

ON 3rd November, 1967, the squadron had the pleasure of welcoming **Brigadier (Retd.) R. H. E. Robinson, C.B.E., E.R.D.,** our representative Colonel Commandant. In the company of **Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Burrell, M.B.E.,** C.R. Signals, the Colonel Commandant toured the squadron lines, and visited the three outstations. He showed particular interest when visiting the transmitter station at Fort Zonkor, remarking to **Mr. R. A. Butler** (no relation to his famous namesake), the station superintendent, that it was very fortunate to have the station situated in such a picturesque location. This is especially so during the warm summer months. However, in winter it's a wonder how the station stands up to the gale force winds!

T. & A.V.R.

Six members of various squadrons of the T. & A.V.R. (1 Officer, 5 S.N.C.O.s) spent a very enjoyable two weeks with the squadron. They gained a vast amount of experience working on equipment which they had not seen before. The weather (for them) was absolutely marvellous, and allowed them to do a fair amount of sightseeing. The Sergeants' Mess bar sales also showed a substantial increase. **Major-General J. A. D'Avigdor Goldsmid, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.,** director T. & A.V.R., visited the squadron and spoke to all the attached volunteers during this period.

Visit of H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh

During the visit of **Her Majesty** from 14th November to 17th November, 1967, the squadron had the honour of lining part of the route for the State Opening of Parliament. **Captain (Q.M.) D. Spence** and **Sergeant P. Maiden,** plus thirty members of the squadron, formed part of the route lining party in Kingsway, Valletta.

Searchlight tattoo

Almost everyone in the squadron went to see the searchlight tattoo in the Independence arena. The opening on 16th November was attended by **H.M. The Queen** and **H.R.H. Prince Philip.** It proved to be a truly magnificent display. **Captain (T.O.T.) A. J. Lees** with **W.O.II (F. of S.) Hutley** and their merry men also had their work cut out providing a fine display of communication equipment, which was on show to the public each afternoon prior to the searchlight tattoo.

Farewell and . . .

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess had their Christmas draw on 16th December. This proved to be a great success. It was during this dance that the Mess presented **W.O.II (S.S.M.) R. Hunter** with a brief case and brolly for his forthcoming retirement. His place in the squadron has been taken over by **W.O.II (S.S.M.) J. N. Copley,** who is no new arrival having been O.C. Radio Troop for the past fifteen months. He is still wearing two hats, patiently awaiting the arrival of **W.O.II Rand** to take over Radio Troop.

. . . Welcome back

The end of December saw the return of the O.C. from his course in U.K. Unless you can understand anything about computers, keep well away!

Arrivals and departures

We welcome the following new arrivals to our sunny shores: **Sergeants Rutherford** and **Whenman, Corporals Lloyd** and

In the Public Eye



235 Squadron march to take up positions in the street-lining contingent on the occasion of the visit of H.M. The Queen to Malta. Officer-in-Command, Captain (Q.M.) D. Spence, N.C.O.-in-Charge, Sergeant P. Maiden.

Talling, Lance-Corporals Russell, Trayner and **Lindsay,** and **Signalman Parker.**

We hope they enjoy their stay.

We bid farewell to the following who have departed for the colder regions: **W.O.II (S.S.M.) R. Hunter, Corporals Murphy, Mann, Moorcroft, Scott** and **Squire.**

Marriages

There must be something in the Malta air judging by the number of weddings over the past three months. So congratulations to (take a deep breath):

Sergeant and **Mrs. Burnage, Corporal** and **Mrs. Talling, Corporal** and **Mrs. Johnstone, Corporal** and **Mrs. Crittenden, Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Leaman, Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Tope.**

We wish them all the very best of luck and happiness in the years that lay ahead.

Happy events

Congratulations to the following on their "happy events": **Sergeant and Mrs. Shrives** a son, **Corporal and Mrs. Martin** a son, and **Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Sutton-Hibbert** a daughter.

252 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 11

The Lunar New Year celebrated

TO Chinese people, the Lunar New Year is the most important festival in the lunar calendar, which is said to have been devised 4,000 years ago. It is also an occasion which normally brings home the fact that the Chinese invented gunpowder; the noise of exploding firecrackers has to be heard to be believed. This year, New Year's Eve fell on 29th January, and it was celebrated in great style when our Hong Kong soldiers and civilians invited the officers and senior N.C.O.s to a typical Chinese dinner, with our new C.R. Signals, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Hart,** as guest of honour. One or two of our newer members were seen to raise their eyebrows at the stewed sea slug, but the food was excellent, there was sufficient variety to please everyone and the occasion was a great success.

. . . and now for the 'Year of the Monkey'

We weren't sorry to see the end of the 'Year of the Ram,' which we shall remember mainly for the I.S. disturbances of May and June. We look forward now to the 'Year of the Monkey' which, according to our Chinese friends, will be a year of happiness. Let's hope they're right.

Before launching into our features, a few words about personalities . . . **R.Q.M.S. Ted Peat** and **Staff Sergeant Jim Rhodie** left for civilian life in January. They were seen off in appropriate fashion and with our best wishes ringing in their ears. We are sure that they will continue to keep in touch with the Corps which they have both served so well. **R.Q.M.S. Peat** began his career as a line test clerk in Singapore in 1948 and prior to arriving in Hong Kong, had been S.S.M. of the Joint Communications Unit in Borneo.

Staff Sergeant Rhodie left behind a tangible reminder in the shape of a magnificent trophy (the Rhodie Cup) to be competed for by our Troop volleyball teams.

The volleyball competition is under way and has already proved that **Corporal Jones, W.R.A.C.,** has a vicious right-hook, a fact duly noted by our volleyball organiser and recent arrival, **R.Q.M.S. Norris.**

Other recent arrivals: **Lieutenant Maurice Caplan,** who has already staked out a location for an amateur radio club; **Captain Margaret Younge, W.R.A.C.,** who can hardly believe her good fortune at leaving Germany in mid-winter.—Welcome all.

S.D.S. BY 'WHIRLY-BIRD'

One of the effects of last year's disturbances within the Colony was an increase in signals traffic. It soon became apparent that delays to the Signals Despatch Service, due to the irregular ferry service across the harbour, were unacceptable. The solution was to use helicopters to and from Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories on an 'as required' basis. Members of the Guard Company in Victoria Barracks were somewhat mystified to discover one morning that someone had painted a large 'H' on their basketball pitch, and were even more puzzled when, later that day, a Sioux helicopter dropped in on their game. This soon became a regular occurrence. Players would wait patiently for the 'chopper' to go away and then resume their game. The service worked very well and enabled S.D.S. delivery times to be reduced by two-thirds. It seems a pity that the requirement has now ceased, but this is a small price to pay for a return to normal conditions. We trust that we shall not have to call on our 'Whirly-Bird' friends again, but if we do, we know that they will rise to the occasion in a way that only helicopters can!

Orienteering

Orienteering is quickly becoming a major sport in Hong Kong. There were two competitions last year, and our team secured third place in each. This was no disgrace, since among those competing were teams from all the Infantry units in the Colony, including those incredible hillmen from Nepal. As orienteering for 1968 gets under way, we have already 'weeded out the men from the boys' and have two teams, each of six men, preparing for the first competition. This is a sport which brings out the best in competitors; good map-reading is essential, but so are guts and stamina—as anyone who has orienteered his way around the craggy peaks of the New Territories will testify. Our teams have proved fairly equal in the practices; the 'A' team, led by **Sergeant Summers,** appears to have the edge in fitness, whereas **Corporal Gerrard's** 'B' team has proved the more proficient in map-reading. Training is supervised by **S.S.M. 'Bucky' Gill,** a member of the 'old school' and a believer in the 'blood, toil, tears and sweat' method.

Department of inventions

The call went out from Radio Troop operators in the Police/Military H.Q. on Hong Kong Island. Required: One broadband antenna, suitable for working over the frequency range of the C42. The project was entrusted to 'Mike' Troop and **Corporal Pete Edwards** was the candidate chosen to design and manufacture 'the thing.' He was ably assisted by **Corporal Andy Andrews,** watched over by the experienced eye of **W.O.II (F. of S.) Geoff Wright.** Without delving into the technical setbacks encountered, we can say that a practical and highly efficient '**Thing**' was born. The sighs of relief when its maiden transmission was successfully received from some distant outstation, were profound; we could now refer to the 'Thing' by its rightful name—a discone antenna.



A TROPHY TO REMEMBER HIM BY!

Before leaving for civilian life Staff Sergeant J. M. Rhodie presented the Squadron with a trophy to be competed for by the Inter-Troop Volley Ball teams

To show their appreciation of this generous gesture a reciprocal presentation of a signed Chinese souvenir was made to him on behalf of all the Hong Kong military and civilian personnel of his troop. In the photo Sergeant Leuing Tong, Staff-Sergeant Rhodie, Major W. Batty and the Rhodie Trophy!

Visit by D.C.N. teams

The visit to the Communications Centre by **Brigadier D. P. K. Rennick,** Chief Controller, Defence Communications Network, and his team, brought Operating Troop to the fore during the latter part of October. The proverb "The proof of the pudding . . ." was about to be put to the test.

The inspection took place over a period of two days, during which time the Comcen took on the appearance of a mini-United Nations, as the operators answered searching questions put to them in turn by an R.A.F. Squadron Leader, a Canadian Flight-Lieutenant and a U.S. Air Force Captain. We were gratified to know that, after it was all over, a satisfied D.C.N. traffic team left to return to U.K.

Any thought of relaxing and looking forward to the Christmas festivities were soon thrust aside when, in mid-November, a second D.C.N. team arrived to ask still more pertinent questions. The second team (no pun intended) consisted of **Commander D. W. Jackson, R.N., Major M. W. Pollard** and **Mr. Alec Shore.** From what we learned from these gentlemen, it would appear that anyone fortunate enough to be posted to 252 Squadron in the near future can look forward to an interesting tour.

This does not help those of us here now who look forward with jangling nerves to another period of banging, chiselling and painting. However, it won't be long before Chinese New Year brings three days of peace. (I'm joking, of course). "KUNG HEI FAT CHOY."

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T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY

Nr. DONCASTER

255 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O 63

• **Completing the first phase of Bahrain IV on time.**

THE two main sports of hockey and football have been joined by rugby, cricket and volleyball.

The Squadron, under the aegis of **Staff Sergeant Probert,** now possess two football teams, the 1st XI being, at the time of writing, third in the Bahrain League. In addition, two of our players may be selected to play against a Bahrain state side called the 'Sheikhs Select XI,' in the Combined Services team.

Our hockey team is also fairly successful, they have lost only one match since September, even if they did draw over 50 per cent of them!

The rugby team, despite its lack of experience, had several hard-fought games, before injuries forced us to combine with the local garrison to form one of the most successful teams on the island.

The Squadron pushes ahead

It is not all play out here, however, and the lines and SWS Troop Jufair have worked hard to finish the first phase of Bahrain IV; a telephone Exchange/recabling project that will necessitate the complete recabling of H.Q.'s British Forces Gulf, the garrison, and the local Navy area of H.M.S. *Jufair.* The first phase was the change over from the old Jufair exchange to the Richmond exchange Aden, now installed in a brand new exchange building in Jufair. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Steeples** and **Sergeant Welch** did well to finish in time for **Lieutenant-Colonel J. Massey,** our new C.R. Signals, to open the exchange on 9th December, 1967.

The next stage is the expansion of this exchange to 600 lines. This is not scheduled to finish until early June.

Headquarters 2nd Infantry Brigade Signals, Shorncliffe

IT is some years since the Headquarters submitted an article to THE WIRE. One need not dwell on the reasons for this except to mention that there have seldom been any members of the Corps serving with it during the period. There were, however, strong and most friendly relations with the Junior Leaders Regiment, Denbury, who often became the ex officio Signal Squadron, the last instance of which was in the *Torrey Canyon* episode.

The Brigade H.Q. moved from Plymouth to Shorncliffe, Kent, in December and assumed its new responsibilities on the 1st January, 1968. The Editor of THE WIRE, conscious of the opportunity to increase his circulation, no doubt had some bearing on the posting of the only Royal Signals member to the H.Q. at this time. (*The Editor is completely blameless.—Editor.*)

Our nomenclature is a little deceptive

In no other Army except the British would one expect such excellent deceptive measures as is contained in our formation nomenclature. With recent memories of Brigade Headquarters in B.A.O.R. bristling with staff officers, men of all cap badges, mounted in columns of vehicles and commanding four or five major units, one may be forgiven for assuming that H.Q. 2nd Infantry Brigade was similar. It was not a little surprising to find that the officers consisted of the Commander, a Brigade Major and the D.A.A. and Q.M.G., ably assisted by a staff of two Staff Sergeants and six other subordinates, 11 in all. The Brigade in contrast has double the usual number of major units under command. This seems to be cost effectiveness par excellence but we approach the question of asking for leave with some trepidation lest effectiveness dips suddenly by 10 per cent to 30 per cent, depending upon who it is on leave!

Getting whisked around

Since joining, your reporter has been whisked round each major unit, has taken the field on a Brigade H.Q. exercise—we are self-contained and administered in three Land Rovers which even the Strategic Reserve must regard with some respect—and hopes to be able to report from places as near as Senneybridge or as far off as Canada later in the year.

As to communications, my duties have included the installation of inter-communications for the Commander, sending signals by a variety of means, planning communications for exercises and being allowed to drive the Commander's car.

The Brigade Major has some stern thoughts!

We look forward to reporting our sporting successes: one might think that the reason for the size of our Headquarters is to enable us to field a football, hockey and cricket team. Already the Commander was seen ski-ing to work whilst the Brigade Major, who is a member of the SAS, threatens to have us all accompany him on his daily five-mile run with a view to sterner stuff ahead.

661 Signal Troop, H.M.S. Intrepid B.F.P.O. Ships

• **Capetown — Aden — Sharjah — Bahrain — Singapore**

MANY miles have been covered and much water has passed beneath our keel since our last report.

Our first stop after leaving Portsmouth was at Capetown, where we enjoyed a four-day break in one of the loveliest harbours in the world. The hospitality of the South Africans was quite overwhelming and a tremendous time was had by all.

The hub of the Aden withdrawal operation

We then moved on to Aden where we relieved the tired and ageing 621 Troop (*I dread to think what 621 are going to say about that.—Assistant Editor*) in *Fearless* and took over our role as the Headquarters Ship for the Aden withdrawal operation. This was an opportunity which comes only rarely to communicators these days. The ship became the hub of the operation and finally became the only communications link between the Aden Brigade and the outside world. We had on board the Naval Task Force Commander, **Admiral Ashmore,** and his staff, and Commander British Forces Aden, **General Tower.** It was very hard work and very exacting, but a most worthwhile experience.

At the end of the operation we lifted off the last armoured car squadron, the last flight of R.A.F. helicopters and the last detachments of the Rearguard Squadron. These we unloaded at Sharjah and Bahrain.

Arrival at Singapore quite an event

We then came on to our base at Singapore just in time for Christmas where 18th Regiment took us under their wing and gave us a magnificent Christmas for which we are most grateful.

For the ceremonial entry into Singapore the Royal Marines had to man their landing craft and were thus unable to produce the Guard of Honour. It fell to 661 to provide this guard, possibly the first time that a ceremonial guard has been provided by the Army for one of H.M. ships.

The Corps also claims another "first." While crossing the Bay of Bengal a kite flying competition was held and the Yeoman excelled himself to win the competition outright with his "Birkwood Cross Ply Mark 2." A truly magnificent effort.

Our future programme looks good. We are just off to Hong Kong and from there we go on to do an exercise off Malaya, another in the Persian Gulf and after that we have visits arranged to Australia and Japan.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Lieutenant-Colonel L. F. Ball, Secretary of the Royal Signals Yacht Club, writes on the following additional annual award in respect of the past season.

Shaw Cup

To the member with the best racing record in dinghies for the year: **Major I. C. Spear, 7th Regiment, B.A.O.R.**

Major Spear was individual winner of, and captain of the winning team at the Royal Signals Dinghy Regatta; captain of the 7th Regiment team which won the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Sailing Trophy; and captain of the Royal Signals team that came so close to beating the Sappers in the Triangular.

Major Spear has received other R.S.Y.C. Trophies, namely the Meiktila Cup in 1955 and 1965, and the Ship's Bell in 1956 and 1964—a very considerable achievement.

Derby Branch

Hon. Secretary: **Miss E. L. Cook,** 22, Northumberland Street, Derby.

A general meeting of the Derby Branch of the Royal Signals Association was held at the T. & A.V.R. Centre, Kingsway, Derby, on Tuesday, 20th February.

Officers appointed: President, **Colonel A. K. Haslehurst, T.D.;** Chairman, **Colonel L. W. Wright, T.D.;** Vice-Chairman, **Mr. H. Traynar;** Hon. Secretary, **Miss E. L. Cook;** Committee, **Sergeant D. A. Freeman, Signalman G. Young, Mrs. V. C. Neal, Corporal M. Reynolds, Lance-Corporal R. Fulbrook.**

It was decided to ask **Mr. M. E. Beardmore** and the **Rev. Dr. W. Speirs** to join the committee.

Major A. H. Hawksworth, Commanding 46th (Derbyshire) Signal Squadron, extended a hearty welcome to all past members of the Royal Signals to attend their monthly social on the third Tuesday evening of the month.

It was resolved that the next meeting take place on 19th March, and it is hoped that the branch will be well represented at the annual reunion at Catterick on 22nd/23rd June.

The Chairman, on behalf of the branch, warmly thanked **Miss Cook** for the work she had done as Secretary.

Obituary

BRIGADIER E. I. E. MOZLEY

AS we were going to press we heard of the death of **Brigadier Everest Mozley.** Many — particularly retired members of the Corps—will have known **Everest,** and his death, although it will come as a shock, was not altogether unexpected, as for many years he suffered from indifferent health.

Everest, during his period of service was a 'character' and perhaps some of his more flamboyant characteristics did not please all. He served the Corps in a number of important appointments. He was on **Lord Louis Mountbatten's** staff at H.Q., S.A.C.S.E.A. at the height of the Far Eastern campaign and as C.S.O., Hong Kong, he took on the restoration of service communications, which were in a state of chaos after the Japanese occupation. Later he was at the centre of Corps planning as Colonel (Plans) at the School of Signals, and his final appointment before retiring was Director of Telecommunications at the War Office.

After leaving the service he took up teaching for some time. He will be particularly remembered as a connoisseur of wine and a devotee of classical music. He was a witty and lively conversationalist, and time spent in **Everest's** company was seldom dull. Our sympathy goes to his three children, who will sadly miss him.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

Canoeing Safety Regulations

Safety without Tears!

DURING 1967, the Army Canoe Union issued new recommendations for canoe safety.

These basic rules are very necessary, and it is intended that they should help rather than inhibit development of the sport within units. We understand that some units have found the recommendations to be restricting, and that development of the sport within these units has been retarded as a consequence. The basic requirement for the successful development of a unit canoe club, while at the same time conforming with these Canoe Safety Regulations, is the provision of suitably qualified instructors in the unit concerned. Once the unit has instructors on unit strength, canoeing activities can proceed without hindrance.

At present, the following main categories of qualified instructor can be found in the Army:

(a) British Canoe Union Instructor

(b) Army Canoe Instructor.

(c) B.A.O.R. Canoe Instructor.

The British Canoe Union is the U.K. civilian authority for canoeing, and provides training and testing facilities for the following qualifications, in ascending order of importance:

(a) BCU Novice.
(b) BCU Proficiency.
(c) BCU Instructor.
(d) BCU Senior Instructor.
(e) BCU Coach.

If a member of the Forces holds a BCU Instructor qualification, he is automatically qualified as an Army Canoe Instructor (but the reverse is not the case). A BCU Coach can test and qualify BCU Instructors.

The qualification of Army Canoe Instructor can also be awarded to a canoeist who successfully passes the ACU Instructors Test, conducted by a qualified Canoe Testing Officer.

To clarify the position of B.A.O.R. Canoe Instructors (those examined in B.A.O.R. prior to 30th September, 1967) the following has been ruled:

(a) B.A.O.R. Canoe Instructors cannot examine for the **Army** Canoeing Basic Proficiency Test.

(b) B.A.O.R. Canoe Instructors are exempt from taking the Army Canoe Instructors' Test, but must renew their qualification by taking this test within three years of their initial appointment as B.A.O.R. Canoe Instructor.

(c) B.A.O.R. Canoe Testing Officers are not empowered to test for the Army Canoe Instructor qualification.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that canoeing activities can proceed within a unit provided that one or more instructors holding one of the qualifications per paragraph 5 above, is on posted strength. The best qualification to aim for is BCU Instructor, but the ACU Instructor qualification covers all Army needs at this level. The B.A.O.R. Canoe Instructor must requalify as an Army Canoe Instructor during the next two seasons.

Full particulars of all canoeing qualifications held by members of the Corps can be obtained by Unit Canoeing Officers from the Central Card Index Record, by applying to:

The Secretary,
Royal Signals Canoeing,
Ministry of Defence (Signals 1 (Army)),
Room 1332,
Main Building, Whitehall, S.W.1.

The Army Canoe Union organises courses of instruction, and tests to qualify Army Canoe Instructors, from time to time. Details and advice in this connection can be obtained from The Secretary, The Army Canoe Union, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, Yorks.

It is intended that courses of instruction will be organised by the Corps Canoe Club in the future, and details will be notified to all units in due course.

Copies of Army Canoe Union "Recommendations for Canoe Safety," published in 1967, are available from **Major R. P. D. F. Painter** at MOD Signals 1 (Army).

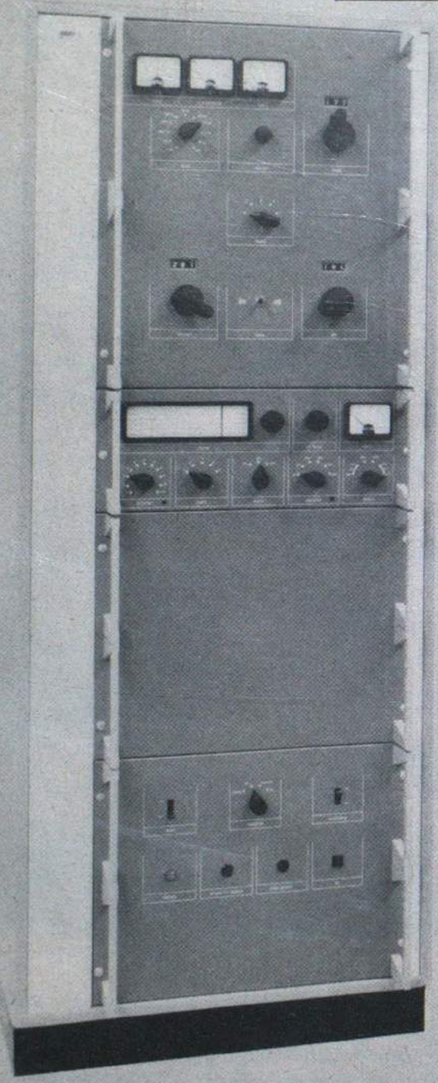


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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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APRIL/MAY • 1968

Vol. 22 *(New Series)* **No. 4**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

The Ketch "Brigand"

18th Regiment and 237 Squadron recently decided to invest some of their accumulated funds in a ketch which came onto the market in Singapore, with the hope that she could be brought back to Europe for use by the Corps towards the end of the rundown. Between them the two units have provided one half of the purchase price, the rest having been made available partly as a generous grant and partly as a loan by H.Q. Singapore District. The boat will be collected from Changi and sailed around to its new moorings at the Army Yacht Club at Sungei Pandan on the weekend 9th/10th March.

Brigand is a three-year-old glass fibre ketch built in Hong Kong. She is 30ft. overall with four berths and a Volvo pentamatic diesel auxiliary. She is well fitted out for cruising in tropical waters and has given a good account of herself in local handicap races. She sailed to Singapore on her own bottom en route for Tenerife, but her owner was called back to business and had to sell her.

After two years in private ownership, *Brigand* will now become available to all properly qualified sailors in Royal Signals serving in Singapore and will be the first cruising sailing vessel under service ownership in the station for many years. It is hoped that many members of the Corps will have the opportunity to sail in her in the years to come and that those in Singapore make the best of their time here to explore the excellent cruising grounds off the Island and Malaysia.

THE Rules of the Royal Signals Association state:

"Serving Officers and Soldiers who contribute to the Association through Corps Funds under the Day's Pay Scheme shall be deemed to be Annual Members for each year while so doing and if, at the conclusion of their colour service, the total sum subscribed by them be not less than £2 10s. 0d., they shall qualify as Life Members and shall be registered as such by the General Secretary."

Officers on retiring are reminded of the above in the farewell letter sent to them by the representative Colonel Commandant.

Similarly the attention of all soldiers is drawn to this rule by an Association leaflet kindly included by Officer i/c Records in their final discharge papers.

All are strongly urged to take advantage of this grant of Life Membership which is made in appreciation of generous support to Association Benevolence during their service.

It is most important on leaving the Service for Officers and Soldiers who qualify as above to write immediately to the General Secretary so that they can be registered as Life Members and issued with a membership card. They will also be put in touch with a Branch of the Association if there is one within reasonable distance from where they are living and will be informed of how they can continue to receive THE WIRE and enjoy other facilities that the Association provides.

Branches are only too eager to welcome into their ranks newly retired members of the Corps and membership of a Branch can help to maintain the spirit of comradeship and service which is so often found lacking on return to civilian life.

In certain cases membership of a Branch may indeed facilitate re-entry into civilian life as Branch members, already well established in their local areas, can often advise and render practical assistance to those who have recently left the Corps. If, therefore, you are shortly due to finish your time, make a note of the above and take action on it. **You have nothing to lose and possibly much to gain.**

From our "In" Tray



Where are they now?—Members of the first Junior Leaders' team to take part in the Nijmegen Marches. Location: outside "The Teapot"

MORE MEMORIES OF THE JUNIOR LEADERS

Sir,

I have the honour of being one of the Permanent Staff of Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, who took the *first* "boys" teams to the Nijmegen Marches. Enclosed is a snap taken after a 25-mile march. It is outside "The Teapot," well-known to all ex-"boys."

It was on that year's march that we all wore coloured Balaclavas, at the instigation of **Colonel Gregory,** and the locals thought we were Russians! The fiddles the Colonel worked to get us all there were unbelievable! Two unforgetable moments were the celebration swig of whisky from the Colonel's flask cup, this included minute whiskers, as he had just used it as a shaving mug. The other was when we had to pay for the Balaclavas, after being originally "presented" to us by the P.R.I.

I sincerely hope all the lads in the snap are well, and trust Drummer Yates hasn't lost any more of his instruments at customs.

Yours,

F. Young,
Ex-Iron Troop.

Staff Sergeant F. M. Young,
H.Q., 1st Division and Signal Regiment,
B.F.P.O. 32.

CATTERICK CAMP—CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

Sir,

Mrs. Halliday completes 25 years as headmistress of her school in Catterick Camp in July 1968. In the early days many will remember her as **Mrs. Holt.**

In recognition of this long and continuous service, including the years of the Second World War, it has been proposed that a suitable presentation, probably a cheque, should be made to her.

I am therefore writing to as many parents as possible whose children went to this school to ask them whether they would care to make a donation towards this presentation.

However small the amount it will be welcome but it is felt that some parents might like to subscribe in relation to what their children have received from the school.

Cheques and/or postal orders should be sent to **Mrs. Chambers,** The Grange, Brompton-on-Swale, Nr. Richmond, made payable to the Halliday Presentation Fund.

I hope you will be able to support this appeal for some one who has given a lot to children of Catterick and who is surely deserving of some recognition.

Yours faithfully,

Phyllida Good

THE GURKHA SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Sir,

I am sure that you are aware of the existence of the Gurkha Signals Association. The Association was formed in 1959 so that, by affiliation, its members could become members of the Gurkha Brigade Association and thereby keep in touch with Brigade of Gurkha matters. Unfortunately the charter of the Gurkha Brigade Association provides for an exclusive membership of commissioned officers and in order not to lose our affiliation we have been forced to accept this requirement. We have always felt very unhappy about the exclusion of the many Royal Signals other ranks who have given loyal and devoted service to Gurkha Signals units. In practice ex Gurkha Signals officers and other ranks have always kept in close touch with each other either by attending Royal Signals reunions or by arranging small informal reunions for themselves. But in one respect the other ranks have been left on the outside and that is in connection with the Gurkha Signals Newsletter.

The Gurkha Signals Newsletter which is published two or three times a year has, by custom, only been distributed to members of the Association; looking objectively at the situation there is no reason for this, particularly as the Association now circulates its own notices. We now intend that the Gurkha Signals Newsletter should be available to anyone who would like to read it, irrespective of rank.

Would it be possible to announce in THE WIRE that the next Gurkha Signals Newsletter will be published in April 1968 and that anyone who would like to read it should get in touch with me. I say 'read' and not 'receive a copy' because the number of copies available is restricted by postage costs and I may have to arrange a circulation list should I not be able to supply one copy for each enquiry.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. Dexter, Major.
Gurkha Signals Liaison Officer.

School of Signals,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset.

CORPS LANCE-CORPORAL BECOMES ENGLAND'S PREMIER MARQUIS

News has reached us that **Lance-Corporal Nigel Paulet,** late of the Corps has inherited the title of **18th Marquis of Winchester.**

Paulet joined the Army in 1961 and served six years with the Corps. After leaving the Army, he returned to Rhodesia, where he was born and bred, and last November married **Rosemary Hilton,** the daughter of a wealthy copper and diamond mine owner. It is doubtful whether he will be able to take an active part in the House of Lords.

He is a Life Member of the Royal Signals Association.

ARMY BIRD-WATCHING SOCIETY

This Society was formed to encourage and promote Bird-Watching in the Army. Membership is open to:

Serving and Retired Officers and Other Ranks of the Regular Army, and the T. and AVR.

Officers and other ranks of Commonwealth and Colonial Armies; Civil Servants serving or who have served in Military Establishments.

Annual Subscription is 10s. per annum.

Anyone interested in joining the Society should write to: **Major (Retd) C. Worrin, T.D.,** Hon. Secretary, Army Bird-Watching Society, c/o Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Corps Tea Party (at Blandford).—28th May

Corps Dinner.—29th May.

Catterick Reunion.—22nd/23rd June.

Full details from R.H.Q., Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Special Mention



Major G. R. Oehlers, Army Badminton Singles Champion

Major G. R. Oehlers, School of Signals

for being selected to play for the Army at badminton against the Civil Service. He had previously represented the Army against Wiltshire, Northamptonshire, R.A.F. and Shropshire. In the recent Southern Command Badminton Championships he won the Men's Singles, the Mixed Doubles with his wife, and was runner-up in the Men's Doubles, while his wife was on the winning pair in the Ladies' Doubles. These successes he followed up in the Army Badminton Championships at the end of February, when he won the Singles and was runner-up in the Men's Doubles.

Mr. J. Balmer, Head of Academic Staff, School of Signals

for being selected as a hockey umpire for the Olympic Games in Mexico, a task he also carried out four years ago in Tokyo.

A/T Sergeant D. James, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

for being selected to captain the Army team against the Navy in the first ever junior Rugby Union fixture.

Lance-Corporal T. Jacobs, School of Signals

for being selected as the first string welterweight for the Army against the Navy recently. **Lance-Corporal Jacobs** lost his bout on points, but he will be able to show his mettle later if selected to box in the Army Individual Boxing Championships for which he has been nominated.

Signalman F. Carr (2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.) and Lance-Corporal Cutts (30th Regiment)

for keeping Corps colours flying at the Army Individual Boxing Championships. **Signalman Frank Carr** continued his championship reign in the bantamweight class and **Lance-Corporal Cutts** got the better of things in his championship bout in the welterweight class. A surprise omission was the non-appearance of **Signalman D. Pellegrinetti** of 2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, a past championship holder in the heavyweight class, whose opponent was given a 'walked over' decision.

RESETTLEMENT LOANS TO SERVING SOLDIERS

BECAUSE of the greatly strengthened position of both Corps and Army benevolent funds due to the Day's Pay Scheme it is possible to make special loans to serving soldiers **where genuine need can be substantiated.** These loans are normally secured against the soldier's terminal grant and are repayable on receipt of this grant. All cases must be fully supported by the soldier's Commanding Officer. Loans will be made either by the Royal Signals Association acting on its own or in conjunction with the Army Benevolent Fund for larger amounts.

Typical categories of assistance are:

(a) Help to soldiers approaching or at the end of their Colour Service in buying and furnishing a home where immediate tenure is essential.

(b) Rehabilitation of soldiers and their families whose careers and future life are drastically affected by medical discharge from the Army.

(c) Help to soldiers where assured tenure of a house is of the utmost importance to the continuity of the education of the children.

(d) Purchase of accommodation/house by soldiers and their families where it is vital to secure the future employment of the soldier.

(e) Purchase of accommodation/house by soldiers and their families to enable them to live near to their place of future employment.

(f) Compassionate help to those soldiers and their families whose lives are affected through hardship and distress.

(g) Rehabilitation help to those soldiers and their families who, because of redundancy, have to face imminent discharge from the Army and who are not fully prepared to meet the uncertainties of civilian life.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in February	**44**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**33**
Amount spent in grants and loans	**£918 13 10**

One of the Month's Cases

SERGEANT, shortly due to leave the Army after 18 years' service. He was offered a council house unexpectedly for his wife, six children and himself. In order that the family could take advantage of this opportunity, the Association made him a loan of £100 for essential furniture, etc., to be repaid when he receives his Terminal Grant.

One of the Month's Letters

(From the widow of a Corporal, killed in action in 1944)

"THANK you for your very kind letter. I hardly know how to express my gratitude to the Royal Signals Association for their very generous grant. Also I am delighted with the parcel which arrived this morning; the clothes fit lovely, and I really do appreciate it. I used to do a little job, but had to give it up to look after my father who is 91 and very shaky, so that I cannot leave him. I was badly in need of a warm coat, and the lino in my living-room has a very large hole in it, so the committee can be sure of their grant being welcome. I do appreciate the help they have given me very much, and thank you all for your kindness."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

The Hawker Siddeley Harrier

A New Concept for Air Close Support

By

Major J. E. L. Adams, Royal Signals

"... a distinct possibility that each Squadron will have its own associated Royal Signals unit ..."

(NOTE: *The views expressed are solely those of the author. They in no way reflect official policy*).



Like great dragon flies in some dream fantasy — a Squadron of Harriers at rest.

HAWKER SIDDELEY AVIATION have recently handed over the first six Harrier jump-jets to the Ministry of Technology. These new vertical take-off military aircraft are are forerunners of sixty to be brought into general use by the R.A.F. during 1969 primarily for close support tasks. What prompted this new development, how it took place and why it became necessary is of very special interest to Royal Signals, for we are to provide the ground radio communications for this bang--up-to-date jet age combat aircraft which is to succeed the ageing Hunter in close support of our ground forces in the forward areas. This new organisation constitutes a notable step forward in the history of joint Service co-operation.

The P1127 (the original project number) was conceived and financed by Hawker Aircraft in 1958 without benefit of governmental blessing or Treasury backing. The fledgeling P1127 grew and fined down, and was eventually christened Kestrel. Development of the prototype was not without pitfalls, but although one or two of the early breed were lost not one pilot sustained serious injury. A very happy augury.

Early development

Much of the early development was carried out in conjunction with the Kestrel Tripartite Evaluation Squadron, which included pilots from the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom. The experimental Kestrel aircraft was put through its paces and its operational potential analysed.

Trials were completed in November 1965 and very soon afterwards the Kestrel was demonstrated to allied forces everywhere. It made a very considerable impression as the first V/STOL fighter-ground attack aircraft. Meanwhile, the Defence Departments had digested the results of the trials and placed an order for the R.A.F. for a more sophisticated version of the Kestrel but with a weapons system. Thus was the Harrier born. A design contract for six was signed in 1965, the first Harrier flew in August 1966 and six or more are now flying. Hawker Siddeley Aviation has quantity production well in hand and the new aircraft is to be brought into R.A.F. Squadron Service towards the end of 1968.

The Hawker Harrier is a new concept in the evolution of air power. It is as big a step forward in its field of operations as micro-wave link systems were in the telecommunications world.

The Harrier is not a supersonic machine at low flight but a trans-sonic one. It cannot crash the sound barrier without first heaving itself up to a great height by its superb Pegasus 101 engine. Then, responding eagerly to a touch of the control column, it streaks across a startled countryside to the gentle accompaniment of clattering teacups and tinkling greenhouse glass.

For the technically minded, the Harrier has a swept wing of about 25 ft. span, a length of 46 ft., and is powered by a single Bristol Siddeley Pegasus 101, turbo-fan, vectored-thrust engine. The machine can be ferried over very long distances by utilising large capacity overload tanks in place of its weapons. It can also be refuelled in flight during ferrying, a considerable factor in its ubiquity.

Instant air support

The use of V/STOL aircraft means far less vulnerability on the ground, for the machines and their associated logistic support units can be more easily concealed, more widely dispersed and moved much more frequently. The Harrier can, of course, execute a true vertical take-off and landing, but a heavier load of weapons may be carried if a short run is made before lifting off. It is claimed that the V/STOL type has the unique ability among British aircraft to make use of whatever logistic support may be available. Here indeed is a new concept in air/ground relationships. The versatile Harrier is capable of operating virtually anywhere with ground forces and is the forerunner of a species which may revolutionise close support air operations. One can imagine the vast potential of this ubiquitous aircraft. Its usefulness ranges widely over the chequered field of land and sea operations. The keynote of the Harrier's success is its flexibility. Its arrival on the military scene may well presage a new dimension in combined operations.

The new aircraft is an astronomically expensive piece of hardware without even counting the cost of its communications and logistic backing, but considering its modern weapons system and the indescribable carnage it could wreak, its cost-effectiveness is not high.

The great advantage of a vertical/short take-off and landing (V/STOL) aircraft is its ability to make use of whatever take-off and landing facilities are available, so that the machines can always be sited within a very few minutes' flight of the troops they are required to support or reconnaissance which may be vital for our troops on the ground. Ground attack aircraft can be parked closer than ever before to the forward combat area and be brought into action with the utmost speed and economy of effort. Instant aircraft indeed! There is, too, an additional advantage in having pilots who are able to acquire a much more intimate knowledge of the ground in forward areas by being based closer to the "sharp end."

Mode of Operation

Attack missions would be flown low level at a high subsonic speed. The aim would be to fly low enough to escape detection by enemy radar, but fast enough to evade enemy fighters. The Harrier can behave as offensively as a lion and yet return to the fold as quietly as a lamb.

The aircraft is designed to be fully self-supporting, and assistance from ground staff is minimal. The sustained operations ground servicing support is necessary, although for some types of operations, the Harrier can be considered self-supporting. It can carry either armament for ground attack or cameras for reconnaissance or, indeed, a modified combination of both. The machine has a built-in navigational/attack system which computes latitude and longitude and provides position information on a moving map display six inches in diameter in front of the pilot. Speed, height, blind flying information and weapon aiming directions can be shown in a head-up display.

(*Continued on page 121*

The Harrier can be operated from almost any hard surface, provided it is free from debris, but if necessary, steel plate (PSP) pads, 60ft. square, or aluminium matting, can be laid quite quickly by R.E. The Harrier can even land on a 50ft. x 50ft. clear space on the deck of a ship. During early trials, small pieces of stone or wood or other hard substances have been forced out of the ground by sheer jet thrust and whilst whirling round like fanatical dervishes were sucked into the engine air intakes, causing damage to the engine. However, provided that a small forward speed is maintained, the risk of debris ingestion is almost nil.

Command and Control

Control and operations of the Harrier has not been finally agreed, but in broad terms, each Squadron will probably be tied by radio into the tasking organisation and to the Army formation it is currently supporting, although control may vary widely in different theatres of operation.

While the whole question of command and control of Harrier Squadrons is still being debated, a very distinct possibility is that each Squadron will have its own associated Royal Signals unit to provide most of the necessary ground radio communications. And the ultimate intention is for the supporting Royal Signals unit of about 50 all ranks to become fully integrated with the R.A.F. Harrier Squadron it supports; living and working with the R.A.F. on the main base air station in peacetime and training with them when they practise their operational role, in very much the same way that an Air Formation Signals Airfield Signal Troop does at present in another context.

Meet 'Boots' — A 100 per cent corps dog

'Boots' Harwood is the 'Assistant Special Recruiter,' Royal Signals, in support of **Sergeant G. Harwood** at Sheffield. He has, as yet, no number, rank or uniform, although his efforts to promote the interests of the Corps make him eligible for all three. Nevertheless, he is a keen and loyal member of the Royal Corps and the Army generally. He has a lively nose for any source of free publicity and sits in his best 'bib and tucker mood' the moment a news camera appears with his honest 'I'm glad to be a soldier' look.

He recently attended the Recruiting Convention at Catterick Camp and derived a good deal of pleasure from his association with the resident canine element, including the R.S.M.'s two boxers and the mess cat, all of whom showed him great hospitality.

'Boots' is on duty at the Sheffield A.C.I.O. six days a week, from 08.30 to 17.30 hours (15.00 hours on Saturdays) and will be glad to see any Corps member who likes to drop in.

'Boots'' predecessor, a boxer, had to be dismissed the Service because of his unfortuate habit of turning on the taps in **Sergeant Harwood's** home, thereby causing several floods!

3rd DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

The annual dinner this year will be held on Saturday, 29th June, at Bulford, under the auspices of 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment. Letters are being sent to all club members as usual but other ex-members of the Regiment requiring further information should write to Major K. N. Smartt, 1508 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex.

UNIT WIRE CORRESPONDENTS— YOUR HELP, PLEASE!

Your Editor would make a special plea for more news and photographs about individual soldiers and their activities.

While some units devote considerable space to this we note a tendency on the part of others to set aside an undue proportion of their notes to items of mainly officer interest.

'The Wire' aims to please a wide cross section of readers of whom serving soldiers form a large proportion.



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Movements

Officers

APRIL 1968

Major (Q.M.) G. B. Andrews ... To H.Q. British Troops Malta
Lieutenant R. W. Barry ... ... ,, 260 Squadron
Captain (Tfc.) D. Bees ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) S. G. Barnes ... ... ,, Junior Tradesmen's Regt., Rhyl
Captain R. E. Barber ... ... ,, 259 Squadron
Major A. Begg ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Major A. P. Boyle ... ... ,, AWS Group, B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Burrell, M.B.E. ... ... ,, GHQ UKLF (Eastern Commd)
Captain R. A. J. Bingley ... ... ,, AAC Harrogate
Major T. A. Byrne ... ... ,, 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment
Major E. T. Bolt ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Lieutenant M. J. Cartwright ... ... ,, AAC Harrogate
Major J. C. Campbell ... ... ,, 260 Squadron
Major J. S. D. Dale ... ... ,, H.Q. Eastern Command
Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Evans ... ,, H.Q. AFNE, Kolsås, Norway
Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. Furlonge ... ,, H.Q. AFCE, B.F.P.O. 18
Captain (Tfc) R. Finister ... ... ,, 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) J. J. Gerrard, B.E.M. ,, 16th Regiment
Captain J. L. Golding ... ... ,, 222 Squadron, B.F.P.O. 64
Major P. J. Hartshorn ... ... ,, H.Q. Fortress, Gibraltar
Major D. G. Handley ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major D. M. Humphries ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Lieutenant R. N. Haysom ... ... ,, 1 R. Ir. F. (Catterick)
Captain (T.O.T.) J. C. Ireland ... ,, 8th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant O. M. Lewis ... ,, 260 Squadron
Captain (Q.M.) N. Lane ... ... ,, 212 Squadron
Lieutenant M. J. Macklin ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Captain G. H. Morgan ... ... ,, 260 Squadron
Major D. J. Milton ... ... ,, 206 Squadron (6 Bde H.Q. & Signal Squadron)
Captain W. C. Nicoll ... ... ,, 209 Squadron (19 Bde H.Q. and Signal Squadron)
Lieutenant-Colonel F. Parker ... ... ,, H.Q. Radio Group, B.F.P.O. 40
Brigadier C. E. Page, M.B.E. ... ... ,, SEC, IMS NATO, B.F.P.O. 49
Major (Q.M.) W. R. Pearse ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (H.S.) retires
Second-Lieutenant C. Riley ... ... ,, 260 Squadron
Captain (Tfc) R. J. Robinson ... ... ,, Live Oak, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40
Captain I. D. Scott ... ... ,, M.o.D. (Signals 35 A)
Captain V. H. Stephens ... ... ,, 260 Squadron
Captain F. Smith ... ... ,, M.o.D. (EID)
Captain F. A. Stork ... ... ,, 4th Regiment
Captain B. F. Strange ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Major P. J. W. Stephens ... ... ,, CAFSO, FEAF
Captain (Tfc) F. W. Taylor ... ... ,, 241 Squadron (Chester)
Captain D. Turner ... ... ,, H.Q. 2 ATAF, B.F.P.O. 40
Captain A. Tregoning ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Colonel D. E. Warren ... ... ,, C.S.O. FARELF—as Brigadier
Captain (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall ... ,, H.Q. Catterick Garrison
Captain E. Wells ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (HS) (retiring)
Major P. D. Warren ... ... ,, M.o.D. Signals 36
Major R. C. Walker ... ... ,, 39th Regiment—as C.O.
Major M. L. Willway ... ... ,, 36th Regiment—as C.O.
Major J. H. S. Weston ... ... ,, M.o.T. (EID)
Captain (T.O.T.) A. Whittington ... ,, 9th Regiment

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I (F. of S.) R. F. Fairbairn ... To 30th Regiment
W.O.I (F. of S.) M. A. Johnson ... ,, BATTKEN
W.O.I (F. of S.) E. Doe ... ... ,, 4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.I. (F. of S.) B. T. Flint ... ,, 30th Regiment
A/W.O.I (Y. of S.) P. Durrant ... ,, 19th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) D. J. Lane ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II L. L. Tucker ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
W.O.II T. J. Cushen ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) A. L. C. Coleman ,, 1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) W. D. Carr ,, 253 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. P. Steeples ,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. David ... ,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. Pemberton ,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. G. Goodwin ,, 1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. A. Jeffrey ,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) T. G. Hill ... ,, Blandford Project Liaison Staff
Staff Sergeant I. Sharif ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant F. A. Mabbott ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. J. Simpson ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. D. Studd ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant G. P. Britt ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant G. M. Hartland ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant D. Fowler ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant D. E. Rex ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant D. Connery ... ... ,, 5th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
A/Sergeant M. Kennedy ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
A/Sergeant A. J. Carroll ... ... ,, H.Q., Scottish Command
Sergeant W. Smithson ... ... ,, 3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant D. Oliver ... ... ,, H.Q., FARELF
Sergeant R. Gaffney ... ... ,, 261 Squadron
Sergeant B. R. Barnes ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant E. T. Donovan ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant G. Parsley ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant P. W. Nichols ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant M. A. C. Read ... ... ,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant I. J. Carruthers ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
A/Sergeant M. L. N. Chaloner ... ,, 252 Squadron
Sergeant W. Baldwin ... ... ,, 3 Cadet Training Team
Sergeant A. F. J. Curnow ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant F. McGuirk ... ... ,, Jun. Tradesmen's Regt. (Troon)
Staff Sergeant R. Chick ... ... ,, 222 Squadron
Sergeant T. Cockerill ... ... ,, 262 Squadron
Sergeant R. W. Mansfield ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant P. Sharpe ... ... ,, SHAPE H.Q. Command and Support (BE)
Sergeant C. W. Lockwood ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant C. G. C. Nurse ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant R. Chapman ... ... ,, 4th Guards Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. R. E. Taylor ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant R. W. Wells ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant W. Gray ... ... ,, R and LS, Western Command
Sergeant T. R. Beare ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant P. E. Cheeseman ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant H. A. L. Buxton ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant A. F. S. McElligott ... ,, 10th Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Blank ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant L. T. Rowe ... ... ,, 30th Regiment

Correction

In the March/April issue the name of Sergeant R. S. Demdasty, of 4 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, should have been spelt: **Sergeant R. S. Dahashty.**

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	22823479	A/W.O.I	Turner, J. G.	1300	2280	
To W.O.II	22548629	A/W.O.II	Tune, B. W.	4210	1780	
	22426048	A/W.O.II	Ross, R. G.	4220	2320	
	22273918	A/W.O.II	Long, J. W.	4230	2150	
	22002139	S Sgt.	Paxton, J. K. F.	4240	2500	
	22172586	S Sgt.	Foster, P. R.	4250	710 (Sig. Cen. Spvr.)	
	21022006	S Sgt.	Slade, F. E.	4260	2250	
	22246081	A/W.O.II	Hammond-Haley, W. K.	4270	1620	
	22526536	S Sgt.	Copley, H.	4280	2390	
	22639338	S Sgt.	Dean, P. A.	4290	3190	
To S Sgt.	22515852	Sgt.	Hope, G. W. E.	5030	8800	(Op)
	22771310	Sgt.	Dunmall, M. J.	5040	3380	(Tech)
	21005081	Sgt.	Rothwell B. R.	5050	2290	(Tech)
	2549715	Sgt.	Abercrombie, D. D.	5060	3210	(Tech)
	22999465	Sgt.	Richardson, J. H.	5070	3150	(Tech)
	22537562	Sgt.	Jones, R.A.	5080	2120	(Adm)
	22308019	Sgt.	Clarke, J. W. A.	5090	8060	(Op)
	22560831	Sgt.	Loome, D. J.	5100	2140	(Fd)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	2548647	W.O.II	Rye, D. E.	1300	1390	
To W.O.II	2549557	S Sgt.	Buckland, A. G. M.	1960	1970	
To S Sgt.	21126561	S Sgt.	Lanyon, D. E. G.	1970	650	(S Sgt (Tech)
	23461916	Sgt.	Peplow, P. J.	2970	4391	(Sgt Tech)
	23256460	Sgt.	Brown, J. D. G.	3195	3662	,,
	2549289	Sgt.	Gray, J. R.	3200	2174	,,
	22983814	Sgt.	Francis, J. E.	3210	4530	,,
	23605863	Sgt.	Kay, T.	3220	4810	,,
	23661589	Sgt.	Keohane, A.	3230	4855	,,
	23533424	Sgt.	Muir, G. S.	3240	4890	,,
	22290598	Sgt.	Wills, J.	3250	4900	,,
	23515135	Sgt.	Emslie, G. W.	3260	4980	,,
	23686971	Sgt.	Cliff, M. F.	3270	5080	,,
	23642972	Sgt.	Briggs, R. W.	3290	5180	,,
	23707132	Sgt.	Hope, I. D.	3300	5195	,,
	23528430	Sgt.	Paton, R. A.	3310	5245	,,
	23783416	Sgt.	Abrahams, B. W.	3320	5565	,,
	23722309	Sgt.	Livesey, R. F. W.	3330	5710	,,
	22802615	Sgt.	Allen, R. A. G.	3340	5980	,,
	23956925	Cpl.	Bamforth, K. V.	3350	13400	(Cpl Tech)

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22963724	A/W.O.I	Brown, A.	450	820	
To W.O.II	22993627	A/W.O.II	Stapleton, A. G.	1060	1170	
To S Sgt.	22537867	A/S Sgt.	Anderson, W.	1370	2100	(Adm)
	22537255	A/S Sgt.	Hamilton, R. J.	1390	2020	(Adm)

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23509355	Cpl.	Jones, W.	6510	13933	
	23733855	Cpl.	Coller, A. J.	6517	12650	
	23744756	Cpl.	Barton, M. J.	6577	13101	
	23854399	Cpl.	Bogle, A.	6618	12867	
	23749536	Cpl.	Hollander, C. H.	6680	13260	

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	22755160	A/Sgt.	Vale, P.	14110	730	
	22296898	A/Sgt.	Atherton, L. W. D.	14120	2080	
	22771404	Cpl.	Copeman, F. G.	14130	3780	
	22776315	Cpl.	Harrison, J. L.	14160	10240	
	23527066	A/Sgt.	Hague, G. W.	14170	12680	
	23251272	A/Sgt.	Gelling, J. N.	14190	20190	
	23754575	A/Sgt.	Kibblewhite, K. C.	14240	20900	
	22796848	A/Sgt.	Adam, D. A. F.	14270	3674	
	22983036	Cpl.	Cheetham, D. K.	14280	21450	
	23486025	A/Sgt.	Hearns, J. N.	14300	21580	

INSERTIONS

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22789665	Sgt.	Doutch, R.	2044	7730	(Op)

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	550	970	1000	1140	1180	1290
W.O.II	1010	2450	2710	3770		
S Sgt.	1600	2840	3700	4650		

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	700

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

W.O.I	440

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.II	1000

TECHNICAL ROSTER

S Sgt.	220
Sgt.	5610

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	10450

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt.	3350

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Course No.	Title	Assembles	Disperses
67	Radio Op Class II-I	17 Aug. 68	1 Nov. 68
32	Comcen Op Class II-I	20 Aug. 68	15 Nov. 68
50	Telegraph Op Class III-II	6 Aug. 68	15 Nov. 68
18	Clerk Tech Class III-II	13 Aug. 68	11 Oct. 68
2/41	Cipher Op Class III-II	20 Aug. 68	27 Sept. 68
1/18	Tech RR Class II-I	6 Aug. 68	31 Mar. 69 From Line Tech II

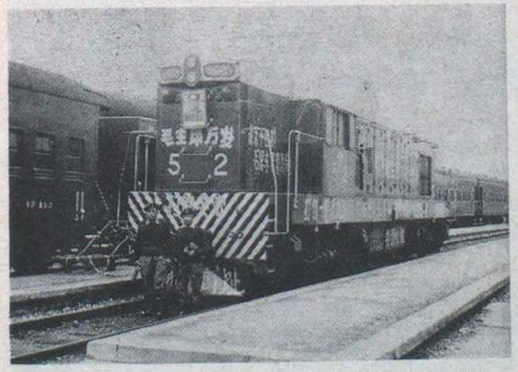
ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations have been most gratefully received:

	£	s.	d.
224 Squadron	10	0	0
49 (West Riding) Signal Squadron (V)	1	1	0
83 (London) Regiment (V), W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess	2	0	0
Major R. N. Eley, RTR	3	3	0
Colonel J. F. Longfield (Deed of Covenant)	1	0	0
Various individual donations	5	2	0
Total Receipts	£22	6	0

Exenditure during January ... £1,413 19 6
Expenditure during February ... £918 13 10

THE CORPS MAKES INDIRECT CONTACT WITH MAO!



Pictured above at the Lo Wu station on the Hong Kong Chinese border is a shunting locomotive bearing the picture of Chairman Mao and inscribed presumably with his thoughts judging from the sprawling hieroglyphics. In front of the locomotive are two members of 246 Gurkha Squadron and in the background can be seen the Canton express.

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IBM

Young Sportsmen of the right calibre at the Army Apprentices College

The Cross Country Team — A start from scratch then success all the way



Back Row: Apprentice Tradesmen Knight, Chilcott, Anson, Signalman Witt, Apprentice Tradesmen Hagen, Pegg, Whitton, Harris, Bailey, Parks. Middle Row: Apprentice Tradesmen Lance-Corporal Roissetter, Sidlle, Sergeant Escott, Mr. Cooper, Sergeant Bradley, W.O.II Hall, Apprentice Tradesmen Stockton, Lance-Corporal Campbell, Evans, Crowe.
Front Row: Apprentice Tradesmen Gadsdon, Heaney, Neale, Corporal Geary, Robertshaw, Corporal Parry, Barber, S.S.M. Rainer, Tomlinson.

At Basketball the apprentices win through to the Final of the Junior Championships



THE COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM who lost to the Junior Leaders' Regiment, R.E., in the Final of the Army Junior Championships at Aldershot on 8th March.
Back Row: Apprentice Tradesmen Baines, Hall, Mold, Lance-Corporal Licence, Marsh, Jarwood, Lance-Corporal Grimmitt, C.S.M. Proctor, A.P.T.C. Apprentice Tradesmen Ridley, Sergeant Kerr, Kelly, Corporal Patterson, Little

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

THIS term has brought another change in Chief Instructors. The present incumbent, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Evans, M.C.,** is in the process of handing over to **Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Scott,** before taking up a NATO post in Oslo. He confesses that he still does not know what he has done to deserve so splendid a posting, and can only conclude that it is either (a) because there is a need for the truly Nordic type with a mass of luxuriant fair hair (he has, of course, a tonsure of which Friar Tuck would be proud) or (b) to compensate him for "long service in bad stations," including such sought-after stations as Singapore, Hong King, Canada and yes, he says, even Harrogate. Many strata of the College will miss him: all will appreciate his efforts.

Colonel Scott came to Harrogate from Bahrein, where he was C.R. Signals.

The new C.I. knows a thing or two about young soldiers—he was once Second-in-Command of the Junior Leaders' Regiment at Denbury—and can be relied on to take a keen interest in all hobbies offered by the College.

Cross-Country

Officer-in-Charge, **Lieutenant D. W. Stanley.**
Secretary/Manager, **Mr. R. Cooper.**
Coach, **Sergeant H. Escott.**

At the start of this season we were beginning from scratch with lots of enthusiasm and little known ability. Early in October, a Yorkshire Services' League was started by 8th Signal Regiment at Catterick. A total of thirteen teams from service units throughout Yorkshire competed: we entered two teams of ten runners. Apart from two meetings held during our leave period, when we entered incomplete teams, our 'A' team won every fixture. In doing this, they beat the past and present Northern Command Champions on each ocasion.

In the final league placings, our 'A' Team was first and our 'B' Team fourth. The outstanding Apprentice in this league was, without doubt, **A/T Lance-Corporal Campbell,** who won many of the races; but all College runners have trained and run hard, and with dedication, as is shown by our placings in the first ten runners home in the final league meeting. They were: First, **A/T Lance-Corporal Campbell** ('A'); second, **Sergeant Escott** ('A'); fifth, **A/T Perry** ('B'); sixth, **A/T Stockton** ('A'); eighth, **A/T Lance-Corporal Roissetter** ('A'); ninth, **A/T Heaney** ('B').

The College Apprentices are not allowed to compete in Northern Command Championships, although we did enter three individuals of the Permanent Staff, who finished second, third and fifth in the Major Units' Competition. They were **Sergeant Escott, Sergeant Bradley** and **W.O.II Hall,** in that order. Congratulations to all three on a splendid performance.

Basketball

At basketball, the College team has again successfully competed in the Army Junior Championships, winning through to the final round. At Aldershot, on 8th March, however, they were beaten by the Junior Leaders' R.E. team by 63 points to 31. (*Hard luck, College—but there is always next year.—Editor*).

The Command Final of the Major Units' Competition, against the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon, produced an excellent game between two evenly-matched sides. At half-time Troon were leading 37-32, but in the second half the College forged ahead to win 54—47.

The semi-final was also closely-contested and most exciting, against our old rivals, Arborfield. In the first half scores mounted evenly and at half-time Harrogate led by 28—26. Some of the best play came in the second half, though Arborfield never quite managed to overtake us, and we eventually won 56—42.

Boxing

For many weeks grunts and groans have been heard emanating from the gymnasium, as six dedicated young boxers sweated under the able coaching of **Bombardier Woodcock.** The reason—all were taking part in the Army Junior Individual Championships at Nuneaton. The result, after an excellent effort by all, two runners-up medals and an Army Junior Featherweight Champion, **A/T Dargan,** who was selected to represent the Army Juniors against the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, on 7th March.

Hockey

Under the guidance of **Captain Cowan** and **Major Edwards (Retd.),** the College Hockey Team presses on in the Army Junior Championships and, to date, have survived the quarter-final against the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon.

This was played on 6th March in a typical 'Pennypot gale.' After 110 minutes' ding-dong battle (against the elements, as much as each other) and two severe cases of cramp, the teams decided to settle the issue by the toss of a coin, which, to the apprentices' jubilation, came down "our side up." Hard luck for the J.T.R., perhaps, but the organisation of the championships, which demands that the next round be played so soon, precluded a replay.

Squash

The two excellent squash courts, provided under College's rebuilding scheme are being put to good use under the supervision of **Mr. R. S. Gustard,** one of the College's civilian lecturers. Several apprentices are showing promise, notably **A/T Cooper,** son of a former Army champion.

The College Team gained further strength from the arrival of the new Senior Education Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Foster,** a player of exceptional skill.

On 6th March, an interesting internecine match between Education Wing and the rest of the College resulted in a 4—1 win for the former, though the contest was much closer than the bare score suggests.

College Beat Group

The College beat group was reorganised during the Christmas leave, and began afresh this term under the title of "The J.B. Soul Union." Consisting of **Apprentice Tradesmen John Hawley** (lead guitar/vocal), **Nigel Hunt** (organ/vocal), **"Paddy" Parr** (bass guitar) and **Tony Curle,** and managed by **David Lowry,** the group has made a resounding start—in more ways than one.

They have already gained considerable local renown, especially among the young ladies of Harrogate, and have had a number of outside engagements. But their main achievement to date has been in winning the Northern Command section of the Army Beat Group Contest—and this although **A/T Parr** learned his part only when enroute for Catterick in the College mini-bus. Believed to be the only young soldiers competing, the group will now play in the final of the contest, to be held in London during the summer.

They rely heavily on **A/T Hunt** who, for one thing, is the only one who knows how to connect the equipment, and for another writes most of their songs. His first piece, "Concoction,' was used at the beginning of the first round of the beat contest.

The group acknowledges gratefully the help and encouragement they receive from **Major E. W. Hunt** (no relation to the Apprentice!).

CORPS ROWING GETS UNDER WAY

THE Army Rowing Association came into being in 1967 and it has been decided that the Corps will be represented in the Association.

Major J. B. Booth, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset, is the Corps Representative. He will be glad to hear from anyone who is interested in rowing, whether as crew, or as a coach, or just in a general way.

On Sunday, 26th May, there is to be the first Joint Services Regatta at Wallingford when Army crews will be competing against the Royal Navy and R.A.F. If you would like to help in running this event your assistance will be very welcome. Please contact **Major Booth** for more details.

Even if you are only vaguely interested please forward your name. In these early stages any support is urgently needed and will be put to good use.

The Army Youth Selection Centre

A New Concept in the Selection of Youth for Army Apprentice Training

Officer Commanding: Major W. J. Perry, R. Signals.
Administrative Officer: Captain D. Jones, R.A.O.C.
Personnel Selection Officers: Captain L. Bennett, R.E.M.E.; Captain R. J. Bingley, R. Signals; Captain R. Jackson, R.E.; Captain C. Cullinane, General List.
Chief Clerk: W.O.I B. Perry, R.A.O.C.

A NEW unit, the Army Youth Selection Centre, is now established within the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

The Centre is designed to carry out the *centralised* selection of candidates for Apprenticeships, not just within Royal Signals, but for the whole range of Army Apprentice trades—which number some 29.

Initially, only candidates within Northern Command will be called forward to the Centre, where they will spend approximately 48 hours, during which time they will receive a detailed briefing on the apprentice trades open to them, including a film which has been specially prepared for the purpose. In addition the standard battery of selection tests will be given, together with certain more sophisticated tests not previously used in Army Personnel Selection (details still secret!) Candidates—who, it must be remembered, will not be in the Army at this stage—will leave the Centre after two separate interviews with Personnel Selection Officers, having been given a firm decision as to whether or not they have been accepted for apprentice training, and, if so, what trade they will be following.

The great advantage of having the Centre situated within the College is, of course, that candidates will be able to 'see for themselves,' as well as being able to enjoy, during their short stay, the many facilities available.

Centralised selection will, it is hoped, greatly improve our selection techniques and make sure as far as possible that the round peg really does go into the round hole. It is a new concept as far as the Army is concerned, so we are 'in on the ground floor' of a scheme which, if proved successful over a trial period of 18 months, will expand to cater for applicants from the whole of the United Kingdom.

School of Signals, Blandford Camp

No. 5 Command and Control Study Period

Monday, 22nd January, saw the assembly of No. 5 Command and Control Study Period at the School of Signals.

During the ensuing three days the twenty-eight senior officers attending were treated to a wide variety of presentations, ranging from studies of recent developments in communication techniques to the many facets of military applications of ADP and modern methods of reproducing and distributing information.

Two lectures that were of especial general interest were given by **Lieutenant-Colonel Sheaves,** United States Exchange Officer at the School, who spoke on the organisation and operation of a United States Airportable Division; while **Colonel Clinch** and **Wing-Commander Foale,** from H.Q., B.A.O.R., posed and discussed the problems resulting from the introduction of the Harrier aircraft.

As usual, by far the greatest value on a study period of this nature is that pertaining to the enthusiastic discussion of problems by those attending and who are having to face, live, the situation under discussion when they return to their units. All Arms Schools rely very much on feed-back of this nature in order to retain a sense of awareness regarding soldiering at unit level.

Those in attendance at this study period had a particularly wide expertise, and sixteen Regiments and Corps were represented, in addition to the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and MOD DOAE. Discussion was long and fierce, and often only ended due to the sheer necessity for bodily sustenance or for the next presentation to begin.

It is to be hoped that those officers who came to the School will 'spread the gospel' and ensure an equally lively and representative attendance at future study periods.

Finally, a word of thanks to the staff of the Headquarters Mess, who coped ably and cheerfully with the influx of senior officers and the intensive evening entertainments that took place.

Royal Signals Institution Lecture

Mr. B. Z. de Ferranti, Managing Director for Strategic Issues of International Computers and Tabulators Limited, visited the School of Signals, Blandford Camp, on Monday evening, 19th February.

Mr. Ferranti was invited by the Royal Signals Institution to give a talk in the new Princess Mary Hall on the use of Computers in Management to about 200 serving and retired officers of all three Services. He used as his basis the cycle principle: any successful enterprise, whether it be military, commercial, industrial or governmental, depends on the proper handling of information, to the extent that in all cases original information must be collected, analysed, decisions taken and the decision must then be fed back to the originator, thus completing the cycle. He went on to explain how the computer could be used in collecting and analysing the information and assisting those responsible in making sound decisions and then passing on the decisions to the originator.



HISTORIC INTEREST

Brigadier Brett (right) shows Mr. de Ferranti (centre) a photocopy of a letter from Marconi in the Corps Museum. Lieutenant-Colonel Edwards (left)

Afterwards, **Mr. Ferranti** was entertained by **Brigadier J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E.,** the Commandant of the School of Signals. Amongst those present were **Mr. J. Whittaker, O.B.E. T.D.,** from Management Services of H.M. Treasury.

Mr. B. Z. de Ferranti is a member of the **Ferranti** family which runs the well-known electrical and electronic firm of that name. He was a Member of Parliament for six years and resigned at the 1964 General Election.

Report from Petasus

A new look improves beyond all recognition



HANDING OVER . . .
Lance-Corporal Trevor Borck at work on *Petasus* at Kiel



. . . TAKING OVER
Lance-Corporal Robert Sedgbeer checking the rigging on *Petasus*

DURING the 1967/1968 winter refit period *Petasus* has, as usual, been out of the water and is undergoing her annual scraping, cleaning and painting programme.

This winter, the old blue rubber deck covering is being replaced by a very smart light grey deck cover. This, together with new gunwales, new bow and stern pulpits, new navigation lights and an overhauled engine will improve *Petasus* beyond all recognition.

A further change for the 1968 season is the departure from Kiel of **Lance-Corporal Trevor Borck** who has returned to Verden to learn all about signal centres—what they are and what they do!

In his place at Kiel is **Lance-Corporal Robert Sedgbeer** who will be ready at the start of the season to instruct and guide those who are unfamiliar with matters nautical.

It has sometimes proved difficult for individuals and units stationed in B.A.O.R. to find out information about *Petasus*. For those in doubt and for those who wish to know more the address to write to is: PETASUS, 1 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 32.

H.Q. Training Brigade, Catterick Camp

Change of Command

AFTER three years in the chair as 'Commander, Training Brigade,' we bid farewell to **Brigadier Woodrow** and hello to our new Commander, **Brigadier Clarkson.**

Dined Out

We, in fact, started saying goodbye in January, when on the 30th **Brigadier Woodrow** was 'dined out.' A 'smashing' time was enjoyed by all. **Lieutenant Peter Whitehead** leaving a little earlier than he had originally planned when a sofa landed on top of him during the fun and games after dinner, breaking a leg—**Major Leslie Prescot** losing his glass when one of the 'carpet' bowls went a little higher than intended!

'Hi-bye' Week

'Hi-bye' week, as it soon became known, was the week in which the hand/take over took place between the two Brigadiers. Whether it was visiting the Regiments, meeting the Mayor of Richmond and his wife, or attending the buffet supper party in the Royal Signals Mess, Catterick, it was a week for **Brigadier Clarkson** to say 'hi' to everybody and for **Brigadier Woodrow** to say 'bye.'

Farewell Parade

On his last day in office—1st March—**Brigadier Woodrow** took the salute at a dual purpose parade with the Recruit Pass-Off Troop from 11th Regiment together with contingents from 8th, 11th and 24th Regiments.

After he had inspected the Parade, **Brigadier Woodrow** presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to four members of the Training Brigade—**W.O.II Robinson** of 11th Regiment, and to **W.O.II Nugent, Staff Sergeant Jackson** and **Corporal McIntosh** of 8th Regiment.



FAREWELL PARADE

Brigadier A. J. Woodrow makes his final inspection before handing over command of the Training Brigade to Brigadier F. L. Clarkson

Brigadier Woodrow also presented the medal to **Mr. William Sutherland,** an ex Royal Signals C.Q.M.S. who left the Army 25 years ago and had only just been awarded the medal! This caused much Press interest and the parade featured in all the daily newspapers as well as television.

Presentations

At a lunch time party given for **Brigadier Woodrow** by the Brigade Headquarters Staff, his P.A., **Miss Jackman,** presented him with some cigars on behalf of the civilian members of the staff. Then **Major Stonham,** the Brigade Major, made a presentation (naturally of no intrinsic value!) of the Brigade and Regimental flags mounted in a plinth on behalf of the military staff. **Brigadier Woodrow** thanked everyone for the gifts and then tried to get one of the prettiest typists we have got to come and work for him in London. Presentations, we think, can go too far!

Period of Change

During his three years as Commander, Training Brigade, there have been quite distinct changes within the Brigade; the three Regimental Officers' Messes have amalgamated under one roof to form the Royal Signals Mess, Catterick; 24th Regiment has come at least half way into the fold and only 2 and 3 Squadrons remain out in the ulu; the Vimy Project, with **Colonel North** as the full-time Project Liaison Officer, has become far more than make-believe. For the statistician, over 2,000 recruits have passed through 11th Regiment and 7,000 upgraders have returned for additional training; the recruit wastage rate in the Corps has become the lowest in the Army —and **Brigadier Woodrow** has outstayed the indefatigable **Major George Flynn** who retired in December 1967—which is more than the seven previous Commanders could say!

New Job

In May, **Brigadier Woodrow** assumes the appointment of Director of Public Relations at the Ministry of Defence.

We wish him, and **Mrs. Woodrow,** much fortune in this new appointment.

New Commander

The new Commander, **Brigadier Clarkson,** is now firmly in his seat of office and has taken up residence in Druggon House (yet another change). He is now in the process of looking over his new domain and although he has already paid each Regiment a short visit, he plans to revisit them shortly for a more detailed look round.

To our new Commander, and his wife, we extend a warm welcome.

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 22

Domestic News

THE Regiment has settled down well in its reorganised form and has once again begun an interesting exercise season. The difference is that we are using rather more sophisticated equipment than before, and this is synonymous with more sophisticated problems. There has, however, been just as great an emphasis on military skill.

On one exercise, our Squadron Clerk found the taps of the water trailer frozen solid (pleasures of B.A.O.R.); he filled his washbowl from a nearby jerrican and tried to wash his face—with paraffin. Our new **S.S.M. Brunston** swears he didn't say "anyone got a match!"

The Regiment has lost several old faces, possibly the best-known being **Sergeant Otley,** who is leaving the Army. **Major Walker,** the Second-in-Command, left us in February to command 10th Regiment at Hounslow. However, probably the most noteworthy achievement was the half-century scored by the Paymaster, **Captain Donald Grant,** he was 50 in March.

Boxing

Possibly the sporting activity of greatest interest to the Regiment is boxing. We were runners-up in the 2nd Division final of the Army Inter-Unit Championship, losing to the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment by seven bouts to four. Fifteen boxers were entered for the 2nd Division Individual Championships on 31st January; six of these went on to box in the B.A.O.R. Individual Championships in Berlin. The final of the 2nd Division welterweight bout, between **Lance-Corporal Varley** and **Lance-Corporal Parkinson,** in which the latter narrowly won on points, was heralded as the best amateur bout seen in B.A.O.R. for many years. Both boxers received a standing ovation at the end.

Signalman Pellingrinetti was nominated to box for the Army versus the Royal Navy in February, but unfortunately was unable to do so, due to Regimental commitments.

SKI-ING

A fortnight's training

The writer resisted the temptation to head this section 'Crossed Ski Notes from 2nd Division Signal Regiment' as it is rather too reminiscent of his own shaky performance at Oberjoch this year, but allowed himself this oblique reference to satisfy his vanity at having thought of such a witticism! Despite the grim warnings of 'blisters, sweat and tears' from those of the Regimental ski team, who had suffered the frustrations and agonies of cross-country ski-ing in previous years, the novices could have been forgiven for believing that they were on a 'jolly' to Bavaria. Such taunts and jibes as 'Have a good leave—don't forget your suntan lotion!' must have still been echoing in their ears as the team motored out of barracks on 2nd January. The falling snow which persisted throughout the sixteen-hour drive to Hinterstein set the scene of the fortnight's training, prior to the Divisional Meeting. Next morning it was a question of digging out of the hut, digging out the Land Rover and **Sergeant Edwards'** Mini (when we could find it!) and ploughing a new training track, knee-deep in the snow freshly fallen overnight. This last activity proved excellent for fitness training, but was time-wasting in terms of learning ski-ing techniques. The one-tonner, containing the near link to Bunde seemed in danger of disappearing altogether, except for the mast and dipole above it.

Snow like wet sugar

So we slogged away, cursing the clogging snow and our futile efforts at finding the right wax, until the day of walking the course for the 4 x 10 km. relay, the first event of the Divisional Meeting. This dawned bright and beautiful, like the ski-holiday brochure in 3-D and technicolour; crisp powder snow sparkling in the sun under the blue sky, with the breath freezing in the nostrils. This was what it was all about! All the sweat and slog, battling through blizzards of the previous days was worth it after all. Visions of super performances in the races in these ideal conditions floated before us. The next



MILITARY EFFICIENCY AS WELL AS ABILITY TO SKI

The G.O.C. marks the unit patrol team before they move off

day dawned—well, sort of dripped in, under leaden skies in swirling rain and sleet. There were still hopes that the course up the mountain at Oberjoch would be above this evil weather, but these were soon dashed, splashed, drowned and whipped away on the force 8 'breeze' that was slicing the sleet into our faces as we stood at the start of the race on snow which was like wet sugar. All good experience for the novice team, but one which **Sergeant Alexander,** our first runner, appeared to wish to forget when he indicated to me at the end of his lap that he had been wrongly advised about his wax—or words to that effect!

Broken skis

Our waxing improved by stages, but on the third lap **Gunner Roberts** (from H.Q. Squadron) had the misfortune to break a ski some 300 metres from the start. With great perseverence, he returned to the start and was equipped with a replacement, only to break a second ski at exactly the same place, *c'est la vie!* We withdrew from the race but sent **Signalman 'Chas' Ross** round the last lap for the experience. He was heard to remark afterwards that he felt he could have done better if he had left his skis behind and just run! We all had a crack at the 15 km. Individual Race, which was run in very icy conditions for the majority. There must have been a record number of broken skis during the race, but we had done our share and all finished. **Sergeant Edwards** and **Signalman Burns** were within seconds of each other, well up the field, **Alexander** confirmed his position as the best of the novices and was promptly selected to fill the vacant place in the Patrol Team.

Wax was a problem

The patrol was run in good weather, and shades of our earlier visions returned as we got off to a good start. Snow conditions varied as the race progressed, and the return half found us in trouble with our wax again. Despite an excellent performance on the range, which earned us second lowest time penalty in the race, the wax problem and an ageing officer, who had to be included to make the rank structure right, prevented the team from doing better than eleventh place in a field of nineteen.

Such are the varying fortunes of cross-country or langlauf ski-ing, but with some hard work done and experience gained, we look forward to better results next season. In the words of the Scottish bard: "No matter how lang you lauf, the wax has the last lauf."



TENSE AND ALL SET TO GO

At the start of the 15 kilometer race *Left to Right:* Signalman Alexander, Sergeant Edwards, Gunner Roberts, Signalman Rollinson

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment Bulford Camp

Where have all the Soldiers gone?

CARTER Barracks seems to have the air of a ghost town these days. Nearly everyone is out on exercises of one sort or another. 2 Squadron spend the odd weekend in barracks just to wash their smalls, and then disappear again into some remote fastness of their own. Trying to find out what they are up to meets with knowing looks and remarks of a highly technical nature regarding mobility trials and 'pruning the administrative tail.' 1 Squadron are not quite so reticent. They go out, not as a Squadron but as Troops. "A" Troop went to Penhale in Cornwall; we know this because we got a postcard from them. "C" Troop have gone to Cyprus with 38 Group R.A.F. and "B" Troop have been cohabiting with 2 Squadron. Even 3 Squadron and Divisional H.Q. Squadron have become infected with this wanderlust and various small parties from these two have been out either with 1 or 2 Squadrons or on some play of their own. Poor old R.H.Q. has been left to bear the heat and burden of the day at Bulford.

Hail and Farewell

Major Derek Hall, our Second-in-Command, has left us to go to Bahrein for a rest. **Major Woodbridge,** the new Second-in-Command, is now firmly in the chair and apart from wondering where all the men shown on the R.S.M.'s strength board are, is settling down very nicely.

Sporting Pink

The outstanding sporting personality at this time is **Corporal Venus** of 2 Squadron. He goes on exercises with the Squadron. Trains where and when he can and still manages to win the Army Cross-Country Championships. Came third (first for the Army) in the Army, University, Civil Service Cross-Country Match, and came second in the Inter-Services Cross-Country Match.

The soccer team lost the final of the East Wilts Cup to School of Army Aviation after a replay following a nil-nil draw. The score at the replay was 2-nil to Teeny Weeny Airways. However, they are still well placed in the League.

The hockey team has got through to the semi-final of the Divisional Cup, and the rugby team is through to the final of the S.W. District Cup and semi-final of the Southern Command Cup. They have only been defeated once since the start of the year and that was in the zone final of the Divisional Cup when they lost 6—5 to 16 Light A.D. Regiment R.A., but that was as nothing compared with our win over the School of Artillery by 8 to 5 after a 9—9 draw. The Gunners have been our bogey team for some seasons now and beating them means an achieved ambition for **Corporal Dave Brown,** the team captain, and his old guard of **Signalman Stephens, Lance-Corporal Thomas, Sapper Parr, Corporal John** and **Corporal Foskett.**

An eighteen strong party of skiers, under **Major Hasell,** went up to Aviemore for a week and got in some good ski-ing and returned with no broken bones, or hearts.

Social

The Wives' Club held a St. Valentine's dance and entertained their husbands—a very jolly occasion. Their next function was a Wine Tasting night—an even jollier function.

The Sergeants' Mess held a Tramps Ball which was well attended. Some photographs were taken but the R.S.M. has invoked the Official Secrets Act and slapped a D notice on any attempt to publish them.

4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

FEBRUARY has been an outstanding month for sport in the Regiment. At the Army/B.A.O.R. Ski-ing Championships, we won the Biathlon Relay 'A' and **R.Q.M.S. Marshall** won the Swedish Trophy for the top veteran in the British Army. Our fencing team won the Divisional Championships quite convincingly for the second year running, and we also carried off the Divisional Table Tennis Championships for the first time. Our hockey team has now reached the final of the Divisional Competition, and not to be outdone, our cooks reached the finals of the Divisional Cookery Competition, where they came third.

Also during the month we have had visits from the Chief of the General Staff, **General Sir James Cassels, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O.,** and the Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R., **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.**

Finally, on 4th March, we held our annual Regimental Signal Officers' Convention, when well over 100 attended.

SPORT

Ski-ing

The Regimental Ski Team, after qualifying to go to Oberjoch for the Army Championships, managed to bring back more trophies than from the Divisional Meeting in Austria. This was mainly from the efforts of our trainer, **R.Q.M.S. Marshall,** who himself won the Swedish Trophy for the top veteran in the British Army. Further, we won the B.A.O.R. Biathlon Relay 'A' quite convincingly by nearly three minutes, from The Queen's Own Highlanders—**Major Moore, R.Q.M.S. Marshall** and **Lieutenant Lowe** formed our team. We were extremely pleased to have probably the best set of results a signals team has so far achieved. **Signalman Lee,** who kept a consistently high standard throughout the season, excelled himself in the 15 km. race, and some first-rate shooting by **Corporal Camille, Signalman Lee** and **Signalman Newman,** in the Patrol Race (they only dropped 1 minute in penalties) put us 12th, despite the fact that we had poor wax in this gruelling 20 km. race.

Fencing—The Divisional Fencing Cup retained by the Regiment

The Divisional Fencing Finals were held this year in 4 RTR Gymnasium. Five teams were to 'do battle.' 17/21 L, 2 Grenadier Guards, 4 Divisional Engineers, 7th Regiment and ourselves. The teams of six (two foilists, two epeeists and two sabreurs) fought hard through the day and it was not until late afternoon that two teams emerged—4 Divisional Engineers and 4 Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment each with a clear run of victories. So it was, quite by chance, that the last match of the day was to decide the Divisional Championships.

The standard of fencing throughout had been high, our opponents were well fancied, and we know we would have to work hard to keep the cup. There were one or two hectic moments initially, but suddenly our second strings started to put our experts to shame, and with two fights to go **Sergeant Frazer** chalked up the winning victory for the team and the cup was safely back with the Regiment for another year.

Our team was made up as follows:

Foil: **Major H. Millman, W.O.I R. E. Mobbs.**

Sabre: **Major J. A. G. Moore, Second-Lieutenant R. L. Collins.**

Epee: **Major R. A. King** (team captain), **Sergeant M. S. Frazer.**

Reserves: **Lance-Corporal M. J. Dare, Captain J. M. Edgar.**

We are now all fencing hard (in between exercises) and looking forward to the B.A.O.R. Championships which are to be held on 28th March at Sennelager.

Hockey—Divisional Finalists

Once again we are in the Divisional Hockey Final. The semi-final game was played in Herford against the 3rd Royal Green Jackets on Wednesday, 14th February.

The game was slow to start, but from the start the Regiment looked the better hockey side. We were held by a hard, fast and fit Green Jackets side. Once or twice due to their speed they made several dangerous breakaways. Towards the end of the first half our right wing, **Corporal Le Carpentier,** broke away on his own and scored a magnificent goal.

The strength and experience of the Regiment added two more goals in the second half. Ten minutes from the end the Green Jackets caught a relaxed defence, took the opportunity and scored a good goal.

The Divisional Final is to be played on 6th March against the 1st Queens Dragoon Guards at Lemgo.

Oundle Cup

After the very successful visit to the Regiment last summer of 30 or so cadets, Oundle College presented the Regiment with a cup to be known as the 'Oundle' Cup, this to be competed for in an inter-Squadron hockey league. The winners and first holders of the Oundle Cup were 4 Squadron and the Divisional Commander, **Major-General V. F. Erskine-Crum, C.I.E., M.C.,** recently presented the cup to O.C. 4 Squadron, **Major P. D. E. Gregory.**

Final Inter-Unit Team Table Tennis

The final of the 4th Division Inter-Unit Table Tennis Championships took place on Friday, 1st March, when the Regiment played 22nd Regiment after having beaten 17/21 Lancers in a very close semi-final.

The G.O.C. 4 Division, **Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum,** was among the spectators.

Our team consisted of: **Corporal Monkman, Lance-Corporal Lewis** and **Lance-Corporal Brooker.**

The first set was fought out between **Brooker** and **Quinn.** This undoubtedly was the match of the evening with rallies lasting up to a minute. It was first class table tennis and a pleasure for the spectators to watch. This match was narrowly won by **Brooker.**

Final score was: 4th Division Regiment—6 sets; 22nd Regiment—3 sets.

We now look forward to the B.A.O.R. final shortly.

VISITORS

Visit of the Chief Signal Officer

We were delighted to have a visit from the new Chief Signal Officer B.A.O.R., **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.,** on the 6th/7th February. We held a supper dance in the Officers' Mess on the evening of the 6th February when the C.S.O. made a point of meeting every one of the 80 or so persons present. On the following day after meeting the Divisional Commander, the Brigadier toured the Regiment and finished the morning with a convivial buffet lunch in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. During the morning he had presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **Staff Sergeant Wrixon, Staff Sergeant Kirk, W.O.I Padkin, R.E.M.E.,** and **Staff Sergeant Myers, R.A.P.C.** Our photograph shows the Brigadier wetting the medals with champagne in the Sergeants' Mess afterwards!

Visit of the Chief of the General Staff

General Sir James Cassels, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., visited the Regiment for a short time on Wednesday, 14th February, during his farewell tour in B.A.O.R. On arrival in Hammersmith Barracks he was met by the Divisional Commander, **Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C.,** who introduced the C.G.S. to the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson,** and the R.S.M., **W.O.I R. G. Aitken.** Before proceeding to lunch in the Officers' Mess, the C.G.S. had a drink in the Sergeants' Mess where **R.S.M. Aitken** introduced him to all the R.S.M.s of the Division who had congregated to meet the C.G.S.



SPECIAL OCCASION
W.O.I (F. of S.) Flint meets the C.G.S., General Sir James Cassels

R.S.O.s Convention

This year's Regimental Signal Officers' Convention was even bigger and better than last year. Every R.S.O. in the Division came to Herford on the 4th March and in addition large contingents from our two Brigade Signal Squadrons, the two Corps Signal Regiments who are in our Divisional area, and a number of outside visitors. The C.R.A. 4th Division, **Brigadier D. F. A. T. Baines, M.B.E.,** represented the Divisional Commander who was away on that day and we were also glad to have C.C.R. Signals, **Brigadier C. E. Page, M.B.E.,** for most of the day. This year we welcomed two visiting speakers from the U.K.—**Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Baynham, G.M.,** from Signal Wing, School of Infantry, and **Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Polley** who is the Chief Instructor of the Signals Wing, R.A.C. Centre, Bovington. The convention was held in our gymnasium which had been fully fitted out for the Divisional Study Period, Exercise "9 o'clock," held some ten days earlier.

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

On 7th February we welcomed the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.;** after a tour of inspection around the Barracks we lunched him in the Mess with the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson,** and officers of the Regiment.

Friday, 9th February, we held another Wives' Dinner Night, and ninety-six husbands and wives sat down to dinner in the Hotel Loose, Bad Salsuflen. During dinner we were entertained by the Cambrai Band of the Royal Tank Regiment and afterwards the dance band section played for dancing.

The Valentines Dance held the following evening was a great success due to the hard work of our PEC, **Staff Sergeant Adams. Sergeant Wally Lockwood** led the field as 'Snow White' with **W.O.II Charlie Williams** leading the 'Dwarfs.' **Sergeant Gordon Hughes, R.A.P.C.,** made an excellent 'Wee Willie Winkie,' and the R.S.M. came as the 'Fastest gun' in Hammersmith Barracks.

On Wednesday, 14th February, the Chief of the General Staff, **General Sir James Cassels,** arrived in the Mess at 12.30 to meet all the R.S.M.s of the Division.

20.00 hours saw the R.S.M.s of the Division in Mess kit to await the arrival of **Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum,** G.O.C. 4 Division, to dinner along with the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson,** and **Major M. A. T. Hartnett,** Mess Supervising Officer. Mr. Vice for the evening was **Sergeant Spearpoint,** the only Sergeant at the table. During dinner the band of the Queen's Dragoon Guards played and excellent pipe music by the pipers of 2nd Bn. Scots Guards followed.

The Mess football team under the captaincy of **Sergeant 'Wonderful Wallace' Lockwood** are going from strength to



WILL HE MAKE IT?
The C.S.O., Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, wets the L.S. & G.C. medals (in the bottom of the boot)



HIGH POWERED DINNER

R.S.M. Aitken presides at the dinner for the R.S.M.'s of the Division held in the Sergeants' Mess

Sorry—we just can't keep R.S.M. Aitken out of The Wire—Editor.

strength and he is going to be missed when he is transferred to 24th Regiment. In our last two outings our opponents were 4th Royal Tank Regiment Sergeants, when we won 10—1, and 3rd Bn. Queen's Regiment Sergeants' Mess, again winning 8—4. The team now comes under the eagle eye of **Staff Sergeant 'Iron Legs' Common.**

To those of you that can still remember our old home in Block 4 Hamersmith Barracks you will be pleased to know that our next Mess notes will be written from 'Home.'

STOP PRESS

Divisional Hockey Final—6th March

News has just been received that the Regiment lost in the final to Q.D.G. by one goal to nil. It was a hard, fast match watched by a good crowd.

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

WHILST there is a tremendous amount of work going on behind the scenes to ensure that we are fully equipped and trained for the coming exercise season, and it is said that the Q.M. (Tech) department are "overworked and underpaid and 'ave never 'ad it so bad," we can assure all their closest friends that they do smile quite regularly. Detailed reporting of this period of Troop and Squadron training would not make interesting reading if it were to be kept unclassified (and we have many local friends who read our columns with avid interest) so this month our report is mainly on sport, starting at Troop level and ending with a mention of those who have achieved representation standard. First, however, a report on the most popular event of the month.

'The Way Inn'

After months of prodding and all the horrors of a Works Service, the alterations to our Junior Ranks Club were completed. We now have 'The Way Inn'—a social centre for Signalmen, Privates and Craftsmen and their wives and girlfriends. The new premises were formally handed over by N.A.A.F.I. on 24th February. **Mrs. C. E. Page,** wife of C.C.R. Signals, kindly performed the opening ceremony before a large crowd. After the ceremonial opening of the bar, the evening continued with a gala dance to the music of our latest group, 'The Invasion.'

Page Trophy—Shinty Competition

This competition took place throughout Friday, 1st March. Sierra Troop were first on court and showed that they were determined to be the first holders of the Page Trophy, with their robust, skilful play. They looked likely winners of the Shinty Shield as well, with their skilful Fijian forwards, shrewd **Capt. Browne,** the middle man, and the bulk of **Yorky Claxton** to deter all but the bravest opposing forwards. The competition progressed, keeping well up to the time schedule, every game providing excitement, with very few penalties, except for 'foot' infringements. Two or three players, though, found themselves with a one-minute penalty in the 'cooler,' and one little man from H.Q. was despatched there more for his own protection than for any damage he might have done to his opponents. Eventually, Kilo Troop proved just too strong for Sierra Troop in the final, with Foxtrot Troop worthy winners of the plate.

. . . and the Trophy winners

All events have now been completed in the Page Trophy Winter Competition. It is intended that the trophy will be presented twice yearly to the Troop giving the best all-round performance in a series of inter-troop competitions in as many sports as possible, in both summer and winter.

Having been runners-up in the Shinty Competition, Sierra Troop of 1 Squadron are to be the first holders of the trophy. **Brigadier Page** is to present the trophy during his farewell visit to the Regiment on 22nd March.

Hockey

The Regiment's hopes of going far in the Army Hockey Cup were dashed on Saturday, 17th February, when, in the second round of the 4th Division Championship, we were narrowly defeated, 1—0, by our near neighbours, The Royal Dragoons. Having recently played some excellent hockey and having beaten 3rd Queen's by 5—1 in the previous round, our hopes were high, but at half-time, after 35 minutes of exciting and evenly-matched play, the teams changed ends with no goals having been scored.

In the second half the Royals went ahead with a goal scored from a penalty corner. They almost scored a second goal from a penalty flick, but it was athletically saved by goalkeeper **Staff Sergeant Dale.** The Regimental XI tried desperately hard to equalise and very nearly did so when **Sergeant Luis,** the left-winger went through and pushed the ball towards an open goalmouth. However, a Royals defender, coming from behind, overtook the ball and almost miraculously cleared it behind when it was within inches of crossing the goal-line.

No further goals came, and thus we went down 1—0, but still fighting. Good luck to the Royals, worthy winners on the day, in their next game against the Queen's Dragoon Guards. The winners of this match will meet 4th Signal Regiment in the Divisional final. We thought, in our innocence, that this year's final was to be a 'local derby' between 4th and 7th Regiments. However, watch out for us next year, we don't give up easily.

Fencing

This is a new venture in the Regiment. Enthusiasts **Second-Lieutenant-Clark** and **Staff Sergeant Roberts** started a 'crash course' to produce a team for the Divisional Championships. The learners did very well; **Signalman Moran,** after only a few hours' instruction, beat an opponent who has fenced internationally. **Lance-Corporal Atkins** also did well. Alas, the teachers did not always practice what they had taught, and so as a team we got nowhere in the championships. However, it is good to see the interest developing in this sport, and it is rumoured that the Wives' Club members may shortly be trying their hands.

Representative Honours

Judo.—C.S.M.I. Dolphin and **Corporal Cairns** were selected to represent B.A.O.R. in a match against the Dutch Army at Roermond, in Holland, on Tuesday, 5th March.

Rugby.—No less than four of the Regiment were picked to represent the B.A.O.R. XV v. the Dutch National team on Saturday, 2nd March—**Second-Lieutenant Thewlis, Sergeant Zoing** (who left his kicking boots behind), **Corporals Cairns** and **Drika** made up the quartet, together with **Lieutenant Bill Backhouse,** whom we all regard as a seventh man. Judging by the report on BFBS, **Cairns** was prominent, as usual, and this sort of performance from our players should mean a good run of success in the forthcoming seven-a-side tournaments. All four players have been selected for the second B.A.O.R. game v. R.A.F. (U.K.) Technical Training Command.

7th Regiment's new Junior Ranks Club— It was quite an evening at the "Way Inn"







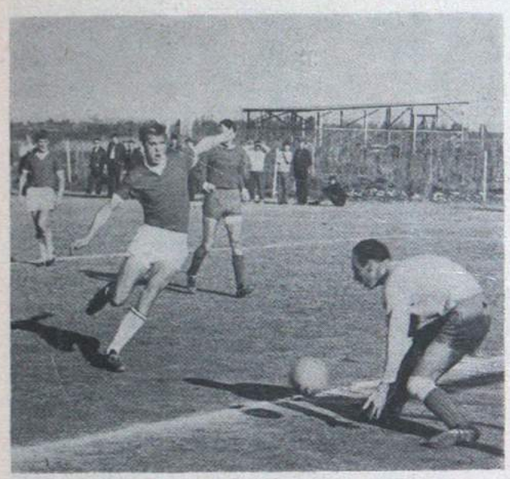






1. **Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Sherratt takes over the Club. In the background (l. to r.): Signalmen Charteries, Bell, Brearley, and Green, Mrs. Taylor and Signalman Thursfield**
2. **Mrs. Page (wife of C.C.R. Signals) receives a bouquet from Mrs. Taylor**
3. **Mrs. Page meets Signalman Beevers and Mrs. Tomlinson**
4. **The bar was popular, of course. Paddy Flynn serves pints to Signalmen Parker, Robinson and Smith.**
5. **The 'Invasion' entertained (l. to r.): Signalmen Lockington, Harbird and Corporal Bellemy**
6. **A particularly cheerful party (l. to r.): Corporal Burgin Mrs. Reeves, Signalman Reeves, Signalmen Evans and Cox and Mrs. Malseed, wife of Signalman Malseed**

9th Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 53



TENSE MOMENT
Andrews of 2 Squadron moves in on the R.A.F. goal at the minor units league championship play-off verses R.A.F. Ayios Nikalos

Saddle Club

AFTER many weeks of preparation it came as a great disappointment to hear that the all-island Services' Race Meeting had been cancelled. However, thanks to the efforts of Akrotiri Saddle Club, a 'match' between our two clubs was arranged, and took place on Saturday 17th February.

There were only four races, but they turned out to be well worth the long journey. The first race, for maidens (horses that have never won, for the uninitiated!), was won by Gypsy, piloted by **Jack Downes;** Cherokee, ridden by **Martin Hallam,** and carrying two stones more than Gypsy, was a close second.

Half-an-hour later the second race was run. This time that accomplished young horsewoman, **Kathy Methven,** brought Saladin home first. The run of success for the Regimental Club continued with the third race, when **Jack Downes'** beloved Georgie Boy completely outclassed the opposition. This was an immensely popular win. Georgie Boy, formerly known as Yuri Gagarin when racing at Nicosia, broke down more than twelve months ago, and was sold to the Unit Saddle Club. Months of patient nursing followed, and judging by **Jack's** face when he returned to the unsaddling enclosure, every minute was worthwhile.

The last race saw a well-deserved win for Akrotiri, when Ottoman just held off Sunset's late challenge.

With three wins under their belt, the Regimental contingent returned in high spirits, but remembered even more than the racecourse successes is the wonderful hospitality shown by Akrotiri.

Rugby

Happy Valley, Episkopi, was the venue for the annual Rugby Sevens. The event, counting towards the Chief Signals Officer's Cup, took place on 23rd February. 3 Squadron were favourites to retain the cup, which they won last year, but in their first match they encountered a determined 2 Squadron team. It became clear that the 2 Squadron policy was to blot out the Regimental and 3 Squadron scrum-half, **Warwick,** and this they did, with great success. With a limited supply of the ball, the 3 Squadron backs were entirely unable to get into the game. A fine movement by the 2 Squadron backs culminated in **Boult** crossing for a try, and then, as they pressed for an equaliser, a loose pass led to **Webster** racing away for 2 Squadron's second try.

The final, between 2 Squadron and 259 Squadron began dramatically, when **Webster** collected the opening kick, crashed through five tackles and fed **Blackman,** only ten yards out. Despite excellent defensive work, 259 were never able to get back in the game, and 2 Squadron deservedly took the cup, having not conceded a point.

Soccer

In addition to winning the Commander, 3 Group's, Rugby Sevens, 2 Squadron also annexed the Soccer Cup. In the final they met 1 Squadron, and ran out comfortable winners, 6—0. What a season the team has had! Their record for the year is—played 21, won 21, goals for 139, against 24. They won the Minor Units League Knockout Cup for the second consecutive year. Their C.S.O.'s Cup win, incidentally, was their fourth consecutively.

Much of the credit for this outstanding season must go to the 2 Squadron skipper, **Williamson.** Playing in the centre-half berth, he has been the rock on which the team has been built. He played consistently well and thoroughly deserved his selection for the Army (Cyprus). **Anderson** also gained representative colours.

10th Regiment
Hounslow

MAJOR (Q.M.) J. F. McQUADE
41 Years In Khaki

"Mac" McQuade was born in 1915. In 1927, as a tender 11-year-old, he joined the Duke of Yorks Royal Military School, and three years later enlisted into Boys Service with "F" Company at Catterick Camp. In 1933 he joined the ranks and was posted to "A" Corps Signals, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, where he worked as a telegraphist on the Army radio link U.K.-China-India-Egypt.



Major (Q.M.) J. F. McQuade

From 1935 to 1938, he served in Palestine and Malta, and between 1938 to 1943 with a Special Wireless Section in Palestine, Egypt, Western Desert, Syria, Sudan and Iraq. 1943/1944 was spent with Special Operators Training Battalion in U.K., and then seven years in North-West Europe with Special Wireless and later with 7 Armoured Div. Signal Regiment.

Between 1951-1956, **'Mac' McQuade** rose from R.Q.M.S. with Western Command Signals Regiment to W.O.I (R.S.M.) of 2 War Office Signal Regiment. He was commissioned in 1956 and served three years as Q.M. of Forces Broadcasting Service in Cyprus. Between 1959 and 1964 he served with 1 Corps Signal Regiment as M.T.O., 16th Regiment, as SWS Officer and 239 Squadron as Administrative Officer.

In 1964 he joined 10th Regiment where he spent the last years of his soldiering as Q.M./M.T.O. until his retirement in 1968.

Forty-one years in khaki, served in nine overseas countries and rose from Boys Service to Major Quartermaster. A record of which to be proud.

"Mac" remains, we are pleased to say, with 10th Regiment as ROIII, so his long service with the Army continues.



A MEASURE OF TOT's
Six of the seven TOT's serving with 10th Signal Regiment
From left to right: Major (TOT) A. G. Pritchard, Major (TOT) R. G. Dore, Major (TOT) E. Thompson, Major (TOT) W. Ellis, Major (TOT) C. V. Impey, Major (TOT) P.W. Dale,
(Absent from parade Major (TOT) W. Brewin)



NO WONDER TABLE TENNIS IS GETTING POPULAR WITH THE BOYS
Winners of Southern Command Inter-Unit Championships from left to right: Lance-Corporal Mary Spencer, Lance-Corporal Jean Bailey, Lance-Corporal Barbara Castle, Private Sue Webber

3 Squadron

MAJOR M. R. ASHPLANT and **Second-Lieutenant B. Simmons** arrived at the beginning of February and the S.S.M., **W.O.II Tellick,** arrived mid-January.

The Squadron has said goodbye to several personalities—**Captain M. R. Paterson,** who is getting married in March, and **Lieutenant P. Burton** and **Second-Lieutenant A. Smith,** who have both gone to other appointments. We wish them all the best of luck.

Staff Sergeant Stead, of the Comcen, and **Lance-Corporal Veale,** our newly-arrived PTI, played in the Southern Command Badminton Championships and are now going forward to the Army Championships.

4 Squadron

On 31st January, 4 Squadron won the Southern Command Inter-Unit W.R.A.C. Table Tennis Competition by beating 6th Training Regiment, R.C.T., 3—2. It is of interest to note that 6th Training Regiment have held the cup for six years; in fact they had held it so long that they lost it, and had to buy a new one to give to 4 Squadron.

4 Squadron now go forward to represent Southern Command in the Army Championships to be held at Aldershot on 15th/16th February.

The 4 Squadron team is: Doubles, **Lance-Corporal Spencer, Private Webber;** 1st string, **Lance-Corporal Bailey;** 2nd string, **Lance-Corporal Castle.**

Lance-Corporals Bailey and **Castle** are also entering the Army Championships as individuals.

There is a triangular match, W.R.A.C. v. W.R.A.F. v. Civil Service, on 10th February, in which **Lance-Corporal Bailey** has been selected to play.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Visits

ON Monday, 5th February, the Regiment received a farewell visit from **General Sir James N. Cassels, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O.** Although he was unable to spend a long time with the Regiment, the General inspected a Regimental quarter guard and met Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Garrison in the Sergeants' Mess.



SPECIAL OCCASION
The Chief of the General Staff inspects the quarter guard at the 11th Regiment

The new Brigade Commander, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** visited the Regiment on Tuesday, 27th February. The Brigadier spent a lightning hour with the Regiment as an introduction, but intends to spend a whole day with us soon for a more detailed look.

Farewell to Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E.

The bad weather on Friday, 1st March, in no way daunted the spirits on the parade drawn up to bid farewell to **Brigadier**



ENCOUNTER

"Training a squad of recruits is like conducting a choir" Brigadier Clarkson learns from W.O.II Knight

A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., our departing Brigade Commander. During the parade **Brigadier Woodrow** presented five Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. One, a rather belated presentation to **Mr. J. H. Sutherland,** who left the Army in 1945. Not unnaturally, this attracted a great deal of coverage from the national and local Press and local television. Another of the medals was presented to **R.Q.M.S. Eric Robinson,** our own R.Q.M.S.

Arrivals and Departures

This month we said farewell to **Captain John Drake,** who is going to the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, also to **Corporal Mick Kenning,** who is going to 225 Squadron. Arrivals this month are **Lieutenant Gus Vigurs,** from the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, and **Corporal Kenyon,** from 7th Regiment.

Pass-off parade



Signalman Ken Spicer

Also on parade on 1st March were 15 recruits of November 3 Troop, who were passing-off. The best recruit was **Signalman Kenneth William Spicer,** who had previously been a van driver and a collector salesman; he joined the Army because his civilian prospects were so limited. **Signalman Spicer,** who comes from London, now goes for training as a Telegraph Operator.

H.Q. Gurkha Signals & 17 Gurkha Signal Regiment, Seremban

THIS H.Q. and the Regiment have just spent a most enjoyable 24 hours with the Signal Officer-in-Chief. We like to think he enjoyed it as much as we did.

Gurkha Dances

Major-General Anderson arrived on the afternoon of 22nd February, and was first invited along to the Gurkha Officers' Mess by the Gurkha Major. **Major Birbahadur Rawat** had arranged a short programme of Gurkha dances. They were well selected and indicated the variation between Eastern and Western Nepalese cultures. The General conversed easily with the Gurkha Officers between the dances and learned something of their views and opinions on the projected rundown and withdrawal plans. This was followed by a dinner at the Commanding Officer's house to meet Senior Officers of the Regiment and the Divisional and Garrison Commanders, with their wives.

Deep in the jungle

In order to show the General as much as possible, an early start was made the following day with an 07.30 hours inspection of the quarter guard. Then on to the office of the G.O.C./Major-General, Brigade of Gurkhas, **Major-General A. G. Patterson, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.,** at eight o'clock, for a briefing and discussion on Gurkha and Far Eastern problems. Here the General also met **Captain Roger Willsher,** Gurkha Signals, who is A.D.C. to **General Patterson.**

Next, into the jungle. At Paroi Airstrip a Naval Wessex helicopter lifted the General and C.O. to an old timber clearing at the foot of Gunong Angsi. Nothing could be detected from the helicopter as it dropped noisily down between the 150ft. primary jungle trees. As the rotors stopped, **Major T. C. Livingstone** stepped out from behind some undergrowth to report that within a twenty-yard radius of the 'chopper' were deployed eight detachments of Gurkha Signals, with some R.S.I.s under training and Gurkha Signal elements of the Gurkha Para Company. The detachments included one D11/R234 and a radio relay terminal. The General moved under the jungle canopy and visited all detachments. He spoke to every man, in English, and appeared to be satisfied with answers he got. He was interested to see the range of 'Charpoys,' which a Gurkha can produce from jungle timber and vines—using only his kukri—complete with 'interior-sprung' palm and fern mattresses.

The General tasted the curry being cooked and said it was good. **Lieutenant Gordon Mills,** of 2 (Training) Squadron, guided the S.O.-in-C. around the demonstration by the Infantry Signallers. This showed what a Gurkha Battalion H.Q. would look like in deep jungle. **Captain Johnny Fielding** had brought some of his Para Company Signallers up from Kluang and showed two detachments in their S.A.S. patrol and observation roles; the latter are not readily indentifiable as Gurkha Signals as they now wear red berets and a Parachute Regiment badge.

General Anderson commented on the height at which the dipole aerial for the D11 had been fastened between two trees; it was almost 100 feet up. **Lance-Corporal Minbahadur Gurung** of 2 Squadron demonstrated his technique with a piece of lead and some light line. He was perhaps fortunate to achieve the same height, over another branch, at his first attempt.

Straight from Blandford to a jungle peak

The C42, Radio Relay and Infantry A41's from this location were all working through rebroadcast and relay stations on the summit of Gunong Angsi. The Wessex next lifted the party to the top where **Second-Lieutenant Leslie Smith** had been waiting two days to meet them. Leslie only arrived from Blandford a month ago and has found that three days on a jungle peak with only Gurkhas for company is an excellent way of learning the language—or becoming a recluse. With his detachments he had positioned all his equipment to give the best possible relay facilities, constructed some workmanlike bashas, sited his allround defence weapon slits and cleared a suitable helipad. The weather was glorious, bright sun with a refreshing wind. Port Dickson and the Malacca Straights could clearly be seen in the distance. Reluctantly the General, and **Brigadier Brindley,** emplaned and dropped rapidly to the hotter plains below, leaving a curry-bound subaltern to begin the task of dismantling all he had built up.

The other side of the coin

From warfare to welfare; within 15 minutes of leaving Gunong Augsi the S.O.-in-C. was in the Gurkha family lines at Sikamat Camp. Here the Gurkha Major and **Mrs. Dacre** introduced him to the shop, run by wives of the Regiment, Kindergarten, children's school and goldsmiths shop. The WRVS, **Miss Lee,** and the doctor, **Captain Watson,** next showed him around the Families' Hospital. Here the General was introduced to our newest recruit, aged about six hours. As someone remarked, "Our doctor always pulls something 'out of the bag' for a VIP visit!"

The S.O.-in-C. at 17th Signal Regiment



1. GENERAL SALUTE! The Quarter Guard of 17th Gurkha Regiment receives the S.O.-in-C.

2. DIPOLES MUST BE HIGH IN THE JUNGLE. Lance-Corporal Minbahadur Gurung shows the S.O.-in-C. how to get an aerial 100 ft up a tree. Brigadier Brindley (C.S.O. FARELF), Major Livingstone and Lieutenant Mills look on

3. ARE THESE BEDS REALLY COMFORTABLE? ? General Anderson inspects jungle type "charpoys"

4. PLEASED TO MEET YOU. Mrs. Chandra Locksom Tamang, wife of W.O.II SANGDUP TAMANG, with General Anderson in the Families Shop, where she is one of the helpers

Pipers, curry and relaxation

A series of briefings in the C.O.'s office was followed by a typical Gurkha Signals curry lunch in the Officers' Mess, with wives in attendance, Pipes and Drums playing on the lawn, and the pilots from the Wessex helicopters relaxing after completion of the airlift. (For some reason, **Second-Lieutenant Smith** insisted on eating salad).

During the afternoon we showed the S.O.-in-C. that we could also communicate from the more civilised surroundings of the Rasah Comcen. The C.D.S.O., **Lieutenant John Pilkington,** and T.O.T., **Lieutenant Doug Willis,** explained some of our problems and attempts to overcome them; money seemed to play a large part in the matters discussed.

The last part of the visit enabled the General to speak to all Royal Signals ranks in the Junior Ranks' Club, followed by half an hour, during the weekly 'Happy Hour,' at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Brigadier Brindley then flew off south to Singapore and the S.O.-in-C. motored north back to Kuala Lumpur.

It had been a very busy but thoroughly pleasant day. All ranks, quite sincerely, would echo the words of one of our favourite pipe tunes—"Will ye no come back again?"

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

THOSE VISITS

The Annual Inspection

MAJOR-GENERAL D. N. H. TYACKE, O.B.E., G.O.C. Singapore District, carried out the annual inspection of the unit on Thursday, 15th February. The day got off to a good start with a ceremonial parade which provided the setting for the presentation of the M.S.M. to **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Madley** and the L.S. & G.C. to **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Wright.** Amongst the more novel items on the programme were a look at the Wives' Club Shooting Team, who were busy in the miniature range, and assault course training by H.Q. and No. 2 Squadrons.

The inspection was brought to a successful conclusion with a drink in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and lunch with the officers.

The Visit of DWRAC

Brigadier The Honourable M. M. Anderson, M.B.E., Honorary A.D.C., visited the Army Communications Centre and Telephone Exchange at Tanglin on Friday, 16th February, and our W.R.A.C. artificer telecommunication **Staff Sergeant Holingworth** now serving with 612 Troop. This was followed by an informal visit to R.H.Q. and lunch in the Princess Mary Mess.



EYES RIGHT AND SWING THOSE ARMS! —
Tanglin Troop of the 18th Regiment look a soldierly lot as they march past the G.O.C. Singapore District

The Visit of the S.O.-in-C.

Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., visited the Regiment on 28th and 29th February and accompanied his youngest brother, now in command, and the Chief Signal Officer on an extensive tour of the Regiment and its amenities. The S.O.-in-C. made a point of talking to all he met, including those on courses from other units in FARELF. The Wives' Club featured again and he met **Mrs. Lee**—the mother of the Prime Minister of Singapore—who was giving a fascinating talk on Chinese customs. The Regimental Quarter Guard of M.O.R.s dressed in No. 3 Dress with Songkoks and Sarongs provided a colourful spectacle to start the tour of Princess Mary Barracks.

The Regiment also had the pleasure of organising three social functions in honour of the S.O.-in-C. in Princess Mary Officers' Mess—a high level buffet supper on the evening of 27th, a Regimental luncheon party on the 29th February and a cocktail party, at which the S.O.-in-C. met all the Royal Signals officers and their wives serving in Singapore, on 1st March. **Major Gordon-Jones** arranged a colourful display of Indian, Malay and Chinese dances for the 27th February and after the cocktail party.

Both the S.O.-in-C. and the District Commander were particularly impressed with the arrangements in the Junior Ranks Mess for feeding the British, Malay, Indian and Chinese soldiers living in Barracks and the high standard of messing achieved. Having seen this and all the other amenities available to the Regiment the S.O.-in-C. was heard to remark, "It's a hard life in Singapore." We're sure he didn't mean it—so come and join us! We are glad to report that the two brothers parted on the best of terms, mutually congratulating each other on their achievements.

A SURFEIT OF SPORT

February has seen the tail end of the hockey and rugby and the beginning of the football and cricket season. The rugby players run the risk of running out of their allocation of duty free beer if they go on much longer—plus that of doing themselves a permanent injury on the rock hard ground. (There's been hardly any rain this year.)

No. 1 Squadron, led personally by **Major Gordon-Jones,** is now bound to win the inter-Squadron hockey competition having won all their five matches. 249 Squadron won the inter-Squadron football competition after a hard fight against No. 3 Squadron, the runners-up. We are all pleased to see our new football officer—**Captain Angus Kelly**—having a go in the No. 1 Squadron team despite his predilection for the oval ball game.

Major Roberts (O.C. No. 2 Squadron), who is President of District Cross-Country, had the task of laying on the District Championships on 16th February. It turned out to be a Royal Signals benefit apart from one individual runner. 249 Squadron gave a very fine exhibition of fitness and team training taking four out of the first five places—**Corporal Dring** being the winner of the individual championships. Alas, our sister Regiment, 19th, beat us to the post and the Regiment itself came third overall and were runners-up in the major units championship.

The north-east monsoon has continued to blow hard and despite the end of the Regatta season we are still involved in competition sailing.

Major Barker (Second-in-Command) and **Second-Lieutenant McCulloch** are both helming for the Army in the team now being trained for the FARELF Inter-Services Sailing Competition. **Captain Brady, W.R.A.C.,** is crewing for **Pat McCulloch** in his 'Firefly.'

Captain Palmer is once more in his element and has started the first of two canoeing courses to be held by the Regiment. He and **Captain Cullen** (the Adjutant) tried hard to drown themselves on a night raid on the MPT course, enjoying their island camp on Pulau Puwai, but returned hale and hearty the next day.

THE DOVER ROAD DOLPHINS

In December last year we formed a children's swimming club with the object of teaching non-swimmers to swim. The club has since blossomed, and we now have over eight members, and will shortly be starting instruction for the Royal Life Saving Society awards. To date we have qualified 32 separate Amateur Swimming Association awards. We hold 10 gold, 20 silver and 32 bronze ASA survival badges. Out of 26 non-swimmers, 18 are swimming proficiently and the remaining eight will shortly be ready for their bronze. Next year we hope to compete in the Inter-Club Swimming Galas, but those days are far away as yet.



BROTHER—TELL ME ANOTHER!
Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson tries to convince his elder brother Major-General Anderson. Captain Todd listens with interest and anxiety



HOW ARE THINGS GOING?
The S.O.-in-C. has a word with Sergeant Campbell of 647 Troop on a course at the S.T.C.(F.E.). Behind are Corporal Sewell and S.S.M. Cole



A POINT OF INTEREST
Mrs. Lee (Mother of the Prime Minister of Singapore) makes a point with General Anderson. Brigadier Brindley and Mrs. Anderson (junior) listen with interest

Captain J. G. Green

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Captain John Green,** serving with 249 Squadron. He was a popular member of Princess Mary Mess, and his cheerful presence will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife **Paula** in the U.K.

THE PRINCESS MARY CLUB

A word or two to all junior ranks who are lucky enough to find that they are being posted to Singapore and especially 18th Regiment in these times of run-down. Apart from the unending forms of entertainment outside Service establishments in Singapore, there is our own all Junior Ranks Club in 18th Regiment, namely the Princess Mary Club.

For approximately one year now the Princess Mary Club has been one of our features, transforming the unit NAAFI into a place which offers entertainment rather than a place for our junior ranks to practice breaking the Singapore Tiger Beer drinking record. The club has a committee supervised by O.C. H.Q. Squadron, chaired by **W.O.II (S.S.M.) McGilvray** (who has been with it from the start) and committee members made up of representatives from each Squadron, including 249 Squadron, our neighbours.

From the early days when the club existed on a meagre $200 monthly grant from the PRI we have rapidly transformed the club into an entirely self-supporting concern. Our source of income is derived mainly from our weekly Tombola sessions held in a unit club in Singapore. Apart from playing Tombola at these weekly sessions our patron's can play 'Take Your Pick' (with acknowledgements to Michael Miles) which transforms the usual dull raffle into an interesting and exciting gamble with a chance (dare I say it) of going on the 'Treasure Trail' which can and does mount up to a sizeable cash prize for any lucky winner. With our regular income we hold dances each month, games nights and trips out to Singapore local breweries where one can sample the delights of free Tiger beer straight from the vats. Our monthly dances are splendid affairs based usually on a theme ranging from 'Fancy Dress,' 'Tramp Balls,' 'Hawaiian and Pyjama Nights,' etc., to our latest theme dance, a 'Roaring Twenties Night.' We even ran our own Christmas Draw last year. These functions are patronised by not only members of our unit but other units in Singapore and the 'PM Club' is well known as far afield as Johore Bahru (the Naval Base).

It can be appreciated that our committee work very hard in their own time to organise and prepare these club activities. Many thanks are due to our former club secretary, **Corporal 'Smudge' Smith,** and to our present 'ball of fire' **Corporal Joe Hunter,** and indeed to all committee members, past and present. You can see there is a place in our unit where single junior ranks and their girl friends and married soldiers and their wives can go for a good night out at our own unit club. (Would-be volunteers will also find an active Corporals' Club to entertain them).

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

Inter-Troop Hockey

THE final of the Inter-Troop Hockey Tournament this year was between 2 S.H.Q./"A" Troop versus 3 S.H.Q./"L" Troop. The game was played in an excellent spirit throughout but 2 S.H.Q./"A" Troop were not in the same class as 3 S.H.Q./"L" Troop who won by 8 goals to nil.

Basket Ball—Rhine Army Finals

The Regimental basketball team met H.Q. B.A.O.R. in the Rhine Area finals and after a bad start in the first half, they were lagging behind by 9 to 21 points, began to find their form. As the whistle blew **Corporal Dore** was spinning the ball into the basket but we were still 4 points behind. Out of nine matches played this was our first and only defeat.

Cross Country—R.A.F. Germany League

R.A.F. Laarbruch won the R.A.F. Germany Cross-Country League and we were proud to have eight members of the Regiment in the 10-men team.

Following on this, 2 ATAF have requested that three of our cross-country runners, namely **Signalman Fry, Corporal Storer** and **Corporal Brighton,** shall run for them in the NATO competition. To crown it all they have requested that **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Cantle** shall act as trainer for the team.

3 Div. H.Q. and Signals Plaque

On the closure of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at R.A.F. Geilenkirchen the members requested that the plaque presented to them by 3 Divisional H.Q. and Signals Regiment should be handed on to R.H.Q. of 21st Regiment.

3 Divisional H.Q. and Signals Regiment please note that it will be suitably inscribed and displayed in a prominent place in our conference room along with the Regimental silver.

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp



THE FIRST OF VERY MANY

Brigadier Woodrow pulls the first pint at the opening of the new W.O.'s and Sergeant's Mess bar in 24th Signal Regiment. R.S.M. Pearce—all smiles—supervises

Annual Administrative Inspection

THE Quarter Guard were stood smartly to attention, the Brigadier was expected in five minutes and a young W.R.A.C. girl was walking across the square. Suddenly she vanished up to her waist, to the amazement of all onlookers. Unknown to us the snowplough, while clearing the square, had cracked a manhole cover. Fortunately she was not seriously hurt and the Adjutant was heard to mutter, "Why couldn't she have waited five minutes."

The inspection, the last by **Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E.,** before leaving the Brigade, was a great success.

Brigade Commander's Farewell Parade

The Regiment supplied one of the Squadrons for the parade on Friday, 1st March, to say farewell to **Brigadier Woodrow** who has left to become Director of Army Public Relations. Our own tame 'Offensive' Public Relations Officer, **Second-Lieutenant Niel Mackereth,** was responsible for arranging the presentation of the L.S. and G.C. to **Mr. William Sutherland,** formerly a C.Q.M.S. in the Royal Corps of Signals.

The parade was very successful. We won't mention which was the smartest Squadron and which officers had the steadiest swords—it's too obvious!

Off to Grenada

Second-Lieutenant Janet Phillips, W.R.A.C., after a short stay with us has gone to Grenada to promote the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme in the West Indies. She holds the Gold Award and won this task in a competition for the best plan for starting the scheme in Grenada. She is taking with her a canoe which she built herself and she will be there for three months. We wish her a happy and successful stay and are all envious.

Sergeants' Mess Bar

Getting priorities right the Sergeants' Mess built themselves a new bar early in the new year, which was opened by the Brigade Commander at the end of January. We congratulate them on their efforts and wish all success to those who sail or float in her.

Congratulations, Farewells and Welcomes

We congratulate **Lieutenant Bob Stark** on his marriage and wish them both every happiness.

The changeover of officers has been large in the last few months. We say farewell to **Second-Lieutenant Cheryl Booth, W.R.A.C.,** and wish her all happiness in her forthcoming marriage; farewell to **Major Pat Templeman-Evans, Captain 'Nobby' Clarke, R.A.E.C., Captain Eric Wall, Second-Lieutenant Neville Munro, A.C.C., W.O.I (R.S.M.) Michael Moloney, W.O.II Alma Franklin, W.R.A.C.**

We welcome **Captain John Fry, R.A.E.C., Captain Peter Chilvers, Captain Dennis Carnell, Lieutenant Craig Treeby, Second-Lieutenant Neil Mackereth, Second-Lieutenant Sue Healy** and **W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Arthur Bramhall, W.O.II Peter Hawkins** and **W.O.II Sheila Weatherall, W.R.A.C.**

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FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

10,000 feet up, 13 feet of snow and instruction in French!

The ski course that certainly was different!

By Lieutenant Hugh Bennett, 261 Squadron

Unexpected awakening

ON Friday, 5th January, I had just returned from U.K. leave—courtesy of B.E.A.—and, having been travelling all night, had gone to bed. I was violently awakened by **Lieutenant (T.O.T.) John Jupe** bursting into my room, wanting to know if I wanted to go ski-ing in the Lebanon on the next week-end. Once I was awake and realised what he was saying, I said I would, and, as a result, the following Sunday I found myself on a M.E.A. Viscount flight to Beirut.

The Lebanon

Accompanied by another officer, **Lieutenant Mike Whitfield,** of 3rd Carabiniers, from El Adem, in Libya, I arrived at Beirut Airport to be met by the British Military Attaché, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Evans, M.C.,** and be swindled by the airport bank on currency exchange—travellers beware!

We were conducted to the Mayflower Hotel, driven by the Colonel's driver, a Lebanese by the name of "Joudad." At once we had our first taste of Lebanese driving, which is unbelievably "hairy"; it is by far the worst I have ever seen, being basically a case of the survival of the most fearless, with the 'chickens' being driven to the wall (literally).

Due to the fact that the Middle East was experiencing its worst weather for ten years, we were to stay in Beirut for five nights before we could get to the Cedars of Lebanon, where the Army Ski-School is situated, as the roads were all blocked. However, Beirut is by no means the dullest city in the world, in fact for an Arab country, it is a remarkably 'swinging' place. Mini-skirted girls, kinky boots—no hippies as yet—but more European than Arabic. The night life of Beirut is quite something, too, though very expensive. We went to the famous 'Casino de Liban,' which is a large, modern Casino outside the town. It has very expensive gaming, a restaurant with the best cabaret in the Middle East, complete with magic carpets, live horses charging across the stage, naked girls in goldfish bowls, and even a train puffing around the auditorium.

The Lebanon is rich in antiquities. While we were there we went to Sydon, the ancient Phoenician port, and Byblos, where writing was invented, all a mixture of Phoenician, Roman, Greek, Crusader and Turkish.

The Cedars of Lebanon

Finally, after one abortive attempt and five nights in Beirut, we managed to get to within five miles of the Cedars of Lebanon, to the neighbouring village of Becharre. The people who live up in the mountains are completely different from the coastal dwellers. They are nearly all Maronite Christians and are very non-Arabic in appearance, manners and way of life; this Christianity is due to the Crusader influence, which is still very strong, as over the years most Christians have been driven into the mountains.

The next day we went from Becharre to the village of the Cedars in a taxi, and from there walked the last two kilometres to the Army Ski School. The School is situated by the Cedars of Lebanon. There are the remnants of what in Biblical times were large forests. They are now a group of about fifty cedar trees, from 1,500 to 6,000 years old. The cedar is the national symbol of the Lebanon, and since time immemorial has been much prized for its beauty and strength; because they are in such short supply, they are now protected, and the only cedar wood available is that which blows down in storms.

The Army Ski-School provided us with skis, sticks and boots, and instruction where required. We then went on to the Cabane Hotel, where we were to stay. This hotel is situated about three kilometres beyond the Army School, and since the road was not yet open, we had to ski there. The hotel is at the bottom of the ski-lifts, of which there are three—unfortunately not working whilst we were there. It is the highest hotel in the Middle East, being at an altitude of 7,000ft. The surrounding mountains go up to 10,000ft. and were thickly snow covered, this snow lasts until April, and even May. While we were there there was about 13ft. of snow, thus, most of the single storey buildings were nearly buried and several cars had disappeared three weeks previously.

The ski-ing

Due to the bad weather, we were unfortunate in not getting as much ski-ing as we might have done; however, we got some good instruction from one of the Ski-School instructors. He was an "Adjutant-Chef" (Sergeant-Major) who had been instructing there for 25 years.

As all instruction was carried out in French, this being the only language which was even half way common to all three of us, some of the results were a bit chaotic, but it is remarkable how much one learns. Due to the lack of lift facilities, we did very little downhill ski-ing and a lot of uphill walking. It took about an hour to go up and about three minutes to come down. The ski resort of the Cedars is probably about the best in the Lebanon, and a lot of people from the Persian Gulf go there for holidays, thus, while we were there, there was a Canadian engineer and his wife from Abu Dhabi on leave, so as we were virtually cut off, we had lots of gay 'Apres-Ski' parties, playing cards and scrabble and similar games.

Conclusion

Alas, too soon we had to pack up and return to Beirut to go back to Cyprus. We skied down to the Army School, handed in our kit and drove back to Beirut.

Many thanks are due to the Lebanese Army Ski-School for all their help and instruction, and to the Military Attaché and his staff in Beirut, who looked after us extremely well while we were in the Lebanon; also to the people of the Lebanon, who were very friendly and helped to make our stay so enjoyable.

Letter from East Africa

Dear Bwana,

A LONG time ago I said to myself (while supping a jar of White Cap in the Long Bar of the New Stanley), "It's about time I organised some notes for THE WIRE." After a few more jars with a tea planter from Kericho the thought drifted away. Now, after more than two years' secondment in this rugged country, the thought has come back (perhaps the locale prompted). But I don't like writing notes so perhaps a chatty letter will do.

An unusual secondment

It is not possible to describe secondment in general terms, each one is different to any other. Location and environment are never the same, duties, terms and conditions are drawn up after consultation with the country concerned and it's not even

as simple as that—the R.A.F. and Navy teams here have different terms to those of the Army team! **John Agar** could give you a good run-down on this. I well remember him arriving on leave from his Arabs and camels of the FRA complete with sand-blasted glasses and tum trouble. All he wanted was peace, a change of climate and a chance to see the country. After he had had a quick look round we met at the Norfolk hotel and after he had seen my way of life he spent the rest of his leave trying to buy a shirt to match the green tinge that his face had taken on—he should be grateful as I am sure that it was this tinge that helped him to retain his bachelor status.

I am an adviser with terms of reference to give advice as required—how ambiguous can you get! If one takes 'required' to mean give advice when asked then life would be very easy. I take it to mean give advice and direction when and where it is needed and that is a giraffe of a very different mottle—days can become 28 hours long.

On any small secondment (small in numbers of seconded persons not in importance!) one finds oneself operating at a much higher level than one would ever aspire to on a normal Corps posting (rank for rank). Ministers, chief engineers and such Bwanas are met as a matter of course both officially and socially. High level committees are sat on where Government policy is presented and follow-up action decided.

A sophisticated place

I don't know if you have been to Kenya, but this might be a good spot to point out that it is a sophisticated place, especially Nairobi, and is the hub of the East African community (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda). If one ignores that place down south, it is probably unique in Africa today. Where you have sophistication you have a very high level of direction in such organisations as P & T, broadcasting and so on, plus a university with its technical side run by on loan U.N. personnel. It is the 'in' tourist centre for Americans but I am sure that the concept of Kenya in America is that it is part of 'Darkest Africa.' I have spent many an entertaining hour over late breakfast on Sunday mornings sitting at the Thorntree open-air department of the New Stanley watching safari-rigged tourists arrive from the airport. Jaws slack and eyes wide open they gaze in wonder at their hutted village which has cheated them by turning into a modern city!

Plenty of outside commitments

I have always been a believer in the Corps tradition of helping in all things within reason, but one has to keep a strong hold on 'reason' out here. Apart from non-signals duties with the team I am a member of the committee of the Electronics Group of the East African Institution of Engineers, an hon. member of the Radio Society of East Africa, a co-opted member of the KIA Motor Club and a willing helper to the East African Motor Sports Club. This sounds all nice and social but involves a great deal of work out of hours—hence the extra four hours a day. The Electronics Group hold a monthly lecture at the University given by electronics boffins, either local or visiting, and hold an electronics exhibition each year of a highly commercial and professional standard with exhibitors from all over the world. It has become so commercial that we are thinking of handing over to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. At least I have learnt to lay-on and run an international exhibition!

The Radio Society of East Africa (of which ex T.O.T. **Major Jarvis** is a leading light) run most of the communications for the East African Safari and I have great fun sitting in front of Ham SSB radios on night shifts talking to isolated, wet and short tempered marshals at such places as Olo:tokitok. This year a number of the seconded Techs. Radio have volunteered to help. The motor clubs run various functions and in today's paper I see that I have been elected 'Assistant Secretary of the meeting and showground manager' for the forthcoming Motorodeo at Jamhuri Park (old name Mitchell Park). **Peter 'en brosse' Foakes,** the T.O.T. with me, being the swimmer and water polo player he is, has taken on duties as a coach with the Kenya Amateur Swimming Society. **Sergeant Delamare** plays rugby for the local No. 1 Harlequin team and was very nearly selected for the President's XV.

Visiting Firemen take up a lot of time; they always come to see me what ever they are trying to sell, from ground terminals for satellite communication links to inert cells for field telephones. Ex Corps member **Lieutenant-Colonel Jimmy Shaw** was here the other week which sparked off a short social whirl. Some time ago **Major-General Cole** (then a Colonel Commandant) arrived in his business role which called for a cocktail party—if you think that LOA and loan service pay result in millionaires come and try it!

Why not more volunteers?

The Signal Section of this team, 15 strong (sic), consists of an adviser (hon self), a T.O.T. and a F. of S. (both executives, i.e. filling appointments in the Kenya Army and wearing that uniform), a Y. of S. and 11 Technicians, radio. For the first time since I came here the section is up to strength. I have always been amazed at the lack of volunteers from the Tech. rosta, the attractions are limitless—you name it, Kenya's got it. Where else could you find yourself stranded on the Ethiopian-Kenya border existing on goat stew and pombe because the airstrip is under water and your police airwing aircraft can't land? Or sit in a thorn tree for four hours, bleating for help while a rhino stands below sharpening its horn on the bark? (don't tell **F. of S. Johnson** this as we are expecting him to arrive in April as a relief for **Donlevy**).

We have just said goodbye to the East Anglian Regiment who were out here on a recent training stint (nice to see **Sergeant Little** and his section). Saying goodbye involved a 148-mile drive to Nanyuki for a cocktail party in the shade of Mount Kenya—we stayed the night at the Sports Club!

Life is hard, but we manage. I could ramble on for hours but if I do it would take the meat out of any follow-up letters, if you want them.

Must go down to a trade show in town, which will take care of lunch. Might take a look at the equipment on show, too—something to do with colour television I think.

Kwaheri,

C.R.O.

(It is hoped to publish further letters from East Africa from time to time. Our correspondent is in fact Major J. R. E. Cross. —Editor.)

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Cambridge University O.T.C. Royal Signals Wing

ALTHOUGH it is some time since a report appeared in THE WIRE, the Wing has been no less active. However, it is not the intention to dwell on historical reminiscences but to report on more recent activities. Joint exercise participation with other Wings has been the keynote of this year's training, and to this end two successful exercises have been held—one with the R.E. Wing and the other with the R.A.C. Wing.

Climax of the year's training

The climax of the year's training, however, was reached on the week-end of 1st, 2nd and 3rd March, when members of the Wing joined their opposite numbers from Oxford at Stanford P.T.A. for a combined signals exercise, held in lieu of the competition. In addition, elements from the R.A.C. Wings of both O.T.C.s were present, making a grand total of some 65 persons.

The principal phase of the exercise was held over Saturday and consisted of establishing and staffing a Brigade Comcen with sub-units being simulated by individual radio detachments. Exercise control represented Division H.Q., maintaining communications over both R.R. and H.F. radio circuits. During this phase the R.A.C. elements were under command, enabling both genuine and simulated traffic to be handled in the comcen. A comparative abundance of radio sets, resulting from the temporary amalgamation of both signals units, gave birth to a radio intercept vehicle, complete with tape recorder, upon which breaches of security and procedure were gleefully recorded as incriminating evidence!

An Infantry attack on the exercise control location by all members of the Brigade staff completed the phase. Wisely, the D.S. halted the exercise just before the assaulting forces could capture the C.S.O. of Eastern Command, **Brigadier K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E.,** and both O.T.C. C.O.s were acting as observers! This attack was also noteworthy, as the attacking forces included two W.R.A.C. members of O.U.O.T.C., who presented a very effective emulation of 'Annie Oakley,' although toting an S.L.R. instead of a Colt .45! A splendid six-course dinner, at which **Brigadier Gribbin** was honorary guest, was a fitting end to the day.

The remainder of the weekend was occupied by a tactical movement and communications exercise, with the combined signals units ranged against the combined R.A.C. elements. After lunch-time replenishments of men and vehicles, a most successful exercise drew to a close as both units returned to their home bases to prepare for next year's joint exercise.

24th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (210) Plymouth

Settling in after Aden

SINCE returning from the barren rocks of Aden, the Squadron has set about the business of integrating, re-adjusting, unpacking and settling in to its new task, which is all but complete, with only a few more packing boxes expected. We are now setting about the never-ending problem of servicing and training in anticipation of a very full exercise season, taking us right through to the end of October. Already we have weathered two excursions on to the windswept moors to test our ability to move and live in the field. Both have proved successful, but have shown the decided need to adjust to European conditions after the sand flies and sweat of Southern Arabia!

One of the more exciting prospects we have to look forward to is the joint operations with H.M.S. 'Fearless,' and in anticipation, members of the Squadron have already tested their sea legs with H.M.S. 'Torquay' at Devonport.

Personnel

To mention all the comings and goings of the past few months would take up a lot more space than the Editor is liable to allocate us, but we feel we must mention the arrival of our new Squadron Commander, **Major P. D. Alexander,** who takes the reins from **Major M. B. M. Brown,** on the latter's departure to H.Q., Southern Command. We wish him and his family all the very best in their new station.



PROUD "TROPHY" WINNERS

At the officer's versus W.O.'s and Sergeants games night things went with a swing and the trophies were a little out of the ordinary. *Left to right:* The D.A.A. & Q.M.G. Major A. M. Hinings, Loyals, Squadron Commander, Major P. D. Alexander, Royal Signals, and R.S.M. J. E. Ient

We also welcomed **R.S.M. J. E. Ient,** who took over from **R.S.M. Malcolm Rose,** who departed from here for the brighter moors of Catterick, then to civilian life. We wish him and his wife all the best for the future.

Sport—serious and not so serious

In the sporting field, the Squadron hockey team are proving their worth with a win over 24th Field Ambulance in the final of the Brigade Minor Units Knockout. A "well done" for the cross-country team in a fine effort in both the South-West District and 3rd Divisional Competitions and Southern Command Championships. In the latter we were third in the Minor Units section.

Social life has, through necessity, been slender, but we managed an all ranks' dance on 31st January, which turned out to be a wonderful success—no small credit due to the incorrigible **Corporal Tony Cleary,** for his management of the evening's fun.

On 23rd February, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants entertained the Officers' Mess to a games evening, which resulted in the officers walking away with all the trophies. **R.S.M. Ient** was heard in the background to be saying: "Next time we train." A most enjoyable evening was had by all.



AN ADEN THIRST?

Sergeant Alan Dodd downs an outsize spoonful of what the doctor ordered

261
Signal Squadron
B.F.P.O. 53

A Hard Game

OUR photograph shows the Squadron team, who won the hockey six-a-side in the Commander, 3rd Signal Group Competition. This was a particularly hard and exciting match, which went on to the third period of extra time before we gained a decision on a 'long corner.' As our opponents, 259 Signal Squadron, beat us last year by the same margin, this was a very gratifying result. We did not fare so well, however, in the soccer and rugby sections of the competition, being knocked out in the early stages of both.



WINNERS OF THE COMMANDER 3rd SIGNAL GROUP SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY COMPETITION
Left to Right : Corporal MacKinlay, Captain R. W. V. Hutley, Signalman Donoughue, Lance-Corporal Burgess, Corporal Everest and Corporal Carnegie

Sportsmen many and varied

Proving that we are eager, if not always successful, the members of the Squadron 'have a go' at all sorts of sporting activities. **Captain (T.O.T.) Robin Hutley** is in Malta playing for the Army in Cyprus team; **Signalman Dennis Harrison** (ex-21st Signal Regiment) is competing in the Open Ski Championships on Troodos and has been selected for the Army Team in the Inter-Service Ski events. We have also had a number of men on beginners' ski courses.

W.O.I Stan Barrett has won the Meiktilla Cup in the sailing world, and as enthusiasts will agree, this is no mean achievement. Two of our members, **Lieutenant (T.O.T.) John Jupe** and **Lieutenant Hugh Bennett** are active members of the Free Fall Parachute Club and have somehow managed to persuade two others to try their luck at it, **Signalman James Bartley** and **George Mortimer. John Jupe** promises to write an article in time for the next issue, to let the rest of us know what this free-falling business is about. (*Keep John up to it.—Editor*).

Not so sporting

Life, here, is not all sport, of course. At present we are having a visit from the M.O.D., in the form of a team from the Inspectorate of Establishments. That is not very sporting, and we hope they will leave us with enough men to enter future competitions.

In the field of Training, we have been quite busy with courses, both trade and military, and even managed to get four seniors on an A.C.E. I Course. Naturally they didn't need all subjects and have been told that after the exams this week they had better not need *any* subjects!

Cricket: Its a tie!

By Lance-Corporal O. G. Butler, 10th Regiment

The first time ever

THE first tie recorded in the history of Corps cricket occurred against the Royal Corps of Transport at Longmoor Camp on 12th/13th June, 1967. The Corps team was set a mere 73 runs to win in their second innings (having made 191 in the first) on a good wicket. Every one thought this was going to be easy; especially when the first wicket pair made 26 before being parted.

Did I say "a mere 73?" Ah! but we never reckoned on one **Lieutenant Furnival** of the R.C.T. He bowled throughout the innings to finish with nine wickets for 30 runs (13 for 73 in the match).

Tension almost unbearable

With the score at 69 for 9 **Captain Garton** (School of Signals) was joined by the wicketkeeper, **Signalman Lawrence** (8th Regiment)—'to get it over with' **Lawrence** took a couple of runs, rather nonchalantly; and then edged a single, a bit sketchily.

Scores even! **Captain Garton** to take strike. The last ball of that over to be bowled.

A number of field placings then took place by the clever R.C.T. skipper, **Major Fenner.** Five men up to take a possible catch; four men back to save this all-important single. Very clever manoeuvres indeed!

One thought the R.C.T. skipper was only 'stalling.'

Eventually the last ball is bowled. The left-handed **Captain Garton** drove hard through the off; a bit uppishly but safely one thought, as the ball cleared the inner ring of five men. It looked certain to drop short of the outer ring of four fielders. The batsmen scampered off for what would be the winning run.

But wait! A fielder came racing in for about ten yards. He stopped as the ball appeared to be dropping short of him; then started again. This time he dived full length forward to bring off the catch from about ankle high. A grand catch!

The fielder? **Brigadier White,** no less—an old Army player of many years ago.

"It's a tie!" we all kept murmuring for most of the afternoon. A tie it certainly was!

Corps team v. R.C.T. *from*

Major S. G. de Clive Lowe (captain, 55 Squadron), **Captain C. Garton** (School of Signals), **Lieutenant S. Coltman** (1st Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment), **Sergeant Crutchley** (8th Regiment), **Corporal Gipson** (10th Regiment), **Corporal Taylor** (30th Regiment), **Corporal Parris** (3rd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment), **Corporal Kilvington** (School of Signals), **Lance-Corporal Butler** (10th Regiment), **Signalman Lawrence** (8th Regiment).



[*Courtesy: A. C. Thather, Redbourne*
This is "Marrion" (*See below*)

CORPS CANOEISTS PUT IN SOME SECRET TRAINING

TOWARDS the end of February, in one's and two's, by hook or by crook, by indulgence or by legal fiddle, from far and near, came a number of Royal Signallers to 10th Regiment in Hounslow. Well may they have resembled the cockleshell heroes, as to most of them paddling is by now second nature—and to be sure had 10th Regiment been on the banks of the Thames most of them would have arrived by canoe.

Two things they have in common, one being skill with a paddle—the other enthusiasm. These are only two of the requirements necessary to win the Devizes to Westminster canoe race—and that is what this early start to the canoeing season for our Corps paddlers is all about.

It is naturally impossible to say what our chances are—our rivals are mainly the S.A.S., the Royal Marines and the Parachute Brigade from the Services, and the countries best from the civilian side.

Some of the more serious contenders have been training since before Christmas 1967—though we hope we can achieve the same standards in a much shorter period of time.

By the time this article is printed a great number of miles of canal and river water will have been covered in training—only a few people will really know how we are doing (that's US). We are being very secretive about everything, so don't ask us what time we're going to start on Good Friday—just be there to cheer us in!

The representative Corps team as at 10th March is as follows, though of course due to injuries, etc., this may need to be changed before the day:

Captain Gray, H.Q. 24 Inf. Bde. **Lance-Corporal Davis,** 2 Div. Signal Regiment.
Signalman Rowley, 2 Div. Signal Regiment, **Signalman Wilkinson,** 2 Div. Signal Regiment.
Second-Lieutenant Harrison, School of Signals, **Corporal Lunn,** 229 Squadron (Berlin).
Signalman Wink, 2 Div. Signal Regiment, **Signalman Pawlow,** 2 Div. Signal Regiment.
Signalman Naden, 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, **Signalman Sefton,** 216 Parachute Signal Squadron.
Lance-Corporal Gue, 9th Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Clarke,** 30th Regiment.
Lance-Corporal Story, 30th Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Crossland,** 8th Regiment.
Lance-Corporal Bull, 2 Div. Signal Regiment, **Corporal Frith,** 2 Div. Signal Regiment.
Lance-Corporal Thomas, 16th Regiment, **Sergeant Albon,** 10th Regiment.

The what? which photograph? Oh! but don't you know? Marrion is our beloved mascot of the Royal Signals Canoe Club. Can YOU think of a better incentive to win races?

Corps Canoeists awarded Army Colours

The Secretary of Corps Canoeing reports :

I AM pleased to report that the following members of the Corps have been awarded Army Colours for Canoeing for the 1967 season :

Captain J. M. Gray, now at H.Q., 24th Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, Crownhill Fort, Plymouth, Devon.

Lance-Corporal B. J. Davis, present unit, 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 22.

Lance-Corporal C. Cook, present unit, 224 Signal Squadron (Radio), Loughborough.

Lance-Corporal S. Sherman, present unit, 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, Bulford Camp.

These awards were announced at the General Committee Meeting of the Army Canoe Union, which was held at the Ministry of Defence on Friday, 1st March.

Lance-Corporal Cook and **Lance-Corporal Sherman** crewed together and came second in the Inter-Services Long Distance Race on the River Wey in July, 1967, and **Captain Gray** and **Lance-Corporal Davis** crewed together and came third in the same race. Both crews thus made a major contribution towards the win by the Army of the Inter-Services Team L.D. Championships. In addition, these four canoeists represented the Corps in a number of events during the 1967 season, with considerable success.

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Eight Corps men go canoeing down the Wye

By Lance-Corporal Platts of 224 Squadron

IF you are looking for excitement, thrills, spills and beautiful scenery, a good way to find them all is to take a trip in a canoe down the Wye, as did the eight members of the canoeing expedition from 224 Signal Squadron, Loughborough, in September.

The group, in the charge of **Major Williams** and **Lieutenant Saunders,** intended to travel more than 60 miles down the Wye from Glasbury to Ross-on-Wye.

Something about our equipment

Having loaded two 3-tonners with the necessary equipment, the party made an early start and arrived at Glasbury. Quickly the canoes were unloaded, taken down to the river and packed with the minimum equipment necessary for the journey. This consisted of a tent, sleeping bag, water can, spare clothing, hexamine cookers and food. The food was mostly dried, and was contained in plastic bags to keep it that way.

After a certain amount of instruction by the two National Canoeing Club Instructors—**Lieutenant Saunders** and **Lance-Corporal Cook**—the party set off downstream, with ten miles ahead of them before they would camp for the night.

Getting down the rapids backwards!

This initial stretch proved to be the most difficult, for most of the group had only been canoeing on the canal. The current was quite rapid and the first stretch of white water came into sight rather too soon for one or two. However, the first stretches were passed without too much difficulty, although novices tended to go down the small rapids backwards or sideways.

The group slowed down about an hour after the start when **Lance-Corporal Platts** discovered that his canoe was slowly sinking under him. When a canoe has a lot of water in it, it tends to be much more unstable, slower and more difficult to steer. Although the canoe was emptied a few times, these factors slowed the party down so that it had grown almost dark when they were still 2½ miles from the arranged camping site.

Major Williams decided to camp on the bank before it became any darker. One or two were extremely wet after sitting in water for some time, and everyone was hungry; but the tents were soon put up and a hot meal prepared on the hexamine cookers, which were a real blessing as they will burn with a hot flame even after being submerged for several hours. Everyone was glad to crawl into his sleeping bag that night as it had been a tiring day.

Next day was spent executing a temporary repair on the holed canoe. **Lieutenant Saunders** did an excellent job on this with a fibre glass repair outfit, and stopped many of the leaks. The fibre glass glue was dried—against advice—by hexamine cookers which seemed to do some good, luckily, as the glue dried much more quickly. While the canoe was drying several of the men dried clothes over a roaring log fire.

A cheerful group—despite the duckings

In the afternoon the party broke camp and headed down river on the second leg of the journey. Half an hour after the start, however, **Signalman Lynas** was swept into the bank half-way down a rapid and his canoe overturned. Luckily for him the water was quite shallow so he did not get too wet.

Everyone was by now beginning to improve their canoe handling and there were fewer collisions. The weather was fine, the pace leisurely and the landscape beautiful. There were some doubts the previous day that Ross would be reached on time but hopes and spirits now revived and it was a group of much more cheerful men that camped by the river at Bredwardine. About ten miles had been covered that day.

The stew tasted very good

Strange food mixtures were heated up and eaten during the course of the weekend. One of the best was water, dried steak and kidney bar, dried mashed potato powder, dried oxtail soup, Oxo and salt, which, when mixed up and heated, makes quite a pleasant tasting stew.

On Saturday morning we awoke to find a large herd of Herefordshire cattle bearing down on us through the early morning mist, about forty cows and one very large bull passed us without incident, although we all had our canoes ready for a quick retreat to the river.

About thirty miles were covered that day, which was a Saturday. The day was not without entertainment, as several stretches of rough water had been covered. One member of the group was having a little trouble with a pulled shoulder muscle, and several had blisters on their hands, but the camping ground for the night was reached without difficulty.

The Major disappears from sight

The last day, Sunday, was expected to be the easiest as there were only thirteen miles left to the destination at Ross-on-Wye. Two hundred yards downstream, however, a tributary left the main river then converged with it again forming a loop. At the point of divergence there was a fairly rough rapid which had to be negotiated if one wished to go straight on. The tributary route seemed much easier for there were only small rapids where it rejoined the main river. The two instructors took the more exciting route over the dangerous rapid and passed it without incident, while the remainder of the party, headed by **Major Williams,** decided on the easier route. **Major Williams** was the first to enter the rapid closely followed by the rest of the party. Everyone behind him had a bird's eye view when he was suddenly caught in the current and swept in towards the bank; he brushed against some overhanging branches, overturned and disappeared from sight.

Never again, they said but . . .?

Three of the people behind were also swept in towards the bank. Two of them grabbed branches, but the last—**Signalman Lynas** again—was not so lucky, and he too ended up swimming.

The last lap of the trip was uneventful, and Ross was reached by that afternoon. It began to rain for the first time when the outskirts of the town were reached, but rain is not something to worry about on a canoeing trip, as one is usually soaked anyway. The last hundred yards to the landing stage were covered at a sprint and the trip was over. Everyone wrapped himself round a warm cup of tea and told each other that they would never get in a canoe again.

This resolve soon weakens, however, for the attractions of canoeing on the Wye are very strong, and already certain members of the first expedition are wondering when the next will take place.

CORPS RUGBY TOUR, MARCH 1968

Results

v. R.A.F. Signals Command at Blandford: Lost 16—8.
v. R.M.A. Sandhurst at Camberley. Lost 20—6.

Match v. R.A.F. Signals

After a well supported Trial the following were selected to play against R.A.F. Signals:

Second-Lieutenant Dransfield, Corporal Drika, Captain Shiner (captain), **Sergeant Hague, Lance-Corporal Thomas, Corporal Newman, Captain Walker, Staff Sergeant Block, Corporal Tunney, Captain Saville, Corporal Cairns, Signalman Lee, Signalman Stephens, Lieutenant Coltman** and **Sergeant Ghaut.**

Match v. R.M.A. Sandhurst

Team replacements for this match two days later were: **Second-Lieutenant Thewlis** for **Dransfield, Lieutenant Melhuish** for **Hague, Corporal Dempsey** for **Tunney, Captain Penny** for **Lee** and **Ghaut** who replaced **Coltman** at wing forward to allow **Corporal Dunbar** to move into No. 8 position. Again the Corps was well supported by, amongst others, **Major-General Deane-Drummond, Brigadiers Horsfield, Sawers, Gray, Hobson** and **Colonel Proudman,** plus a lively contingent of Royal Signals personnel from Sandhurst well backed up by a party from 216 Parachute Signal Squadron. The Corps XV was beaten by a goal, three tries and a penalty goal to a penalty goal (**Shiner**) and a try.

Summary

Though the Corps lost both matches, missing many regular Corps players either injured or otherwise not available in both matches, we played hard and clean rugger. The score at Sandhurst does not truly reflect the standard of Corps play in attack and defence, where all put up spirited performances. Many new faces appeared at the Trial and if there had been longer than the forty-eight hours available to weld these players into a cohesive team the results would have been much more favourable. It may be of interest that the selected players came from thirteen different units.

Catterick & District Branch

Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. E. Close, "Wooderoft," Hudswell, Richmond, Yorks.





EVERY ONE HAD A SMILE . . .

. . . when this group photograph was taken on the occasion of the annual dinner of the branch held in the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess, 11th Signal Regiment.

From left to right, top row: Messrs. P. Jones, A. Button, J. Hunt, C. Bellamy-Wood, W. Harrison, P. Forrest, W. Payne, R.S.M. H. Crowe, Captain (Rtd.) Don Jones, R.S.M. F. Kirk

Middle row: Captain (Rtd.) H. Perkins, Messrs. F. Hart, C. Ewer, W. Ward, R.S.M. M. Molony, Major (Rtd.) G. Flynn, M.B.E., Messrs. E. Close, R. Pettigrew, Captain E. R. Wall

Front row: Mr. J. Baker, Colonel (Rtd.) J. P. North, C.B.E., Lieutenant Colonel C. O. Bound, Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd.) R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., Miss Julian, Brigadier (Rtd.) E. D. Good, C.B.E., Messrs. W. Rigden, E. Smith, L. W. McLaven and H. C. Jenkins

Inset photo:

A proud moment for Mr. W. Rigden of the branch when he was presented by Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., chairman, with the "Honour Member" badge. This is only the second time that the badge has been awarded

Obituary

C.Q.M.S. F. G. PRIOR

MEMBERS of the Corps who served in Egypt Signals between 1924 and 1930—unfortunately they are now rather thin on the ground—will be sorry to hear of the death, in Wokingham Hospital, on 19th January, of a well-known character of those days, **Sergeant** (as he then was) **F. G. Prior.**

Fred Prior, a G.P.O. telegraph boy, enlisted in 1910 at the 'official' age of 18—actually he was only 16. As an Old Contemptible, he served in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, the Army Cycle Corps, and the Royal West Kent Regiment. He then moved to the R.E., with whom he took part in the Archangel Expedition of 1919 and was Mentioned in Despatches.

He transferred to Royal Signals when the Corps was formed in 1920, trained as an Operator Wireless, and was posted to Egypt Signals in 1924. For some years he was the N.C.O.-in-charge of Polygon Wireless Station, and also a most enthusiastic supporter of his unit and Corps in every form of sport.

After his discharge, as C.Q.M.S., in 1931, he rejoined the G.P.O., and for the next eighteen years he was a much-liked postman in the Wokingham area, especially popular with children, for whom he always showed warm affection. His main outside interest was Wokingham Football Club, which had few more loyal and regular supporters.

We offer our sympathy to his widow—they celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1963—and to his family. His four sons all served in the Services in the last war, one of them in Royal Signals; and his daughter was a post-war member of the A.T.S. It is a great family record. B.B.K.

Green.—Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Green, on the 16th February, of 249 Squadron. Captain Green served with the Corps from 1937; he was a life member of the Association (No. 8795).

Stanford.—W.O.II J. Stanford, on 3rd March, at the age of 45. Home address: 123, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham, Glos. He served in the Corps from 1945-1952.

Pirie.—Ex-Signalman J. L. Pirie, in February, at his home 17, Bon Accord Terrace, Aberdeen, at the age of 59. Mr. Pirie served with the Corps from 1939 to 1945 and was a P.o.W. in Germany for five years. He was an anual member of the Association and was formerly Hon. Secretary of the Aberdeen Branch.



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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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MAY/JUNE • 1968

Vol. 22 *(New Series)* **No. 5**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

216 Parachute Signal Squadron on a long range patrol exercise

This photograph, taken on an actual exercise, shows members of the Signal Squadron on a long range patrol. This involves parachuting, passing through a rendezvous on the dropping zone, before moving in small groups through the enemy-held area. The groups then concentrate inside enemy territory before assaulting their objectives. The photograph shows a typical group forming on the edge of the dropping zone.

Corporal Kennington (right foreground) is establishing communications with higher formation on the new man packable HF A 14 radio station. **Signalman Dillon,** who is lying alongside, affords protection and assistance with the operating. **Signalman Robertson,** who is a driver by trade, provides the group's main source of firepower. **Corporal McGovern** (carrying instruments) is the detachment radio technician. Finally, in the rear, **Signalman Kinnell,** a lineman, and **Signalman Paterson,** an operator, will join up with their own detachments when they reach the concentration area.

A few statistics about THE WIRE may be of interest.

— Some 3,600 copies are despatched monthly in bulk parcels to the Units of the Corps, while over 1,600 individuals have a standing order of THE WIRE.

— The Maximum number of WIRES ordered monthly by a Regiment is 200 (22nd Regiment).

— The maximum number of WIRES ordered monthly by a Squadron is 100 (249 Squadron).

— The lowest number of WIRES ordered by a Regiment is 50.

— Five Squadrons order upwards of 45 WIRES a month each.

— Over and above this a considerable number of WIRES are taken by the T. and A.V.R., Commonwealth Signal Corps, Army Information Offices, School C.C.F.'s, University O.T.C.'s and Branches of the Association.

— THE WIRE is regularly read in a number of overseas countries, including Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Nigeria and Norway.

— One reader has not missed a copy since the first issue in 1920.

— A copy of THE WIRE has been found in a dentist's waiting room in George Town, Guyana.

— H.R.H. Prince Philip has commented favourably on an article in THE WIRE.

— THE WIRE, by Act of Parliament, has to be supplied free to the libraries of the British Museum and Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Glasgow Hurricane Damage Relief

☆

A very worthwhile rescue operation run under the direction of Royal Signals



TYPICAL OF THE DEVASTATION CAUSED
Sappers and Infantry clearing a Church which was so badly damaged that it had to be demolished

From 15th to 31st January, 1968, an operation was carried out by the Army in Glasgow and the surrounding areas to assist the civil authorities in dealing with the emergency, and repairing the damage, caused by the hurricane which struck Glasgow in the early hours of 15th January.

Command and Troops employed

Commander 13th Signal Group (Volunteers) was put in overall command of the operation, which was controlled from his Royal Signals H.Q. in 25 Park Circus, Glasgow. Troops employed came from both regular and T. & A.V.R. sources as follows:

(a) **Regular**
Royal Engineers from 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon;
Scots Guards from Edinburgh;
Royal Highland Fusiliers from Fort George, Inverness-shire;
Cameronians from Edinburgh;
Royal Corps of Transport from Northern and Eastern Commands;
Junior Tradesmen from JTR, Troon.

(b) **T. & A.V.R.**
T. & A.V.R. I and II Royal Engineers from 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (Volunteers);
T. & A.V.R. III Royal Artillery from The Lowland Regiment R.A.;
Officer Cadets from Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities O.T.C.

The Army's first contribution was provided as early as 16th January, the day after the storm, and increased in size daily to a peak of 600 men. The operation lasted 16 days. The reserve army's contribution was confined to the weekends.

This must be the first example of a Royal Signals Brigade Commander and Headquarters controlling an operation of all Arms in support of the civil authorities. It was certainly a great success and this was undoubtedly due to two main factors:

(a) The very close liaison that had been built up in Glasgow and throughout Scotland under OPMACC (Operation Military Aid to the Civil Community) over the last year or so;

(b) The tremendous support that Commander 13th Signal Group received personally from the G.O.C.-in-C. Scotland and his staff, and also from Commander Edinburgh Area and the Chief Engineer, Scotland.

Storm damage

A small indication of the damage caused by the hurricane in Glasgow alone, can be given by the following statistics produced by the City Corporation on 25th January:

(a) 9 people were killed;
(b) 856 people had to be rehoused;
(c) 70,000 corporation houses suffered some kind of damage;
(d) 131 large tenement buildings were very seriously damaged and 69 of these had to be written off;
(e) 1,100 chimney heads collapsed and a further 550, at least, were damaged; in some cases, whole masonry chimney stacks fell through four floors to the basement.

Although the main damage occurred in the City of Glasgow, the surrounding areas were also badly hit. Throughout Scotland, the total damage has been estimated at £20 to £30 million.

Tasks carried out

The following tasks were carried out by the Army:

(a) **Emergency, first aid repairs to houses.**
There were eventually 260 men employed on this 'top priority' task: about 100 RE from Ripon (there being no regular sapper units in the whole of Scotland) and approximately 160 Infantry including 1 SG, 1 RHF and 1 Cameronians.
Over 1,000 jobs were carried out altogether in the 2-week period. The main work was to fix tarpaulins, roofing felt or polythene sheeting over the holes in roofs. In addition a large number of chimneys were dismantled and some scaffolding was erected. Every man working on roofs wore a safety line.

(b) **The removal and storage of furniture from evacuated houses.**
Families evacuated from their houses were accommodated, pending the reallocation of a house, in four reception centres set up around Glasgow. An immediate need was to move the furniture from the majority of these evacuated homes, at the owners' request, either to some secure storage accommodation or to the newly allocated houses of the families concerned. This was an urgent task as much of the furniture was being damaged by rain coming in through the roofs.
The Army moved the furniture of 282 families: the majority into store in old T.A. drill halls.

(c) **Clearance of fallen trees.**
The cutting up, removal, stacking and general clearance of



[Courtesy: Studio Swain

INSPECTING THE AFTERMATH
The G.O.C.-in-C. Scotland, Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Lang, and Brigadier G. H. Hoerder, Commander, visiting a disused T.A. centre where furniture from evacuated houses had been removed for safe storage



DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE
Mrs. Hoerder, wife of Brigadier George Hoerder, lends a hand with bathing the children

fallen trees was the third task to be undertaken and this was carried out over two weekends by 71 Engineer Regiment T. & A.V.R. assisted by other Reserve Army units, University Cadets and Junior Leaders from the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon.
About 3,000 trees had been uprooted in Glasgow City Parks and over 10,000 in a 20-acre area in Balloch Park near Loch Lomond. The Army cleared up all the fallen timber in four parks in the City and helped to clear the access routes in Balloch.

(d) **Assistance to the Police.**
The Army assisted the police in the protection of evacuated properties. They worked in very close co-operation with the police on the same tasks. No arms were carried. In an emergency the soldiers (Scots Guards) were to assist the police in the execution of their duty with the same powers as any other citizen. Duties involved assistance in manning barriers to prevent access to certain areas and patrolling, in company with the police, the evacuated tenement buildings.

(e) **Movement of tarpaulins.**
The local stocks of tarpaulins were soon expended on first-aid roof repairs and there was an immediate need for thousands more. The Army was asked if they could lay their hands on stocks from England and transport them to Glasgow.
Within 10 days, with the help of the MOD and other U.K. Command H.Q.s they had collected and transported over 15,000 tarpaulins, weighing about 75 lb. each, from civil defence and Army depots in Hexham, Cambridge, Huntingdon and Bicester to Glasgow. The 'duty officers' net' worked very well. Some came up by R.C.T. transport, some by R.A.F. aircraft and some by rail.

(f) **Demolition and clearance work.**
This task was confined to a church near Erskine Ferry whose roof had collapsed, leaving the building in a dangerous condition.

(g) **Welfare work in the reception centres.**
Four reception centres were opened in Glasgow to accommodate the homeless. The Army immediately volunteered to help in these centres, where over 600 people were housed temporarily. The Army were able to assist mainly by:
(1) obtaining films from the AKC and showing them nightly;
(2) obtaining and issuing clothing;
(3) relieving mothers of their children from time to time so that mothers could get a bath or shop or sleep;
(4) helping with general domestic problems.

Morale and training value

Throughout the operation, the morale of the soldiers was high. This was accentuated by a sense of purpose in everything they were asked to do and by the obvious appreciation of their efforts by both the civil authorities and the individual families whose plight they could see and were helping to overcome.

Much of the work was arduous and of a dangerous nature, requiring a high degree of discipline and leadership. Many lessons were learnt. Co-operation between the Army guard and the Police was excellent.
As far as the Reserve Army was concerned, a more worthwhile exercise for a T. & A.V.R. Engineer Regiment than the tree clearance operation would be hard to devise. Not only was the Regimental and Squadron administration realistically tested, but much was learnt about the use, care and maintenance of tools, power saws and cutting machines and in one park assault boats were used to clear large trees which had fallen into a river.

Public Relations

The Army received a very good press as a result of this operation and several beneficial reports on radio and TV. The letters of appreciation which were received from all levels of the civilian community leave us with no doubt that this was a very worthwhile operation from all points of view and the fact that it was commanded and organised by a Royal Signals Headquarters will surely be of benefit to the Corps.



[Courtesy Studio Swain

RIVER WORK
T. & A.V.R. volunteers using an assault boat to clear a tree which had fallen into a river

Exercise Ramasoon

Thailand is rich in legend and the customs of its people date back to before its written history. The grace of Thai classical dancers is world renowned but the stories portrayed by the dances are often obscure to a visitor. One of these dances depicts a hero of Ramayana legend, the god of thunder by the name of Ramasoon, wooing the goddess of lightning. This young lady is not keen at all to have Ramasoon make advances and, furthermore, he is unable to gain possession of a glass ball which the object of his affection is carrying. The story goes that a furious Ramasoon throws his axe and creates a flash of lightning. What has all this got to do with Royal Signals and an article in "The Wire?" Well, every exercise has to have a name and the title SEATO PX33 for a signal exercise was not very romantic. A flash of lightning is the emblem of the Army Signal Corps of both Thailand and the United States and this is how Ramasoon got its name.



VISIT OF H.M. THE KING OF THAILAND TO EXERCISE RAMASOON

Left to Right: Lieutenant-Colonel Leveridge, Australia; Colonel Chouvidh, Thailand; Colonel Swan, U.K; S.F.C. McCullough, U.S.A.; Brigadier General Black, U.S.A. and H.M. The King of Thailand.

Multi-National Planning Staff

SEATO does not have a full complement in its permanent exercise planning staff and its exercises are mounted through a temporary staff who assemble some months ahead and remain afterwards to write the Post Exercise Report. It started in September 1967 when **Major Colin Ridley** from 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron and **Sergeant 'Paddy' O'Connell** from 649 Troop joined a team assembling from those SEATO nations who were to participate in the exercise. It was a mixed bag of Army and Air Force and later even included a sailor. They came from Australia, Thailand, the United States and the United Kingdom. During the exercise itself, in March, New Zealand and the Philippines sent participants to fill various positions in the player headquarters. The entire planning team consisted of 125 officers and men, of which the U.K. team consisted of 10 officers and seven men. **Colonel Ian Swan** arrived in October straight from the corridors of Whitehall and took up the appointment of U.K. Team Leader, heading a multi service staff whose army element contained a complete cross section of Arms and Corps, called together from all parts of the globe. The soldiers and airmen were all assigned from units in the Far East, their stay in Thailand being considered part of their normal overseas tour. The size of the planning staff may seem excessive yet such were the problems involved in mounting a multi national exercise of this nature and complexity that it was found necessary to bring in on a temporary basis, signal experts who spent varying lengths of time in Bangkok giving advice and guidance in their specialist spheres. The most valuable of these was **Yeoman of Signals Ian McPherson** of 249 Squadron who spent so much time in Bangkok and so little with his Squadron in Singapore that his contribution was as much as that of us on permanent assignment. To all those who came, the permanent planning staff owe their gratitude.

Many readers will also be pleased to know that **Lieutenant-Colonel Niel Conder,** Royal Australian Signals, was at the forefront of the Signals planning and directed the communications aspects on the exercise itself.

For those involved in the planning of the exercise communications networks, it was gratifying to have the opportunity of working on such a large scale, ranging from SEATO Headquarters itself down to Brigade/Regimental Combat Team level. The jump from field signalling to the complex Integrated Wide Band Communications System took a little getting used to!

The Corps well to the fore

The first tangible event, following the issue of a mountain of paper instructions was on 31st January, when H.M.A.S. *Sydney* docked at the new deep water port of Sattahip and discharged Australian personnel and equipment. Many of the Australians were from 1 AS Signal Regiment, stationed in Ingleburn, near Sydney, Australia. The United States sea lift came from Okinawa with personnel and equipment of 999th Signal Company. The U.K. sea lift came in on the LSL *Sir Bevedere* on 22nd February, and contained much of 28th Commonwealth Brigade and Signal Squadron. The airlift began on 15th February to Leong Nok Tha, in North-East Thailand, where Royal Engineers have built a magnificent air strip, and to Korat, about 150 miles north-east of Bangkok, where the United States and the Royal Thai Air Force have an air base. When the lift was complete, there were some 670 British Servicemen in Thailand with a preponderance of Royal Signals from 28th Commonwealth Brigade, 249 Signal Squadron and 19th Air Formation Signal Regiment. The Senior Royal Signals participant was **Colonel Clive Tonry,** who had the doubtful slot of Deputy C6 at Headquarters in Korat. In U.K. parlance, this means Deputy Chief Signal Officer at blankety-blank headquarters. Elsewhere in this issue, or maybe in the next one, these units will be telling about their experiences!

Preliminaries, or briefing and orientation, to use a SEATO term, took the last ten days of February, and the exercise commenced on 4th March.

1,000 Balloons and 1,000 Doves

SEATO advertises its activities to the maximum extent consistent with security, and the exercise got away to a television and press attended start in Bangkok. Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, the Prime Minister, and Supreme Commander, Royal Thai Armed Forces, opened the exercise aided by a thousand gas-filled balloons and a thousand doves. The latter had a two-fold significance, summed up in a motif reproduced here and inscribed on souvenir cigarette lighters. The Field Marshal fed the first message into a tape transmitter and we were off.

A most valuable experience

The exercise lasted eleven days, during which many of the SEATO communications facilities were put to the test. One of the major tasks was to interface the internal United States provided trunk communications system, said to be the most sophisticated in the world, with the various tatical systems in use by each nation. Another was to test and gain experience on SEATO procedures where they differ from national procedures. Other important, even if not widely advertised aspects, were to discover what problems exist when multi-national staffs and headquarters go into operaton and work to national headquarters of the various nations through signal units found by different nations. There are many problems, as one may imagine; problems of interpretation, even amongst English-speaking nations when it comes to terminology; problems of language, when so few of us speak Thai; problems of incompatible equipments, which are not resolved until the equipment is actually set up; human problems of working alongside soldiers and airmen of different nations who tackle a job in different ways.

Exercise "Ramasoon" was a most valuable experience for all U.K. participants, and we think SEATO has improved its ability to defend South East Asia because of it.

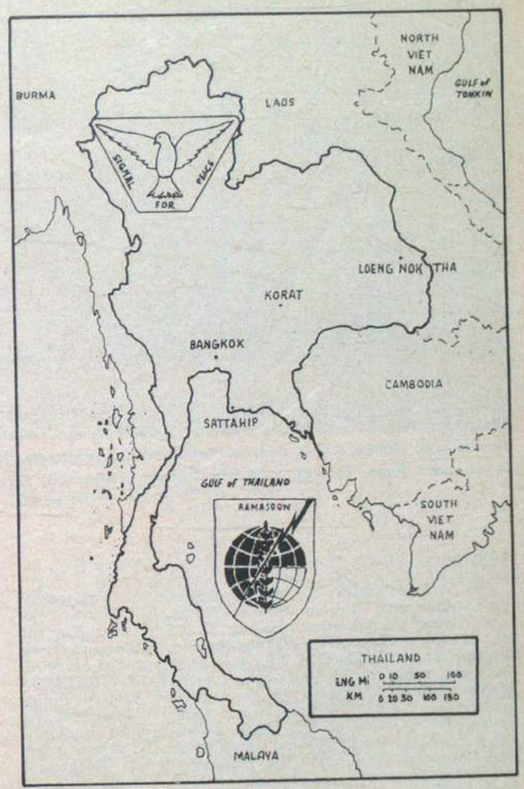
A host of visitors

During the exercise a whole host of V.I.P.s and observers visited the exercise locations. **Major Mike Allen,** at present on the Joint Signals Staff of Headquarters Far East Command, was so keen that he came to observe in mid-February and stayed for a month! As aircraft came and left the various airfields, it was surprising and gratifying to see so many Royal Signals cap badges coming to see how SEATO went about its business. One visit which delighted signallers of all nations was a visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer of FARELF. They arrived in Bangkok from Singapore on 4th March and spent four days visiting headquarters and Royal Signals units in the field. In Korat they were the guests of the Exercise Director, **Brigadier-General Edwin F. Black,** U.S. Army, and in the evening they spent there, 249 Signal Squadron were able to host an informal barbecue supper party to enable the S.O.-in-C. to meet other exercise participants, and, of course, Squadron officers in off-duty mood. **Major Colin Ridley** looked after the S.O.-in-C.'s programme at Leong Nok Tha and **Major Colin Gilbert** was in Mukdahan, even further north-east, when the S.O.-in-C. visited the Commonwealth Brigade. Our picture of **General Anderson** and **Brigadier Brindley** might have been taken anywhere; in fact it was at the entrance of the SEATO Headquarters in Bangkok and it is published because it is as good a picture of "the boss" as the author has seen anywhere. The day the S.O.-in-C. left Thailand, **His Majesty The King of Thailand, King Phumibol** visited the exercise and showed much interest in what was happening in Korat. The photograph shows the King being introduced to officers who were controlling the exercise, and from it one can see the multi-national flavour that exists in SEATO.



CSO FARELF and the SO in C pause at the entrance to the SEATO Building in BANGKOK

On 16th March participants started to leave by air and sea, hot-foot for more exercises elsewhere. This is always an interesting phase of any exercise, when unserviceable helicopters need to return by air instead of flying down to the port for a sea move, when almost every officer and man finds he has "business" at the other end necessitating a priority for airlift above anyone else; when NAAFI stocks become a burden and have to be consumed, and so on. One snag which no one foresaw was the problem of a broken-down L.C.T. a half-day out to sea, and, at the time of going to press, a load of 28th Brigade's 3-ton trucks are sitting in Bangkok awaiting a replacement ship from Singapore. Some of them are sure to belong to Royal Signals—not swift, but sure!



"THE EXERCISE MOTIF"

OLD COMCANRADES EEEEEEEE

OLD CAMCONRADES EEEEEEEE

Get this right!

If you have ever served in COMCAN and wish to maintain your ties, PRI, 14th Regiment, Gloucester, will be delighted to help out and send you one.

Supplies are limited, and no more are being made.

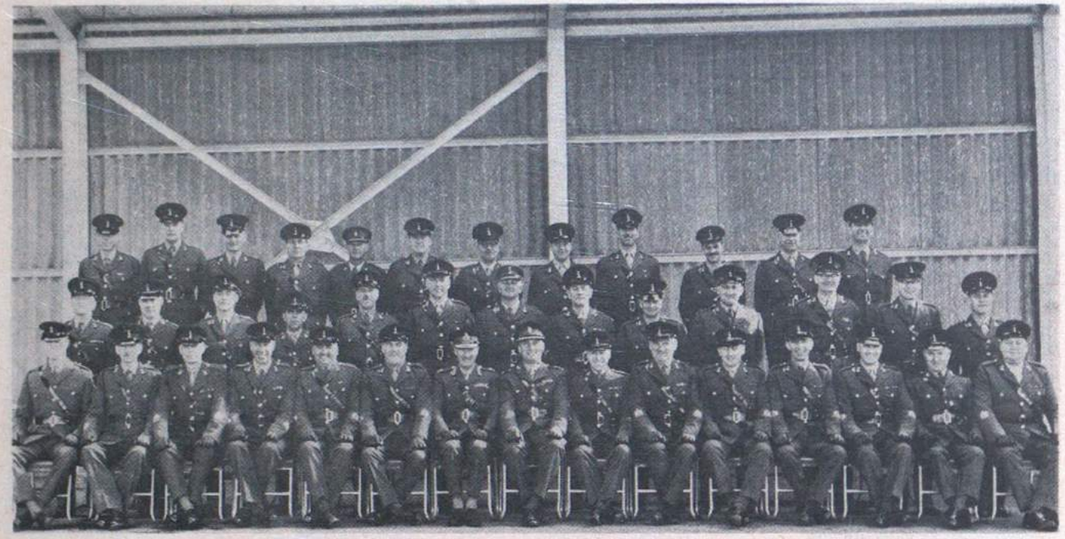
In Terylene, 14/- each, post free.

GOING OUT OF THE CORPS?

There **may** be a job for you here at Regimental Headquarters, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3, if you can type.

Write to the Editor, The Wire, at the above address.

R.S.M.s' Convention — Catterick 1968



[Photo—Courtesy J. K. Hendren, 6 Market Place, Richmond, Yorks

ROYAL SIGNALS R.S.M.'s CONVENTION, 1968

Top row: **R.S.M.s Mercer, DeClancy, Ient, Turner, Gibbs, Overton, Hadfield, Jagger, Alfred, McDonald, Orr, Simpson.**
Second row: **Burke, Acott, Pearce, McLoughlin, Templeton, Paterson, Rooney, Webb, Emery, Cantle, Gisbon, Burns, Pearsall.**
Front row: **Rose, Howes, Laycock, Dathan, Hopewell, Kirk, The S.O.-in-C., Brigade Commander, Harrison, Armstrong, Garland, Windebank, Crow, Finch, Aitken**

Arrival

The Sergeant's Mess of the 11th Regiment received rather more custom than usual on Monday evening, 18th March, 1968, as it became the gathering point for 38 R.S.M.s attending the 7th R.S.M.'s Convention. They were gathering to meet **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** and the Convention Staff. All save one made it on time—the stray, **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Mercer** (R.S.M. designate of 20 Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron) arrived about one hour late. As he was the R.Q.M.S. of 11th Signal Regiment only 10 months ago one would have thought he would be the last person to get lost! Amongst the R.S.M.s this year were **R.S.M. Rooney,** of the Royal Australian Signals, the R.S.M. serving with 28 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, and **R.S.M. Gibbs,** the first British R.S.M. ever to serve with 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron. **Brigadier Clarkson** welcomed the R.S.M.s and without further ado led them to an enormous quantity of beer, once again generously donated by Whitbreads.

Meeting the S.O.-in-C.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief opened the Convention on Tuesday morning in North Hall and then talked to every R.S.M. during the long coffee break. Duty in the Ministry of Defence kept the Signal Officer-in-Chief from staying longer than the first day, much to his regret. Also during this long coffee break the R.S.M.s were shown a combined equipment display by the "Quicksilver" team from the School of Signals and 6 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron.

About a dozen representatives from the major national daily newspapers and local newspapers mingled with the R.S.M.s during the coffee break. They were most interested in Mr. Magnetron—a six foot six inches metal robot, romotely controlled for answering questions and greeting R.S.M.s on arrival—and almost every photograph taken by the Press was centred around him.

Rajah Receives the R.S.Ms.

The traditional lunch was held with the R.S.M.s as guests of the officers in the Royal Signals' Mess, Catterick. After lunch several of the R.S.M.s posed for the Daily Mail photographer with Rajah—a massive white bulldog that, on special occasions, dons a scarlet coat complete with Union Jack and Royal Signals' Jimmys. I am told that Rajah, belonging to **Major Geoff Furtado,** the Quartermaster of 24th Regiment, was indistinguishable from his surrounding distinguished R.S.M.s, so splendidly dignified did he look.

Aden and Hong Kong

After lunch, a first rate presentation on "Aden Operations" was given by **R.S.M. Davies,** of the 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment (P.W.V.). As the 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment (P.W.V.) was one of the last Battalions to leave Aden the Convention was given a rare insight into the situation and atmosphere just prior to independence.

Wednesday morning started with a highly amusing and descriptive account of the "Problems in Hong Kong" and life in the Crown Colony by **Lieutenant-Colonel N. G. Gallyer,** the recent C.R. Signals Hong Kong. For all those yet to serve in the Far East the talk was yet another reason for wanting a posting to Bongo land.

Our sympathies went out to No. 2 Recruit Troop who, later on Wednesday morning, were watched by the 38 R.S.M.s as they Passed Off. Let's face it, it's bad enough with just **R.S.M. Kirk** on his own but for him to be joined by 37 of his compatriots, it must have been nerve racking in the extreme. But "Pass Off" they did, and afterwards eight of the R.S.M.s joined the recruits and their parents for an after parade "get-together."



ALL SMILES!

Beneath a normally stern exterior there really lurks a kindly heart

With the Tanks

The afternoon was spent as guests of 1st Royal Tank Regiment and the R.S.M.s were most interestingly entertained by seeing the latest tank equipment, visiting the gunnery range and learning to drive a tank using the "tank simulator." The tank simulator, costing £70,000, has reduced the failure rate of all drivers going into R.A.C. from 20 per cent to virtually nothing. They also reckon that they produce a far more competent driver by using the tank simulator as opposed to just using a tank to teach a recruit driver. It caused great amusement for the R.S.M.s when **R.S.M. Aitken,** 4 Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment, had his driving licence taken away from him (if he ever had one) when he crashed his "tank" through some trees and into a ravine.

A dinner night was held in the Sergeants' Mess of 11th Regiment with **R.S.M. Kirk** as host and **Brigadier Clarkson** and **Lieutenant-Colonel Bound,** Officer Commanding 11th Regiment as invited guests.

On Thursday morning an exceptionally interesting lecture on the "T and A.V.R. Regiment from an R.S.M's point of view," was given by **R.S.M. Webb,** of 36th (E) Regiment (V). Exceptional, because it was the "morning after the night before" (anyone who can talk coherently and stand up for forty-five minutes after the R.S.M.s dinner night must be exceptional), and interesting as it conclusively proved that a T. and A.V.R. R.S.M. had a very tough job on his hands. This was followed by a presentation on "Bruin," by **R.S.M. Aitken,** at the end of which a lot of people were at last being able to see daylight regarding "this newfangled 'Bruing'—thing."

Even the Psychological Aspect Studied

Two more presentations were given. The first on "Vietnam," by **Major R. E. Wells,** Royal Australian Signals, which gave the R.S.M.s an insight into the details of the soldiers' life in Vietnam, and the second on "Psychological Operations," by **Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Clements, O.B.E., M.C.,** G.S.O.I. Joint Warfare Establishment. In question time, we were assured that George Orwell's picture of life in 1984 is unlikely to materialise.

During the Convention there were two discussion periods in which the R.S.M.s raised and most enthusiastically thrashed out points with **Brigadier Clarkson** and members of the Convention staff.

In **Brigadier Clarkson's** closing address he thanked all the speakers for their talks and presentations and the R.S.M.s for the part that they had all played in making the Convention a success.

Footnote

R.S.M. Hopewell, 9th Signal Regiment, did not get his usual three weeks' extra holiday this year. Normally he arrives a week before and leaves a week after the Convention—something about plane timings to Cyprus he says. This year someone had very unkindly arranged an Administrative Inspection on the 26th March, and 9th Regiment had written to 11th Regiment to explain that **R.S.M. Hopewell** could not, regrettably, stay on as usual. It really is tough these days in the Army!

Special Mention

— Lieutenant R. Simmonds and Lance-Corporal A. Spence, of 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)

for, without regard to their personal safety, going to the rescue of two German youths who were in danger of drowning in the Landwehrkanal and undoubtedly saving their lives. Their prompt action was all the more commendable as the rescue was made in dangerous circumstances, owing to the steep stone banks and the very strong current. (*See story page* 159).

Second-Lieutenant R. A. J. Gardner of 257 Signal Squadron

for gaining one of the top honours by winning the Special Kyu event — and, incidentally, earning a ceremonial Samurai sword—at the British Army Judo Championships held at Colchester recently. The sixty competitors, from U.K. Commands and B.A.O.R., represented the very cream of judo exponents, and the competitive standard required was very high indeed.

— Signalman Dennis Harrison of 261 Squadron (Air Formation)

for representing the Army in the Inter Service Ski Championships at Troodos on 8th and 9th March, 1968, and being adjudged Best Army Skier. He was also runner-up in the Combined Alpine Championship. After attending a short course **Signalman Harrison** is now a qualified instructor and is already in popular demand for the next ski-ing season.

From our "In" Tray

'VIC' GOODMAN

IT is with many regrets I have to tell you that **Mr. L. V. (Vic) Goodman** has relinquished the Chairmanship of the Aldershot Branch. He has, as you know, been Chairman of the Branch since February, 1955, and has had the interests of the Association and of the Corps at heart for a great many years. He now feels that he can no longer do his job as Chairman as he would like to do, and at the Annual General Meeting of the Branch he asked to stand down. I, as you know, have worked with him on branch matters for a long time and know him well. We at Aldershot are indeed sorry to lose him. Perhaps you could find room in THE WIRE for this letter to express our gratitude and thanks to him for his loyalty and support.

Mr. A. H. Green ('Dodger') has been elected to take his place.

I am etc.,

A. V. Ient,

Hon. Secretary, Aldershot Branch.

(Looking back in Association records, we find **Vic Goodman's** name as a member of the Aldershot Branch in 1939—some record.—Editor).

THE REV. L. S. PETTIFER TO BE ORDAINED

Sir,

Last year, when I was ordained Deacon, you kindly inserted a small paragraph in THE WIRE to let my many friends in the Corps know that I had made the grade.

I am now to be ordained into the Priesthood on Trinity Sunday, 9th June, at Winchester Cathedral, by the Bishop of Southampton, and I would be grateful if you could once more put a small notice in THE WIRE.

I am enjoying my new life tremendously. Looking back on my service life, I always seem to have had pretty busy sorts of jobs, but nothing compared to the life of a parish priest—never a dull moment—never a spare moment—an exacting, but a wonderful life. I find that a lifetime in the Army is a great asset in the life I lead now.

I am, etc.,

L. S. Pettifer

Rev. L. S. Pettifer,
14, Gravel Lane,
Ringwood, Hants.

Movements

Officers

Lieutenant G. A. Allen	To	3rd H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Major R. A. Burfitt	,,	38th Regiment (V)
Brigadier A. D. Brindley, M.B.E. ...	,,	D. Tels. M.O.D.
Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Beattie ...	,,	R.H.Q. (Recruiting Co-ord.)
Captain G. Barnett	,,	School of Signals
Major G. N. Bell	,,	School of Signals
Major (Q.M.) F. Bergelin	,,	To Retire
Captain R. S. Clayton	,,	School of Signals (No. 1 TE (A) Course)
A/Major L. P. Clayton	,,	34th Regiment (V)
Major D. L. Copeland	,,	28th Regiment
Major W. G. A. Cathcart	,,	217 Squadron
Major G. G. Campbell	,,	19th Regiment
Major (T.O.T.) P. E. C. Davies ...	,,	10th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Evans, M.B.E.	,,	34th Regiment (V) as C.O.
Major J. Fender	,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Captain C. H. Glydon	,,	School of Signals (No. 1) TE (A) Course)
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. F. Green ...	,,	School of Signals (No. 1 TE (A) Course)
Second-Lieutenant R. G. Howard ...	,,	255 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. Irwin ...	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain (T.O.T.) D. Hazel	,,	H.Q. L.F.H.K. B.F.P.O. 1
Captain F. G. Hardy	,,	10th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) F. Iveson	,,	16th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) R. E. Jenkins ...	,,	249 Squadron
Captain D. G. Mitchell	,,	School of Signals (No. 1 TE (A) Course)
Captain A. P. H. Marley	,,	4th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant G. D. MacDougall	,,	Junior Tradesmen's Regt. Rhyll.
Captain (T.F.C.) J. J. M. Nutt ...	,,	Att.: 644 Troop (UNIFICYP)
Captain (T.O.T.) K. A. Rutter ...	,,	2nd Div H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant T. N. Singleton	,,	11th Regiment
Major J. E. C. Stevens	,,	212 Squadron
Major F. A. L. Terrey	,,	22nd Regiment
Major P. D. Warren	,,	M.O.D. (Sigs. 35)
Brigadier A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E. ...	,,	M.O.D. (D.P.R.)
Captain P. B. Webster	,,	H.Q. (UNFICYP)
Major M. J. Wilton-Steer	,,	33rd Regiment
Lieutenant J. C. Young	,,	18th Regiment

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

MAY

W.O.I (F. of S.) F. C. Williams ...	To	13th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) M. Butler	,,	28th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. M. M. Dunlevy	,,	CV & HQ & Training Unit
W.O.II K. W. E. Hawkes	,,	35th Regiment (V)
W.O.II S. Finlayson	,,	242 Squadron
W.O.II J. Hehir	,,	7th Regiment
W.O.II A. J. Hunt	,,	31st Regiment (V)
W.O.II G. L. Jackson	,,	8th Regiment
W.O.II D. Jones	,,	R.A.C. Centre
W.O.II F. W. Jones	,,	20 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
W.O.II J. D. Laing	,,	14th Regiment
W.O.II J. W. Long	,,	8th Regiment
W.O.II L. Robertson	,,	11th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. N. Forster ...	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II (Y. of S.) G. E. C. Hitchcock	,,	HQ D.C.N. (A.E.)
W.O.II L. Arrowsmith	,,	H.Q. (New) Southern Command
W.O.II R. Copland	,,	16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. M. Cardinal ...	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Elliott	,,	7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. L. S. Grinnell ...	,,	19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant B. A. C. Hardy ...	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant F. G. Holmonroyd ...	,,	8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. C. Johnson	,,	222 Squadron (Sharjah)
Staff Sergeant L. J. H. Merry ...	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant J. R. White	,,	4 Guards Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant F. M. Young	,,	A.I.C.O., Middlesbrough
Staff Sgt. (Y. of S.) D. J. Mortlock ...	,,	H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Staff Sgt. (F. of S.) B. A. Meachin ...	,,	7th Regiment
Staff Sgt. (F. of S.) T. J. Everett ...	,,	SHAPE H.Q. Command and Support
Staff Sgt. (F. of S.) C. Baxter ...	,,	28th Regiment
Staff Sgt. (F. of S.) E. C. Harriss ...	,,	255 Squadron

Continued on page 157

Staff Sergeant I. D. C. MacMillan ...	,,	608 Troop
Staff Sergeant G. S. Clark	,,	12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. Hughes	,,	H.Q., 3 Sig. Gp. (NEARELF)
Sergeant M. N. S. Crow	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant B. Greatorex	,,	28th Regiment
Sergeant D. E. P. Rock	,,	252 Squadron
Sergeant J. M. Ellis	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Bentley	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant D. A. C. Jack	,,	6 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant J. E. Savins	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant B. M. Hudson	,,	19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant R. F. D. French	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant W. Jones	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant R. A. L. Green	,,	9th Regiment
Sergeant F. Nicholls	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant O. Maynard	,,	261 Squadron
A/Sergeant A. D. Hewett	,,	18th Regiment
A/Sergeant C. S. Mason	,,	H.Q., 3 Sig. Gp. (NEARELF)
Sergeant A. G. Papandreou	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant M. A. White	,,	224 Squadron
Sergeant J. C. M. Young	,,	9th Regiment
Sergeant F. W. Edwards	,,	2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant G. H. Johnson	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant T. R. Beare	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant D. T. Salt	,,	21st Regiment
A/Sergeant J. Davidson	,,	C.V. H.Q. & Training Wing
Sergeant T. R. Mallabone	,,	242 Squadron (Scottish Comd)
Sergeant J. W. Horne	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant J. Sinnett	,,	249 Squadron FARELF
Sergeant F. P. Rogers	,,	260 Squadron
Sergeant A. S. Reid	,,	28th (Comwel) Infantry Bde
Sergeant F. Caffney	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant J. B. Graham	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant F. W. Kendall	,,	20 LCT Support Regt. R.C.T.
Sergeant L. A. Brown	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant R. Harris	,,	3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Sergeant S. W. Richens	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant R. Mawson	,,	223 Squadron
Sergeant K. Richardson	,,	8th Regiment

CORRECTION

For Sergeant Dehashty read SERGEANT DEHDASHTY in the April/May WIRE.

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To W.O.I	22296837	A/W.O.I	Ient, J. E.	1320	2270
	2549010	A/W.O.I	Alfred, A. S. R.	1330	2350
	2549584	A/W.O.I	MacDonald, G. S.	1350	2230
	22522466	A/W.O.I	Declancy, V.	1360	2530
To W.O.II	22537013	S Sgt.	Crisp, D. W. L.	4300	3400
	22569537	S Sgt.	Hall, M. G. E.	4310	3530
	22545512	S Sgt.	Christie, G. A.	4320	3940
	22390873	A/W.O.II	Houghton, R.	4330	1910
	2549610	S Sgt.	Ross, D.	4340	760
	23030399	S Sgt.	Penman, G.	4350	3250
	22524375	S Sgt.	Didlick, L. G.	4360	3490
	23186476	S Sgt.	Arnold, H. G.	4370	4090
	22106088	S Sgt.	Maher, J.	4380	3290
	22541949	S Sgt.	Sparrow, D. S. T.	4390	3730
	22296717	S Sgt.	Davies, R. J.	4400	3750
	22309279	S Sgt.	Noble, P. A.	4410	3910
	22296843	S Sgt.	Meekings, H. A. C.	4420	3580
	21005280	S Sgt.	Bresloff, R. S.	4430	3710
	22212064	S Sgt.	Holland, G. J.	4440	3880
To S Sgt.	23133970	Sgt.	Storey, L. G. H.	5110	9280 (Op)
	22794227	Sgt.	Press, J. V.	5120	9180 (Op)
	23243405	A/S Sgt.	Birtles, H.	5130	3040 (Fd)
	22360121	Sgt.	Law, B.	5140	9270 (Op)
	22289372	Sgt.	Loveday, F. J.	5150	9080 (Op)
	23186446	Sgt.	Balch, T.	5160	2910 (Fd)
	22821030	Sgt.	Binks, C.	5170	9240 (Op)
	22771744	Sgt.	Stoneham, L. V.	5180	2560 (Tech)
	22154083	Sgt.	Toole, F. T.	5190	9500 (Op)
	22515900	Sgt.	Isaac, R. J.	5200	9530 (Op)
	23481853	Sgt.	Walton, A. S.	5210	9570 (Op)
	22805081	Sgt.	Wise, J. H.	5220	9490 (Op)
	22559690	Sgt.	Blank, J. H.	5230	3230 (Fd)
	22526417	Sgt.	Rogers, F. D.	5240	9430 (Op)
	22537807	Sgt.	Smith, E. R. R.	5250	9290 (Op)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22289287	W.O.II	Johnson, M. A.	1290	1310
	2549586	W.O.II	Staniford, R.	1310	1660

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22449808	A/W.O.I	Reid, I. A.	610	950
	22466247	A/W.O.I	Brice, S. A.	620	954
To W.O.II	22821101	S Sgt.	Blakelock, P. G.	1340	1370
	22983581	S Sgt.	Llewellyn, D. T.	1350	1470
	22958519	S Sgt.	Dodman, R. A.	1360	1504
	22821085	S Sgt.	Gray, P. C.	1370	1390
	22845303	S Sgt.	Birkwood, J. W.	1380	1500
	22967489	S Sgt.	Cudlip, A. W.	1390	1460

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To W.O.I	14839138	A/W.O.I	Brough, J. J.	460	740
To W.O.II	23218577	A/W.O.II	Berriman, M. J. S.	1070	1150
	21074023	S Sgt.	Sloane, K.	1080	1120
To S Sgt.	23294296	A/S Sgt.	Rose, A. G.	1360	2710
	22817852	A/S Sgt.	Sharrock, T.	1380	2420
	22987235	A/S Sgt.	Firth, J. B.	1400	2940
	23373709	Sgt.	Brodie, R. C.	1410	3000
	23677153	Sgt.	Byrne, J. P.	1420	3140
	23211049	Sgt.	Oliver, D.	1440	2930
	22212448	A/S Sgt.	Underwood, H. P.	1450	780

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23878039	Cpl.	Wadey, R. R.	6535	13267
	23733926	Cpl.	Pilbeam, N. A.	6592	13470
	23878783	Cpl.	Maynard, C.	6595	13896
	23675331	Cpl.	Spence, T. J.	6600	12329
	23744773	Cpl.	Coldwell, A. W. T.	6602	12968
	23733907	Cpl.	Lowry, A. J.	6605	13270
	23836724	Cpl.	Adams, L. L.	6607	14313
	23878233	Cpl.	Hall, H. R.	6610	12991
	23849960	Cpl.	Napier, C. E.	6630	13418
	23722711	Cpl.	Scott, D. R.	6640	12779
	23827287	Cpl.	Parkinson, C.	6675	12770
	22995512	Cpl.	Auty, C.	6690	11640

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	23485885	A/Sgt.	McGann, P. T.	3400	5840
	23533863	A/Sgt.	Gaffney, R.	3410	5971
	22522410	Cpl.	Kellow, R.	3420	5144
	23736357	Cpl.	Fowler, S. M.	3430	5570
	23742222	A/Sgt.	Jones, A. W.	3440	5974
	23722112	A/Sgt.	Chadwick, T. M.	3450	5976

INSERTION

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	22569209	Sgt.	Nicholls, F.	3340

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	590	710	1240			
W.O.II	160	970	1060	1214	1410	1610
	1820	1920	2080	2120	2260	2330
	2510	2670	2680	2700	2940	3270
	3490	3680	3750	3760		
S Sgt	240	250	340	384	450	530
	650	680	740	790	850	970
	990	1000	1290	1530	1870	1980
	2270	2360	2400	2410	2490	2530
	2610	2670	2904	2990	3520	3550
	3680	4310	4500			

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	940				

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

S Sgt.	270	480			

TECHNICAL ROSTER

W.O.II	520	560			
S Sgt.	1020				
Sgt.	3480				

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	6044	6120	9830	10920	12130

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt.	2550				

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CHEERFUL ENCOUNTER
The Signal Officer-in-Chief meets the Chinese Staff Sergeants and Sergeants of 253 Signal Squadron at a Cocktail Party in the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess

Visit of S.O.-in-C. to Hong Kong

FROM the point of view of the climate one of the best places to serve in the Far East is Hong Kong. The monotonous daily round of heat and humidity which is experienced in most other parts of the Theatre is broken into a clearly defined cold season, and within that cold season February is normally the most pleasant of all. Clear, crisp, fine and sunny days with unlimited visibility to really appreciate the magnificent local scenery are normally expected at that time.

Of course the weather had to break

We were fairly certain, therefore, that when **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** Signal Officer-in-Chief, arrived for his tour of Signal units in the Colony from 17th-21st February we would at least be able to give him a break from the rigours of the U.K. winter. Unfortunately, this was not to be, and for the whole period of his visit **General Anderson** suffered from a weather 'quirk' which gave us the coldest spell for eighty-two years with no sunshine at all. There may have been some consolation for the General in the knowledge that the C.S.O. FARELF, **Brigadier A. D. Brindley, M.B.E.,** who accompanied him for his visit, was suffering even more—he had just returned from Australia where the temperature went up to 110!

Although the bad weather gave some anxious moments with helicopter schedules it was not allowed to interfere with a comprehensive programme designed to give the General a good insight into the Corps' activities in Hong Kong, and to let him meet and talk with as many as possible of our representatives. To achieve the aim all types of transportation were used, including the R.A.F. Whirlwind and Army Sioux helicopters, motor cars, feet and, not the least, a millionaire's launch making its maiden voyage.

Commander R Signals, Hong Kong, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Hart,** guided the visitors through a series of operation and intelligence briefings from those who have to control operations in an emergency. The implications of higher policy were discussed at meetings with Commander British Forces, Hong Kong, and with the Naval and R.A.F. Commanders during courtesy calls.

Meeting the men on the job

All aspects of communications were emphasised during the tour of Squadrons and installations which the General undertook with unfailing energy. At every possible occasion the General met the 'men on the job.' Although the 'green boxes' must all look alike, and must be a familiar sight to a visitor of such distinction, their special and unique impact on their multi-racial operators was well appreciated. This was evidenced by the shrewd and searching questions asked, and answered.



CONVERSATION PIECE
The Signal Officer-in-Chief talks to Sergeant Brierly and Staff Sergeant Bowman at a Cocktail Party in the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess



A WAY THEY HAVE IN HONG KONG
Corporal Chang Chuen Hing (head) and Lance Corporal Chung Wai Keung (tail) performing the traditional Lion Dance, welcoming the Signal Officer-in-Chief

Everywhere some communication facet

The tours also took the General throughout the length and breadth of the Colony. From the green and beautiful Island, through the concrete jungle of urban Kowloon to the mountainous and forboding New Territories and Border. Everywhere there was some communication facet to be pointed out—the Police and Military H.Q.s from where IS operations are controlled—the huge re-building and resiting projects with associated SWS programmes—the tactical dispositions with field communications deployed for instant readiness. And everywhere there were soldiers to be talked to, Chinese, Gurkha and British all representing the Corps in a multitude of ways and doing their best.

There were, too, ceremonial and social occasions. Unit Quarter Guards were inspected, medals were presented, wives were met and family problems discussed. Clubs and messes were visited and a few minutes were squeezed into the demanding programme for the not-to-be-missed sightseeing for which Hong Kong is so famous.

Throughout most of the time the photographers were busy and we offer a selection of those which show some of the moments which we hope will remain as a pleasant memory to the S.O.-in-C.

All ranks of R Signals and Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong were encouraged and stimulated by the visit of the S.O.-in-C. and from all of them—"Thank you for coming, sir."

Prompt action by Corps men saves lives

A Gallant Effort

Lieutenant R. W. Simmons, B.E.M., and Lance-Corporal J. A. Spence of 229 Squadron (Berlin), show considerable initiative and courage in rescuing two young Germans from drowning.

On Wednesday, 27th March, 1968, two members of the Squadron proved that in addition to being expert at communications and keeping the Corps to the front on the sporting fields in Berlin, we are not lacking in courage and initiative.

Lieutenant R. W. Simmons, B.E.M., accompanied by his wife, was returning from a tour of East Berlin in a Volksbus driven by **Lance-Corporal Spence,** when Mrs. Simmons noticed a German youth attempting to enter the Landwehrkanal from a bridge. After stopping the vehicle they found that the youth had fallen into the water and disappeared.

Lieutenant Simmons and **Lance-Corporal Spence** lowered themselves 15 feet down the sheer, almost vertical walls of the canal, on to a small ledge. The canal at this location being extremely deep and fast flowing. They discovered the youth in the water under the bridge, desperately trying to maintain a grip on the smooth walls with one hand, while with the other he appeared to be attempting to prevent a bundle of clothes from being carried away.

When **Lance-Corporal Spence** saw that the attempts by **Lieutenant Simmons** to reach the youth were unsuccessful, he dived into the canal and secured the youth and the bundle he was holding. This bundle proved to be a **second** German youth who was unconscious. Swimming against the current, **Lance-Corporal Spence** supported the unconscious youth and pushed the other to **Lieutenant Simmons.**

With great difficulty, our two valiant members managed to get both youths on to the ledge on which **Lieutenant Simmons** was standing and proceeded to give artificial respiration treatment to the unconscious youth, with success, until the arrival of the German Fire Service in a boat, who removed the youth to hospital.

Well done, both members of 229 Squadron, and in particular **Lance-Corporal Spence,** who, without thought for his own safety, certainly saved the life of one, if not two, young Germans.

Lance-Corporal Spence was only promoted from Signalman on 27th March, prior to the event described above.



[Photo: Courtesy Berliner Bild Zeitung
LANCE-CORPORAL SPENCE
He dived in and pulled both German youths to safety



[Photo: Courtesy Berliner Bild Zeitung
RESCUED
Left to Right: Lance-Corporal Spence, Lieutenant Simmons and three German firemen. One of the rescued youths lies unconscious in the boat

TELECOMMS TECHNICIAN—VACANCY

A vacancy exists with 38th Signal Regiment (V) with the Derby Squadron for a Civilian Telecomms Technician. Pay, £16 10s. 0d. weekly.

Applications to O.C., 46 (Derby) Signal Squadron (V) Kingsway Training Centre, Kingsway, Derby.

C.C.F. Signal Troop affiliated with the Corps

INAUGURAL DINNER HELD AT CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

Corps Band plays

CHRIST'S Hospital is the second school, following Marlborough College, whose CCF Signal Troop is now officially affiliated to Royal Signals. The inauguration was held on 1st March during a visit to the School by **Brigadier K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E.,** C.S.O. Eastern Command. He arrived accompanied by **Colonel T. H. C. Grigg** and **Major M. S. Jarrett** (both Old Blues) in time to watch the dinner parade with the School Band playing the Corps March. In the afternoon he saw the Signal Troop and then the rest of the cadet contingent on normal training.

The old and the new

For the Signal Troop 'normal training' was supplemented in several directions. Cadets were shown an Air Support Tentacle under **Corporal McInnes** and **Lance-Corporal Pinder** of 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment with **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Thompson** also present, and were able to take turns operating the detachments' C11 to Bulford, and the C13 to a distant station. Later **Major Jarrett** gave an informative and entertaining talk on the provision of communications for the Strategic Reserve. Meanwhile, a display of signal equipment, old and new, from the School stores had been mounted in the Signals Room. Alongside the Troop's latest equipment, including their new B70s, were arrayed some well remembered pieces: helios, DIII Telephones, Fullerphones MkIII, flags and the like; prompting the older members to recall how it used to be done in the good(?) old days.

A Royal link with the Corps

Then followed the main event; an inaugural dinner attended by the Headmaster, masters connected with the CCF, the boys of the Signal Troop, Old Blues in Royal Signals, and other former members of the Cadet Signals. A total of 60 sat down to an excellent meal prepared by the staff of the school kitchen. After the Loyal Toast, the Headmaster in proposing the School Toast welcomed the special guests, **Brigadier Gribbin** and **Lieutenant-Colonels Pounds** and **Hibberd,** and drew attention to a former link between the School and the Corps. The **Princess Royal** was a Governor of Christ's Hospital and on the two occasions she exercised her rights of presentation she chose boys whose fathers were in Royal Signals.

A toast to Royal Signals

Major/Lieutenant Bill Kirby spoke next. His rank is a little confusing. Having reached the retiring age for majors several years ago, he was able to rejoin as a Lieutenant. However, all present were delighted to see his crown still in place on his patrol jacket on this occasion. An old Blue himself, he joined the Cambridge University OTC Signals before returning to the School as a master in 1927. He then took over the cadet signals formed three years earlier, and apart from his service in Royal Signals during the war, notably with 3rd Operating Battalion, Whitby, has remained with them ever since. In his speech (" my first in 44 years "—which no one believed) he attributed to others, with typical modesty, the successful progress of the cadet signals through the years. He also paid tribute to the many Royal Signals Officers who by devious means have assisted him with equipment and training facilities. He ended by proposing the Toast of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Corps plaque presented

Finally, **Brigadier Gribbin,** himself a former member of Marlborough College and Cambridge OTC Signals, responded in his usual masterly fashion on behalf of the Corps. He then presented a Corps plaque to the senior cadet and—at the request of the Old Blues in Royal Signals—**an inscribed tankard to Major Kirby.**

After warm applause for telegrams of congratulations from C.S.O. Southern Command and from Marlborough College, whose O.C. Signals, **Captain H. E. Lansley,** was also present, the boys withdrew to their houses and the rest of the company to the Common Room where it was agreed that the new link between the School and the Corps could not have got off to a better start.

Amongst those present

The Royal Signals Old Blues present from the Regular and Reserve Armies were:

Colonels G. H. T. Shrimpton, T. H. C. Grigg, J. R. West, P. A. M. Tighe;

Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. P. Salter; Majors P. E. Mott, B .D. Hankin, G. J. M. Shrive, P. J. Knott, M. S. Jarrett, J. M. Newman; Captain M. J. Ford.

The following were unable to attend:
Majors J. A. Bladon, R. Bell; Captain D. M. O. Miller.



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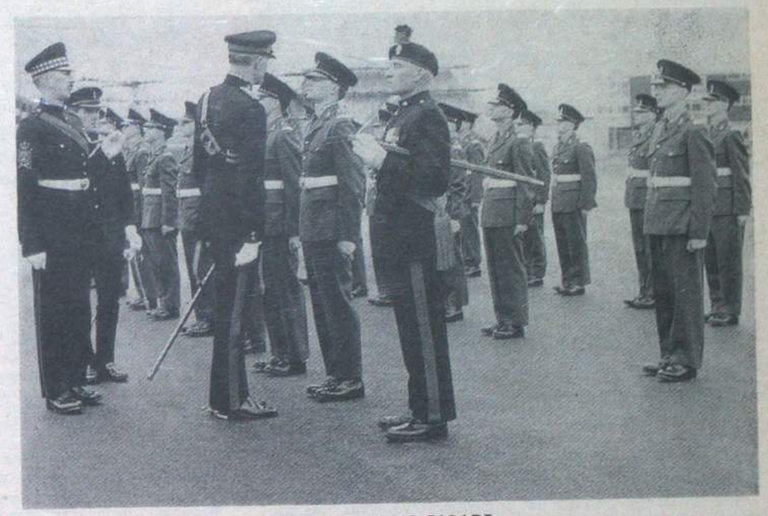
Recruit Squadron's Passing-out Parade

ON 30th, March 75 parents, relatives and friends, watched in brilliant sunshine as 26 boys passed out from Recruit Squadron to join the four senior Squadrons of the College.

This was a much smaller intake than usual, and a very young one: ages ranged from 15.2 to 16 years. But it was also one of good quality: it is noteworthy that, 26 recruits having joined, none "fell by the wayside" during the first term.

The Commandant of the College, **Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D.,** inspected the parade and took the salute. Afterwards parents had the opportunity of meeting members of the College Staff over coffee, and after lunch, many were shown round the College by their sons.

The prize for the Best Recruit in the Squadron was awarded to **A/T Michael Buckley,** of Hounslow; runner-up was **A/T Billy Anderson,** of Peterlee.



THEIR FIRST BIG PARADE.

Recruit Squad are inspected by Colonel J. W. Eagle, Commandant, on their pass out parade. Also in the picture C.S.M. Powell (Scots Guards), Major Spooner, Sergeant Rayson (R. Warwickshire Fusiliers). The Commandant has a word with A/T William Apps.

Carlisle win Army Youth Rugby Final in last minute of injury time

A try by scrum-half **A/T J. Mills** in the last minute of injury time brought victory to "C" Company, Army Apprentices' College, Carlisle, by 8 points to 5 over Penney Squadron, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, in the final of the Army Youth Rugby Challenge Cup Competition on Saturday, 30th March.

Harrogate drew first blood in the eighth minute when **A/T Sergeant D. A. James,** captain of Penney Squadron, and incidentally of the Army Youth XV, grub-kicked ahead from the 25 for wing-forward **A/T D. E. Jones** to gather the ball in the loose maul which developed, and score in the corner. **James** converted to make the score 5-0, where it remained until the last 15 minutes of the match. At this point, Carlisle, now playing with renewed vigour, initiated a classic passing movement along their three-quarter line from a scrum inside the Harrogate 25, for left-wing **A/T D. Archer** to score in the corner. Carlisle captain **A/T G. Ball** converted with a fine kick from the side-line. During the following minutes Carlisle maintained constant pressure and left-wing **A/T K. Middleton** narrowly missed scoring from a loose maul 10 yards from Harrogate's line when the ball was carried over.

With the score at 5-5, it appeared only a matter of whether the whistle for full-time would go before Carlisle clinched the match. But after nearly five minutes of injury time, a scrum 15 yards out gave **A/T Mills** his chance to make the final score, **Ball** failing to convert.

Harrogate failed throughout to make full use of the ball which they won with almost regular monotony from both set scrums and line-outs. Service from the back of the scrum was both slow and erratic and only fine covering by **James** at fly-half averted earlier scoring by the determined Carlisle side.

The weather for once surpassed itself, as the usual westerly which sweeps the playing fields was virtually absent and the pitch was firm and dry. An unusually big crowd, including a



SO NEARLY WINNERS

A/T Corporal Gallagher and A/T Sergeant James receive their runners up medals from Major-General Foxton. A/T Sergeant James had the honour of being selected to Captain the Army Youth XV

Continued on page 162

large Carlisle contingent, was present and watched **Major-General E. F. Foxton, O.B.E.,** Director of Army Education and Chairman of the Army Junior Rugby Union, present the Challenge Cup to the winners, and medals to the players of both sides.

SWIMMING GALA

On Monday, 1st April, we held our second Swimming Gala in the College Pool. The gala included inter-Squadron races and a selection of races for families and children. The inter-Squadron races provided plenty of excitement, especially in the Permanent Staff Chain of Command race, when one Squadron, who shall be nameless, substituted an A/T instead of the S.S.M. Although they were the eventual winners we had no option but to disqualify them.

It was encouraging to see more children and families taking part this term. The standard of swimming was excellent and it is obvious that we have the makings of a good swimming team. We look forward to a good competition season next term.

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 22

Spring brings in the "Bronzed Green"

SPRING has come to Germany and the land is full of green youth. Not as poetic as it sounds as the sun has been out and if it one does not move quickly through the M.T. one gets a quick coat of Paint Spraying Deep Bronze Green for the Equipment Inspection is on us again.

The aim of this article is not to mention UEI again. Strange though how this event like so many other evil matters have names that are Legion. For example it was a CIV, then UTI, then a UEI, and this year a PRE. They are all the same monster, so step lively as you pass that truck or buy a new pair of trousers.

Since our last entry in this magazine, life has been its usual pattern of having too much to do and not enough time to do it. For once, however, we have not been chasing our tails and getting nowhere but getting to know our new "Bruin" equipment. We have had one exercise in which the ability of the system was tested to the full. The results would certainly have staggered the designers.

In January we competed with moderate success at the Divisional Ski Meeting. Conditions were not good, varying from ice through deep, clogging snow, to rain and bare grass. The writer, who set the cross-country courses has renounced ski-ing completely as a result until next year.

One Outpost of Empire *Does* Still Remain

The highlight of last month was a Rugby Tour to Berlin. Three games were played on the rugby field and several others elsewhere. We were much impressed by, and most grateful for 229 Squadron's hospitality. We had not realised that one outpost of the Empire yet remained.

Military training goes on apace. Three Squadrons having spent a week at Sennelager firing hopefully into mist early in March, returned three weeks later to fire equally hopefully into the smoke of dry burning undergrowth. Some people were lucky or extra skilled, and **Lance-Corporal Southon** firing the L.M.G. managed 49 out of 60 on the first occasion despite a blizzard.

Various members of the Squadron returned to camp with noses reshaped because of not having held the Rocket Launcher correctly, but everyone is keen to have another try.

"Flourishing a Flipper"

The Sub-Aqua Club continues to flourish a flipper. Training and testing sessions in local swimming baths have led the way to our first open dive in a lake near Hanover. **Second-Lieutenants Marks** and **Arthur** along with **S.Q.M.S. Sanderson** and **Sergeant Bingham,** descended 30 feet into the gloom and silt for the requisite time. In April they go to Kiel to continue their qualification dives.

Our canoeists are still split between the Devizes-Westminster race team and those left here behind. The latter are training as hard as the former are reported to be doing, and a strong team should be available for the International Military Meeting in France in May. Canoeing takes place most week-ends on the Weser and a trip to the Mosel Valley is planned for Easter.

Another newly formed club is the Dramatic Society. The "Ghost Train," its first production should be staged sometime in June. The small gymnasium is being converted into a theatre for this purpose

4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

Farewell visit of C.C.R. Signals

BRIGADIER C. E. PAGE, M.B.E., paid his farewell visit to the Regiment as C.C.R. Signals on Monday, 18th March. Accompanied by the Commanding Officer, he toured the unit lines, showing his usual keen, discerning interest, and then joined the officers of the Regiment in a group photograph. A farewell drink with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants was followed by lunch in the Officers' Mess. Too soon he had gone, his last visit typical of many: searching, interested, sympathetic, informative and enlivening. We shall miss his support and wish him well in his new international post.

A visit from the Garrison Commander

Brigadier D. F. A. T. Baines, M.B.E., the C.R.A. of the Division and Garrison Commander paid a quick visit to the Regiment during the morning of 26th March. Accompanied by the Commanding Officer, he followed a well-worn path around the Regimental facilities and premises, meeting officers, N.C.O.s, soldiers and civilian employees. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess offered its usual warm hospitality, with **R.S.M. Aitken** in expansive mood after his recent attendance at the R.S.M.'s Convention. The Garrison Commander's warm interest was noted and appreciated by all those he met in his short time with the Regiment, and we hope that some of our requests for improvements in the Barracks will get a fair wind!

Amateur Dramatics

On the 21st and 22nd March the Herford Players drew large audiences to the Globe Cinema, Herford, for their presentation of Bernard Shaw's "Devil's Disciple." This ambitious production was their entry for the 1968 B.A.O.R. Drama Festival. Although this is a Garrison Club, the Regiment is well represented and, in fact, plays a major role in management, cast and providing behind-the-scenes workers. The play was well received by the audience and adjudicator alike. It was produced by the resident producer, **Jane Walsh,** wife of **Captain J. B. Walsh,** who played the part of General Burgoyne. From the cast of 35, prominent roles were convincingly played by **Captain (T.O.T.) R. Taylor** as Major Swindon; **Lieutenant M. Yolland,** as the Reverend Anderson; **Sergeant G. McLachlan** (R.A.M.C.), as Sergeant of the Guard; **Lance-Corporal K. Jones** as Christy and **Mrs. K. Jones,** as Essie. Also taking their roles seriously, but with obvious enjoyment, were **Signalman J. Thompson** and **Corporal D. Murdoch,** who played splendid parts as soldiers. **Captain Taylor's** son, **Jeffrey,** played the drummer-boy. That great architect of sets, **Sergeant E. Page,** with his willing assistant, **Signalman T. Chesterton,** did heroic work in building five sets and erecting them in double quick time throughout the play. Lights were effectively worked by **A.S.M. R. Castell** (R.E.M.E.). Many others took part, including several wives, as part of the crowd, and also **Nan Taylor,** the wardrobe mistress, who made the many uniforms and costumes, together with **Jane Walsh.** A lot of work, a lot of people (50 altogether) and lots of enjoyment. Now we await the adjudication results, due to be announced on 31st March at Rheindahlen.



"HERE'S MY SAFE CONDUCT"
A dramatic moment captured during the "Devil's Disciple." Personalities of the Regiment from the left are: Captain J. B. Walsh (General Burgoyne), Captain (T.O.T.) R. Taylor (Major Swindon), Signalman J. Thompson (A soldier) and Lieutenant R. M. Yolland (The Reverend Anderson)

That Baby Bear

A great deal of Regimental attention is focussed at present on the rearing of a furry concept called Bruin. Big things from little ones grow, and as with all new adoptions, patience, adaptation and dogmatic insistence on good behaviour are beginning to show dividends. The latest CPX of the season indicated that the little beastie had to crawl before he could walk, and that the new owner needed more training himself. Sure enough, some domestic masochism in Exercise 'Camp Site,' a local workout, of course, has given clear indications that brute and owner are responsive to training. They will certainly find themselves in a couple of "hot spots" very shortly, and in due course the "brown bear" will have all its parts fully exercised. Before that we are all hoping it will go "great guns" and we are pretty confident that it will. (Exercises 'Hot Spot I and II,' Exercise 'Brown Bear' and Exercise 'Great Guns' ensure that we shall be spending little time in barracks this coming month!)

An Advanced Motorist

Corporal S. Summers brought credit to himself and to the Regiment early in March, when he successfully drove through the exacting tests of a team of examiners from the Ministry of Transport to win the badge of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. This is no mean achievement, and the Commanding Officer recognised it by making the badge a gift from the Regiment. Other drivers may follow suit in due course; certainly there cannot be too many of **Corporal Summer's** calibre in this Regiment.

Table Tennis

Having beaten 22nd Signal Regiment to become 4th Division area champions, the Regimental team qualified for the finals of the B.A.O.R. Team Table Tennis Championships, which were held at Rheindahlen on 22nd March.

The four final teams were: 11th Hussars (P.A.O.) of 1st Division; 2nd Division Signal Regiment; 68 Squadron, R.C.T., of Rhine Area, and our own team, which was chosen from **Corporal W. Monkham, Lance-Corporal G. Lewis, Lance-Corporal B. Brooker** and **Signalman Roberts.**

Our opponents in the semi-final were 11th Hussars, who won 7—2. Although this sounds rather a trouncing, the closeness of some of the games is belied by the final score.

Then, playing against 2nd Division Signal Regiment, for third or fourth place, we were again beaten, but not disgraced, the final score being 6—3.

Final placings were: First, 68 Squadron R.C.T.; second, 11th Hussars; third, 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment; fourth, 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

As a reward for trying hard, two of the team were left behind to have instruction over the weekend from **Diane (Rowe) Schuber,** a previous ladies' world title holder. Our hope is that **Lance-Corporal Lewis** and **Signalman Roberts** will be able to pass on hints to the rest of the team which will stand them in good stead next year. This is an activity which can be expanded.



CONCENTRATION
Corporal W. Monkman is shown in action during the B.A.O.R. Table Tennis semi-final against 11 Hussars (P.A.O.)

A New Arrival

Amongst the recent new arrivals is **Major B. M. Edwards,** of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, who has taken over 2 Squadron from **Major T. Rigby.** It is a pleasure to welcome him and his wife, **Gaynor,** and one of his assignments has been to make a short contribution to these notes.

Up From Down Under

"Two years exchange appointment with Royal Signals, 12 months' Regimental Duty in B.A.O.R. and 12 months at the School of Signals, Blandford." So the posting order read, and my wife and I were delighted at the prospect of experiencing the ways of "the other half," making new acquaintances and renewing some of those already made during a tour with 28th Commonwealth Brigade between 1960 and 1962.

"I have now been commanding 2 Squadron, 4th Division Signal Regiment, for a little over a month, and the twelve months' regimental duty package has been well and truly broached. A unanimous vote by the existing Squadron Commanders resulted in my attendance at the 4th Division Study Period, Exercise 'Nine O'Clock,' just one week after my arrival. For this particular antipodean, anxious to count boots and blankets and take over his Squadron, this was not at the time a very popular selection but, in retrospect, I extend my thanks. The differences in concepts unfolded during Exercise 'Nine O'Clock' to someone like me, brought up on airportability in a tropical environment, was a numbing experience, and I have yet to gather my thoughts and produce rational comparisons on our two Corps approach to common problems. Perhaps I may be allowed to do this in a future issue. In the meantime, back to the tank suits and black berets, which are part of the 'Armoured Might' which is now 2 Squadron of this Regiment."

More New Arrivals

Major D. H. Briggs is welcomed on his arrival from H.Q., NORTHAG, to become Second-in-Command. We shall make full use of his 'skill' (already discernable in this offering) at writing and editing THE WIRE notes! **Captain F. Stork,** late of 18th Regiment has started work a month early to fill an awkward gap in the officer line-up and his sacrifice is appreciated.

And Departures

Major T. Rigby should by now have his brolly and bowler drill well practised as he commutes to the Ministry. His new interpretation of 'exercise' will be, no doubt, of PEPEX performed prior to his quick morning dash to the train. **Major D. J. Milton,** late of the Headquarters Staff, but now with 6th Brigade, will have no doubt of the true meaning of 'exercise.' Good wishes go to both of them and their families.

A Stop Press Item !

They've done it, we knew they would! The Regimental Fencing Team, under **Major Reg King,** have won the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Fencing Championship and now go on to the U.K. final at Aldershot in May. An illustrated article on this talented group of fencers, a true cross-section of the integrated Regiment, will appear in the next issue, if the Editor will allow space. (He will.—Editor).

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15



PARTING GIFT

The presentation of a Memorial album from the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess

Farewell Visit of Brigadier C. E. Page, M.B.E.

Brigadier Page presented the Page Trophy to **Captain A. F. Browne,** O.C. "S" Troop—the first holders of the trophy; and a commemorative photograph album and a Regimental tie was presented to him by **W.O.I (F. of S.) F. A. Smith** (in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess) on behalf of the Regiment.

We wish **Brigadier** and **Mrs. Page** a happy tour in Belgium.

Motor Cycling

The Regimental motor cycle team has been competing in local civilian trials in preparation for the coming Army Trials season. Well to the fore have been **Sergeant Fayers** and **Lance-Corporal Lloyd** on their own Greaves machines. On Army machines, **Signalman Purden** has won awards at Dusseldorf and Osnabruck.

We anxiously await delivery of our new Army B.S.A.'s because we must become familiar with them well in advance of this year's Army Championships.

Small Bore Shooting

The main event which took place during this month was the Rhine Army Small Bore Championships. The Regimental team did well in stage one, qualifying fairly easily for stage two, which was held at Sennelager.

At the end of the first day at Sennelager the team lay in 5th place. An optimist described us as being on "the verge" of second place. However, a high standard on the second day left us 6th overall.

The winner's average was 92.90 against the Regiment's 90.15. We hope that the combination of a more experienced team and the improvements now being made at Sennelager will mean greater success during the rest of the year.



CAREFULLY DOES IT

Sergeant Atherly concentrates on avoiding a series of puddles! In order to look good on getting to the start

Amateur Radio

A burst of renewed activity and enthusiasm has coincided with the acquisition of a fine 105 foot Wulfel mast which has been erected in North Camp. The station has also been moved to North Camp so R.S.A.R.S. members should now be hearing D75YK loud and clear. There are also several short wave listeners within the club who are always listening out for R.S.A.R.S. signals. Any licence holder who is about to be posted to 7th Regiment should contact **Captain Burns** in advance so that the application for his D.L. 5 licence is in good time—it can be a lengthy procedure.

Corporals' Mess

Recent months have seen great efforts on the part of the entertainments committee of the Corporals' Mess in promoting a diverse number of attractions.

From folk sessions to discotheque dances, and games nights between other Messes. Disco 7, the name of our discotheque sessions, is never at a loss for "D.J.s" from "**Wonder Boy Wathen**" to "**Fab Feegan**" and "**D.J. John Laye.**" Several of the older members of the Mess still need switching on !

The once staunch ranks of batchelors has been sadly depleted with **Corporal Cairns, Corporal Dempsey** and **Lance-Corporal Drew** all having married. They are all rugby players. We wonder if the affliction has rubbed off in the scrum.

Sportswise, the Mess has played against local German football teams, and also had inter Mess Rugby matches, although for many of the members a quiet game of dominoes can be very exacting.

Lieutenant John Ingram was married to **Miss Susan Childs** at Christ Church, Dusseldorf on 23rd March, 1968.

We wish them both "Bon Voyage."

UNIT WIRE CORRESPONDENTS— YOUR HELP, PLEASE!

Your Editor would make a special plea for more news and photographs about individual soldiers and their activities.

While some units devote considerable space to this we note a tendency on the part of others to set aside an undue proportion of their notes to items of mainly officer interest.

'The Wire' aims to please a wide cross section of readers of whom serving soldiers form a large proportion.

11th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

Visits

OUR new Brigade Commander fulfilled his earlier promise of a lengthier and more detailed visit by coming to the Regiment on Friday, 15th March, 1968. He spent the whole day visiting all the various parts of the Regiment. He was entertained to drinks in the Sergeants' Mess and to lunch in the Royal Signals Officers' Mess.

Another visitor this month was the new Deputy Commander Northumbrian District, **Brigadier R. C. H. Barber, M.C.,** who visited the Quartermaster's Department and the Regimental Guard Room.

The Annual Convention of the Regimental Sergeant Majors of the Corps took place in Catterick from 19th-21st March, 1968 and we, as host Regiment, had the pleasure of accommodating them. Many yarns and reminiscences were exchanged and the photograph shows the ex-Boys and Apprentices at the Convention.



R.S.M.'s CONVENTION

The R.S.M.'s convention is very much an Ex-Boys reunion. The above photograph shows the ex-Boys who attended this year's Convention. The ex-Boys were determined that R.S.M. Aitken wouldn't get in on this photograph

Standing Left to Right: R.S.M.s Laycock, Crow, Mercer, Gibbs, McDonald, Ient, Orr

Seated Left to Right: R.S.M.s Kirk, Harrison, Pearsall, Webb, Alfred, Emery

Pass Off Parade—22nd March



Signalman M. S. Pearce
Best recruit on pass out parade held on 20th March

The Pass Off Parade on the 20th March was taken by the new Brigade Commander, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** in the presence of all the R.S.M's. of the Convention. The best recruit was **Signalman M. S. Pearce.** Signalman Pearce joined the Royal Corps of Signals to better himself as he decided his job as a clerk was not to his liking and had only limited prospects. Signalman Pearce has now joined 8th Regiment to be trained as a Technician.

Pass Off Parade—29th March

This Pass Off Parade of 7 Troop was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. E. Durant,** Glosters, who is the G.S.O. 1 Northumbrian District. The Troop was 18 strong and the parade went off well in spite of very blustery winds. The Best Recruit was **Signalman H. W. Sullivan,** who is to undergo trade training as a Technician. Signalman Sullivan, a holder of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, joined the Army for an interesting career and a worthwhile trade.

General

Our A.C.C. cooks showed their true merit in the Northumbrian District Cookery Competition. **Sergeant Morton,** A.C.C., was the winner and **Staff-Sergeant Harper,** A.C.C. was second. This is another step forward in their aim to win the Army Competition.

This month has been very busy for our comings and goings and are too numerous to mention. To those who have left us—thank you and good luck in the future and to those who have joined—welcome, and may your tour with us be a happy one in this "with-it" Regiment.

14th Signal Regiment Gloucester

Hullo —Goodbye

IT all started with 3 Squadron at Bampton. In connection with the rationalisation of the command structure, they were "posted" from Aldershot District to Eastern District, and in short order had visits from their old District Commander, their new District Commander and their new Army Commander. Just to show they can take it they slipped in their Annual Inspection in the middle of it all. (*Unfortunately the photograph was too 'foggy' for us to use.—Editor.*)

3 Squadron will never admit it, of course, but the real reason for this sudden popularity was that in that ill-provided part of the countryside, their operations block now rates crossed brushes in the Good Loo Guide.

Are You Sitting Comfortably ?

You really need to be if you are a clerical type serving in the U.K. this month. Northern Command having set the pace last year, when two District H.Q.s solemly swapped names, the idea has now spread. Southern Command has become Army Strategic Command, Eastern Command has become Southern Command, and . . . . As a result of all this, the number of Command H.Q.s we now hear from has reduced from two to three, and Districts from three to four. And the bumph ! Great parcels of Orders come in all shapes and sizes. Foolscap, quarto, duplicated, printed—one even had a colour supplement as a special introductory offer.

An M.P.C. Course with a Difference

After the first flush of mergers and take-over bids, it was good to see a new face from old friends when **Colonel M. G. McComas, M.B.E.,** our new local District Deputy Commander, came just before Easter and took the Pass Off Parade of the Spring M.P.C. II Course.

Apart from this honour, we tried hard to make this course a little different from most. After all, not many of them get a demonstration of the bigger bangs at the School of Infantry thrown in under the guise of weapon training.

They should also have had a current affairs period with a Bristol University lecturer, but **Dr. Peter Aris,** who must be known to generations of officers struggling with staff and promotion exams, was taken ill a couple of days earlier.

Old Soldiers

On the same day, **Colonel McComas*** congratulated, and presented L.S. and G.C. medals to **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) P. Smith, Staff-Sergeant D. J. Hawley** and **Sergeant T. A. Hammill,** watched with some awe by the Corporals of the M.P.C. Course.

One old soldier who had truly earned his medal, but who had unfortunately left under the redundancy scheme shortly before it arrived, was **Staff-Sergeant D. Hopkins.** "Hoppy" is one of the characters of the Corps. He was a Corps rugger player, and an Army and Corps cricketer. "Was" unhappily is the operative word, for four years ago he was seriously injured in an accident. Since then he has had to get about, firstly on crutches, and latterly wearing a leg iron.



[*Courtesy: Terry Beckett, Gloucester*

CERTAINLY SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

The Commanding Officer and Colonel McComas chatting with R.Q.M.S. P. Smith, Staff Sergeant D. Hawley and Sergeant T. A. Hammill after they had received their L.S. and G.C.M.s

But he still managed to show tremendous enthusiasm and energy at his work (as manager of "Carnaby Street," our clothing boutique), as the trainer of our rugger team, and as umpire and constant supporter of our cricket team.

He spoke of trips to London, rarely mentioning that they were to hospital (he has had fourteen major operations), and with an assuring grin refuted all suggestions of assistance. A man of character indeed, and one who leaves the Army with our especial good wishes for the future.

Sport

This is a difficult one this month. The rugger team have asked us to keep quiet, and the soccer team's needle match with the G.P.O. in the Thursday League just did not happen. The G.P.O. failed to turn up: we hesitate to ask the fate of the customary postcard confirming the fixture. The basketball team, however, had a storming finish to their season, winning the minor units District Shield, and getting as far as the Command pool for major units, but had to withdraw after difficulties in finding a team after a complete replay had been ordered. Up to then they had had a promising foray and the "oldies," **Q.M.S.I. R. J. Underwood** and **R.Q.M.S. A. J. Simpson** (shortly going to Sandhurst as R.S.M. of Signals Wing) deserve great praise for their tenacity.

Under the aegis of 602 Troop we ventured into the ski-ing field for the first time this year. A full account of this appears later in this number under 602 Troops Notes—and good stuff it is.

You Never Know Who Reads The Wire

In the February/March number we told of the plight of three crows. Two days after that issue was distributed in the Regiment, two more crows appeared, were advised that planning was complete and all the available nesting sites were bespoke, and took their leave. Meanwhile, two of the originals have solemly dismantled their old nest and moved it to another tree about a hundred yards away. **Staff-Sergeant D. J. Hawley,** our Mr. Forte, says it is pure coincidence that they moved further away from the cookhouse.

Welcome Visitors

Hospitality has been defined as the art of making your guests feel at home when you wish they were. Sometimes our resources and efforts have been somewhat strained in this field, but one party we were delighted to put up was the Parachute Regiment Canoe Team, who came and stayed a few days before Easter. They were doing their final training before competing in the Olympic trials held on the Sharpness Canal at Gloucester on Easter Saturday.

Stop Press Comment

They did extremely well and, with our best wishes, go forward to the last 30 as possibles for selection.

** In very small print, and subject to the Editor's vote, we should perhaps add that between times he also carried out our Annual Inspection.*

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Leicester visitors

Over the years, a friendship has been established between Krefeld and Leicester, places of comparable size and interest. A party, headed by the Lord Mayor, **Sir Mark Henig,** visited Krefeld in March, and we were most pleased to be asked by the Oberbergermeister to join the town as hosts. Our guests had lunch, toured part of the barracks and met a lot of people, including all we could muster from Leicester itself. It was a kind-hearted touch by the Lord Mayor that he took note of the home address of our Leicester residents and later wrote individually to each one's home saying how much he had enjoyed seeing the son or daughter in Krefeld.

We were happy to do a little signalling for the Lord Mayor, a keen soccer fan. He was on edge for the F.A. Cup match replay result between Leicester City and Rotherham. Using the DCN engineering circuit to Boddington, we brought him the 90th minute and the extra-time scores hot from the pitch. Leicester were winners and we bathed, for a moment, in their glory.

Red-Capped Visitors

Opening the main gates and letting in the Military Police is an unwelcome, but not unusual event, but when they are after the C.O. it adds interest. Parking in a no-parking area! Now we are waiting to hear what the fine will be.

Orderly Room Escapade

The excitement is over, the fire is out, the generator is a write-off and the board of inquiry is under way.

It started with **Lance-Corporal Pickles,** our W.R.A.C. documents clerk, who was gazing out of the window informing the Chief Clerk that there was a lad outside the office fighting a fire with a little extinguisher. "Couldn't we help him, sir?" The reply by the Chief Clerk, **W.O.II Goodyer,** "Pack it in and back to work," was interrupted by the fire alarm.

At this the Chief Clerk and the O.R.S., **Sergeant Clive Mason,** were through the window, foam extinguishers in hands, ready to battle with the blazing trailer. The Chief Clerk's didn't fire first time, but **Sergeant Mason's** did, as testified by the soaked and irate condition of the Chief Clerk—he was in the way when the O.R.S. hit the button. By coincidence, **Sergeant Mason** leaves for Cyprus shortly; we will miss him. Records caught up with him as they did recently with **Corporal 'Willie' Williams,** our valuable O.R.C. He will be missed, too, if only for his Dracula-like smile, shortly to be remedied by an issue of dentures.

As an aside, the Orderly Room doesn't wish to claim responsibility for either starting the fire or putting it out. Credit for the latter goes to the fire picket with three economy-size foam appliances.

Boxing

Guided by **S.S.M. Higgs,** we sent our entries to the B.A.O.R. Individual Boxing Championships off to Berlin. Most successful of our men was **Signalman 'Tweet' Nightingale,** who romped through the quarter-finals of the light-heavy class. He gave way at the next stage to **Lance-Corporal Sutherley,** R.E., who went on to win the final in the second round. Our other entries were **Lance-Corporal Lorima Vula** and **Signalman Robert Alexander. Corporal 'Scouse' Jones** of 28th Regiment, our neighbours, joined our party and, at 34, was the old man. He again reached the final of the bantam division, but this year, unlike last, lost a close contest on points. It was pleasing to see the Corps well represented on the finals night by five boxers.



LEICESTER MEETS LEICESTER

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester chatting to Corpora George Cort



LETTING THEIR HAIR DOWN

Signalmen Alexander Mitchell and Jan Peter Radford at the Tramps' Ball

The Team Spirit

Bromley Public Hall had the pleasure of accommodating seven members of Medium Radio Troop on a recent Saturday. One had just been married to **Hazel Crockett** (late W.R.A.C., 16th Regiment) and the other six were there to see everything was legal. The six who weren't married were all back at work in Krefeld on Monday morning, part worn, but duty done.

Officers' Mess

We feel a little like the Corps Depot as we dine out a stream of officers retiring from the Service. Recent and impending departures are **Major Ward Foley. Major (Q.M.) Frank Bergelin, Major Peter Pearce, Major (Tfc.) Danny Malone, Major Steve Hodgson, Major Douglas James** and **Captain (T.O.T.) Tom Robertshaw.** The ladies and living-in members threw a party for **Anne Robertshaw** to mark the loss of a kind-hearted hostess, in whose house one could always find the Regiment's waifs and strays.

Sergeants' Mess

The Mess has been camping out in the Village Hall for four months while M.P.B.W. renovated their home. Now they are back, the Mess re-opening on 30th March with a massive cocktail party followed by an informal dance. The new look makes this one of the most attractive messes we have seen anywhere.

Social Club

In a steady programme of events, the Tramps' Ball was a highlight which gave an opportunity for members to let their hair down. Photographed are **Signalman Alexander Mitchell** and **Jan Peter Radford,** dressed in style and in the mood. Also much enjoyed was the mixed hockey match, played on a warm Sunday afternoon.

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Farewell to Brigadier Brindley

Brigadier A. D. Brindley, M.B.E., C.S.O., FARELF, bade farewell to the Regiment and 237 Squadron on 19th March. He visited all the Squadrons and spent a refreshing half-hour with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants before lunching in the Princess Mary Officers' Mess. After lunch, **Mrs. Brindley** joined the Brigadier for a first and last sail in "Brigand of Changi," our newly-acquired ketch (*see* WIRE *cover picture April/May issue*), which provided an appropriate finish to the day's business for such a keen sailor.

All ranks and their families wish the Brigadier and his wife the best of good fortune in London and hope that the pressure in the M.O.D. will have slackened somewhat by the time the Brigadier assumes his new appointment as D. Tels.

A further visit by the G.O.C.

Major-General D. N. H. Tyacke, O.B.E., G.O.C. Singapore District, paid yet another visit to the Regiment on 26th March. This time he was shown the communications centre offices, telephone exchange, and line system control at Tanglin. He also visited 612 Troop (the Cipher Equipment Troop) and Security Troop for the first time. We are glad to report that the favourable impression created on the annual inspection was not dissipated, although the C.O. had an anxious moment when a Chinese cleaner, dragging a large box of rubbish, nearly collided with the G.O.C.'s staff car!

Sri Ruthra Kaliamman Temple

Away back in 1919, the British Borneo Company established a brickworks in the Pasir Panjang area. Being good managers, they assisted each race employed in the building of an appropriate place of worship. This resulted in a Christian Chapel, a Mosque, a Chinese and a Hindu temple, which the Company has continued to assist by annual cash grants ever since.

However, the business has now passed into Chinese hands, and the four places of worship have to be maintained completely by those who use them from 31st April this year. Whilst the chapel, mosque and Chinese temple are reasonably well off, the Hindu temple had fallen into disrepair and was very poorly endowed.

The Indians serving with the British Forces in Singapore grasped the opportunity to join forces with the local Indian community, and have been taking an active interest in the Hindu temple since Thaipusam. The 48 days since then have been devoted to dedicating the temple to the Hindu Goddess, Sri Ruthra Kaliamman, the Goddess of Bravery, who is the patron of soldiers, culminating in a final ceremony of dedication and festivities on Sunday, 31st March. This included prayers and blessings, a feast for devotees and the poor, which provided for over 1,000 people, and Indian pipe and drum music. The culmination of the ceremony, which **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Anderson** and other officers and their families from the Regiment attended, was the blessing of



HINDU CEREMONY

Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson receives a token from the brahmin priest after the blessing of the Regiment

18th Regiment by temple brahmim, followed by the blessing of other Corps and Regiments represented.

The temple will fulfil a need for a place of worship for the Hindu soldiers and civilians employed by this and many other local units, with which a much closer link can be forged than was possible with the Hindu temple in North Bridge Road, which they had to use before.

Man overboard

Major Barker has just completed a very successful sailing course, during which 17 dedicated soldiers and W.R.A.C. from the Regiment and 237 and 249 Squadrons learnt the rudiments of the art, including capsizing and man (or girl) overboard drills in the murky waters of the Sungai Pandan. All did well, and survived alternate bouts of burning sun and lashing rain with no visible ill effects.

Pfeiffer does it again

Sergeant Pfeiffer won the individual light heavyweight event in the FARELF Boxing Championships on 28th March.



OUTSTANDING BOXER

Sergeant Pfeiffer holding the FARELF individual light heavyweight trophy

Without a doubt, he was the fittest man in the ring that night and never looked like losing, although his opponent, **Corporal Scruvener,** 8 RAR, put up a tough and spirited fight. Unlike all the other contenders, **Sergeant Pfeiffer** spurned a seat between the rounds and nonchalantly leant against the ropes as **W.O.II (F. of S.) Harvey** gave him a quick sponge and massage. **Corporal Scruvener** only lasted until half-way through the third round, by which time his face was a mess and the referee (**Major Billy Robinson,** of C.S.O.'s Branch) stopped the fight. Well done, **Sergeant Pfeiffer,** and good luck in the Inter-Services Championships.

Canoeing—or Sgt. Davidson up the creek

What better than to record the saga of the first Regimental Canoeing Course, in the words of **Sergeant Davidson:**

"All set for the canoe course, **Sergeant Davidson,** Monday, 4th March; I have received three Regimental canoes and have borrowed the rest. Here's your list of kit and see if you can draw the other items from the stores?"

"But sir! I am supposed to be on leave."

"Oh yes, Sarg., don't forget the mosquito repellent."

This was how I was greeted by **Captain ('Paddler') Palmer** after returning to camp from a jungle warfare course. So, by Monday, I was ready for the start of the "Trained Canoeist Course."

Monday morning, all fresh and raring to go, we saw our canoes, six locally-produced, fibre-glass, two-man canoes and one Klepper-Aerius. **Captain Palmer, Sergeant Kasim** (of 32 RCT) and myself were the only ones with canoeing experience, which left eleven pairs of blister-free, inexperienced hands, to be taught the arts of canoeing in five days. No time to lose, down to the beach for first lessons. Swim tests, safety rules and the rudiments of canoeing. Then into the water for capsize drills and how to manoeuvre the canoe. **Corporal Lloyd** nearly had a nasty accident. After capsizing his canoe and completing the drill, he had to get back into the canoe—just jump out of the water and sit astride the stern in the first movement. He did this and then jumped straight off again. It seems he jumped and sat on something! He explained it all to me in a high-pitched, pained voice!

The second day, 16.00 hours, found us in Kota Tinggi in the water leading down the Sungai (river) Johore towards the Straits. At last light we decided to stop for the night. Some of the crews thought we were trying to get to the Straits the first day. After a meal and a visit to the local teashop we bedded down on a jetty. At 21.30 hours everyone was fast asleep. We were up at 05.00 hours so that we could get in a few hours' canoeing before the heat of the day. Canoeing down river at first light is very refreshing. We could see the river folk starting off their day, preparing nets and pots for crayfish, prawns and anything else that came into their nets. Everywhere we stopped people came to have a look at the strangers in the strange boats.

08.00 hours on the last day found us at the Singapore/Malaysian border with the problem of portage over the Causeway. We were lucky, as we found some large intake pipes under the Causeway which would just take our canoes. We paddled with some difficulty. We arrived at our pick-up point at 16.00 hours on Thursday a very happy lot, with about 80 miles under our stern, sunburnt, sore and covered in dry salt. With cries of "never again chum, I'll never sit in another canoe," we headed for camp.

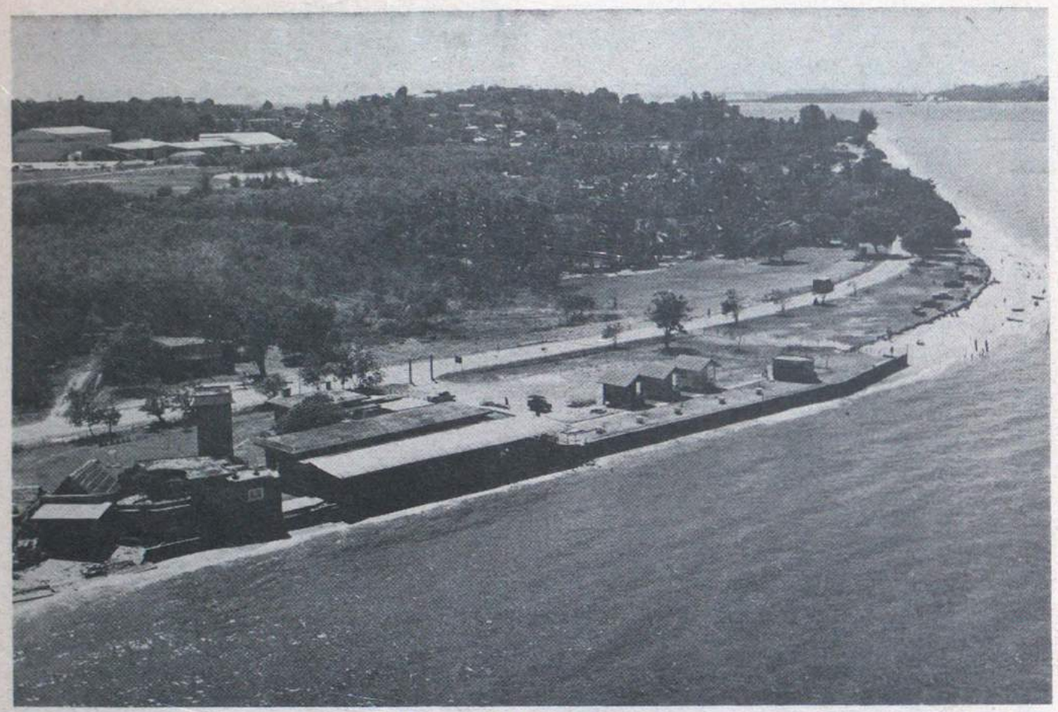
On return to camp we cleaned kit and stowed the canoes. It was a much happier crew this morning—a night's rest and good grub makes all the difference. After the tests and a look at the certificates the canoeists were to receive, everyone started asking when the next trip would be. Blisters and all, the bug had got them!

We have another course in April, perhaps some more adventurous trips will follow. Canoeing is a wonderful way of covering ground out here, as the country is riddled with deep estuaries, rivers and jungle streams.

KEEP US IN THE PICTURE

With several thousand individual subscribers THE WIRE cannot hope to keep up with postings, changes in rank, decorations awarded. If you are going to be posted or promoted or have something new to add after your name drop us a card so that we can address your WIRE properly. Thank you.





19th REGIMENT DO A "BUTLINS"!
19th Regiment's south sea style holiday camp is something unique among Signal regiments!

19th Signal Regiment c/o G.P.O. Singapore

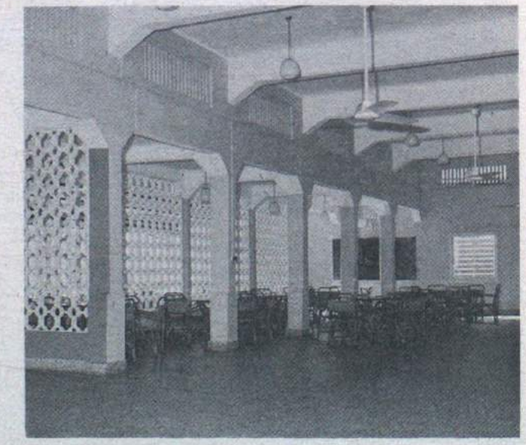
WE in the Army consider ourselves pretty versatile. We are men of war, lawyers, administrators, accountants, storemen, tradesmen, advocates and engineers. In 19th Regiment we are business men/hoteliers as well! For we run what is known as the China Sea Beach Club where you can stay in a chalet (á la Butlin), have a meal, drink beer, eat ice creams or paddle a canoe or just lounge about on the beach as you will.

This Club was started originally by 19th Regiment as a leave centre when the Unit was permanently affiliated to the Far East Air Force in 1947. Since then it has been run by the Regiment continuously under the able management of **Mr. Mountford** and later by **Mr. Lim,** the 'No. 1' who succeeded him.

The Club is sited on what is probably the finest stretch of sand in Singapore, making use of disused fortifications built by the Japanese during the occupation. From the early days when the amenities were fairly simple the Club has developed considerably; mains electricity was connected to replace the Regiment's generator; living accommodation was extended by the building of three new wooden chalets for families and the extension of the rooms for single men and women staying at the Club; a new kitchen was equipped to provide meals for visitors and the changing rooms, showers and lavatories greatly improved, the latter recently being converted to the septic tank system. We have recently completed an extension to the kitchen and are consolidating the sea wall, part of which collapsed as a result of exceptionally high tides.

For amenities, in addition to the restaurant, chalets and, of course, swimming, there is a busy bar, where 'Duty-Free' beer is available for Servicemen, a shop for beach necessities and ice cream, a juke box, 'Fruit Machine,' a fleet of canoes and swings and slides for the children.

The Club is always busy, members of the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the New Zealand and Australian Air Forces being much in evidence among the members and families of the three Services from all parts of Singapore.



LIGHT AND AIRY
The main restaurant is ideal for informal refreshment

The future of the Club is not certain in terms of the announced British withdrawal from Singapore, but as long as 19th Regiment remains in Changi we shall hope to keep the Club going. In this we are not entirely disinterested as it brings in the only source of revenue that the Regiment enjoys! If the day comes when we finally close, we have planned a compensation fund to reward those members of the Staff who stick with us to the end. It will be a sad day for us all.

Our distinguished visitors

In the past four months we have had a number of distinguished visitors all of whom we have welcomed with a Quarter Guard and a formal presentation on the role of the Regiment.

On 7th November, 1967, the Director of Telecommunications, **Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** visited the Regiment to discuss our problems.

On 17th January the DAG H.Q. FARELF (now BGS), **Brigadier A. E. Holt,** carried out our annual administrative inspection and presented the M.S.M. to our A.S.M. and ten L.S. and G.C.M.s to members of the Regiment. The Inspecting Officer spent a full day looking at our accommodation, the men carrying out normal duties both at Changi and Seletar and expressed himself highly satisfied with what he saw.

On 19th January **Mrs. T. W. A. Hutton,** the wife of **Group Captain T. W. A. Hutton, O.B.E., D.F.C.,** Commanding R.A.F. Seletar, officially opened a community centre that had been built and furnished (even down to three large framed paintings) almost entirely by members of the Regiment. It is intended largely for use of the families of 'locally enlisted personnel' (LEP) living nearby and has special rooms for sewing (two machines) and religious (Muslim) instruction.

On 27th February the S.O.-in-C., himself, paid us a visit. He presented two L.S. and G.C.M.s, visited the Air Traffic Control tower, our fault control centre and automatic exchange at Changi and spent a long time in our newly formed Senior Ranks Club chatting to members of the Regiment. After a curry lunch he saw a display of equipment and cable jointing and later addressed the officers of the Regiment.

Lastly, on 18th March, **Brigadier A.D. Brindley, M.B.E.** (C.S.O. FARELF), came round to wish us 'goodbye' before leaving the Far East. The Regiment saw to it that he was suitably dressed for the occasion.



The S.O.-in-C. looks round the Control Tower at Changi Airfield

Sergeant R. W. Townsend

On Saturday, 9th March, at the Adelphi Hotel, **Sergeant Townsend** of Seletar Troop was presented with the Motor Cycle Scramble Challenge Trophy which is presented each year to the Scramble Champion of Singapore by the Forces Driving Club.



Scramble Champion of Singapore

Although he has competed in civilian life in motor cycle trials, this was his first attempt at motor cross. After the first two events in January 1967, he was selected to represent the FEAF Motor Sports Team riding his own machine, a 500 c.c. Triumph.

A keen sporting motorcyclist, he has served as Competition Secretary with the Forces Driving Club and as motor cycle member on the FEAF Motor Sports Team Committee.

On leaving 19th Regiment in May for 21st Regiment, he hopes to enter motor cross events in Belgium and Germany as soon as he obtains suitable machinery. (A nod is as good as a wink!)

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in March	48	
Number of clothing parcels sent	37	
Amount spent in grants and loans	£1,148	6 4

One of the Month's Cases

W.O.II, 22 years' service, now suffering from a progressive disease and rapidly becoming a total invalid. He and his wife were anxious to move from Devon to their native county of Sussex, where they have relatives and friends who will help in every way. The Association made a grant of £75 to meet the cost of the removal.

One of the Month's Letters

"THANK you so much for the help to enable me to go on a holiday. It was a great surprise, and I shall look forward to it a great deal as I haven't been out for some months. It will be a new life for me again to meet people. So much kindness and thought to the housebound gives great cheer. Also many thanks for the welcome parcel. All fitted perfectly, and now I shall have some nice things to go away in."

CORPS STRENGTH PREDOMINATES IN B.A.O.R. HOCKEY

As the B.A.O.R. hockey team now reaches its final matches, Corps strength in this sport is amply reflected in that no less than eight Corps players are among the 17 finally nominated. they are:

Major M. Hartnett (team manager), **Major P. Tripp, Lieutenant G. A. Allen** (team captain), **Sergeant W. T. Coldwell** (vice-captain), **Staff Sergeant Dale, Sergeant R. Luis** and **Lance-Corporal P. Havlin,** who is normally a reserve.

Stop Press

The team won all three of their matches in the Herford Festival. They beat R.E.M.E. 3—1; Royal Engineers 2—0, and R.M.A., Sandhurst, 1—0.

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

IT has happened at last—we have collected a Minival, a Tacival and Exercise "Quicktrain" all within three weeks! Add to this the "run-up" towards both our administrative and unit vehicle inspection, throw in some shooting towards the Army Non Central Matches and a couple of unit run courses and the whole lot spells March!

Laarbruch Tacival

We are pleased to report that the station collected a "1" grading for the second year in succession. Not only the Airfield Troop contributed towards this, **Captain Bolton, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Cummins** and some of "D" Troop slunk off into the woods and shot up one of the V.P's. on the base — it says well for their camouflage that under half were caught by the R.A.F. who came to save the situation.

Laarbruch Players

The Laarbruch Players opening production in their own theatre was honoured by the attendance of the A.O.C.-in-C., **Sir Dennis Spotswood** and **Lady Spotswood,** the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., **Brigadier Mansergh,** C.A.F.S.O., **Colonel Clinch** with **Mrs. Clinch** and **Miss Robinson,** the Secretary to the Nuffield Trust, who came out from England especially to see the theatre and the first play put on in it.

Apart from the opening night being cancelled due to Tacival there were no snags and the players performed to virtually full houses for the remainder of the week.

The audience reaction to both play and theatre was most encouraging and many congratulations and good wishes for the future were received.

The fact that the theatre was built and the first play produced all within six months is very much to the credit of **Major L. A. Welton** and the many members of the Regiment and their wives who with the R.A.F. made such a valuable addition to the amenities on the station.

Arrivals

Second-Leiutenant Killingbeck joined us this month to relieve **Lieutenant L. S. Hood,** and we wish him a pleasant stay with the Regiment.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

Brigadier C. E. Page says 'Goodbye'

IN March the Regiment said goodbye to Brigadier C. E. Page, M.B.E., who as C.C.R. Signals had been our Commander for nearly two years. During this time he had come to know us very well indeed (occasionally we felt he knew rather too much about us!) and he had guided Corps Signals through a period of great change and one of great importance for the future!

Brigadier Page paid his farewell visit to the Regiment on 15th March, and after inspecting a quarter guard he addressed the Regiment in the cinema, outlining the progress made during the past two years, and pointing the way ahead. Everyone appreciated the frankness with which he talked to us. The Brigadier then presented the Page Trophy to **Lance-Corporal Edwards** of "M" Troop, the new winners of the Inter-Troop Sports Competition, and left the cinema for the Sergeants' Mess and half an hour's reminiscing over a glass of beer. Finally, the Brigadier and Mrs. Page were entertained to a farewell lunch in the Officers' Mess and then they were away. We are grateful to them for all they did for the Regiment during their tour in 1 (B.R.) Corps and wish them good fortune in their next tour to Brussels.

A fortnight later we welcomed the new C.C.R. Signals, **Brigadier J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** hoping that it was only coincidence that he chose April Fools' Day to come and see us for the first time. After inspecting the quarter guard he had a quick look round the Regiment and visited the Sergeants' Mess before leaving after lunch in the Officers' Mess. We hope that he and Mrs. Sawers will enjoy their tour in 1 (B.R.) Corps: it will undoubtedly be a busy one.



The permanent staff at the Ski-ing School at Gronebach. *Left to Right* (*Back Row*): Signalman Newton, Sergeant Moody, Private Ricketts, A.C.C. (*Front Row*): Signalman Williams, Lieutenant Tilson, Signalman Forsythe

Ski-ing

Although by the time these notes are read the snows of winter will have become a distant memory, it is worth recalling how much ski-ing was enjoyed last winter. After a tragically unfortunate start in Bavaria, the Regiment established a ski school at Grenebach, near Winterberg, staffed by **Lieutenant Tilson, Sergeant Moody, Signalmen Williams, Forsythe** and **Newton** and **Private Ricketts,** A.C.C. Nearly 100 men, all of them beginners, spent a fortnight on skis there and almost without exception they returned to Lippstadt full of enthusiasm for a sport new to them. Later, **Captain Miller, Second-Lieutenants Goodman** and **Paul, Staff-Sergeant Le Quesne** and **Sergeant Middleton** took a party of thirty-nine men, including a few from our affiliated Troops, 604 Troop and 11 Engineer Brigade Signal Troop, to Norway for three weeks more advanced ski-ing and winter warfare training. They have returned looking fighting fit, but whether their lean and hungry look is due to the arduous training they have undergone or to an unwillingness to eat the Norwegian Army food is questionable!

Anglo German Relations in Lippstadt

There are two barracks in Lippstadt, one of which we share with a British Gunner Regiment, and the other of which is occupied by a unit of the German Army.

We are fortunate that this happens to be 7 Fernmelde Battalion—or, for those whose German is rusty, 7 Signal Battalion, a Divisional Signal Regiment. There is a very friendly relationship between the two Regiments, which extends far beyond the official Anglo-German relations network. The latest in a series of social functions was a Guest Night at which all the officers of the Fernmelde Battalion were entertained in our Officers' Mess. There is no doubt that German officers thoroughly enjoy a spectacular British Army Guest Night and happily on this occasion honours were even in the traditional sporting contests after dinner.

Two of our Troop Commanders, **Captain Grundy** and **Lieutenant Wilson** recently spent a few days with 7 Fernmelde Battalion in the field. **Captain Grundy** writes:

"As a result of the friendship between the two units, two of our officers were invited by 7 Fernmelde Battalion to watch Exercise "Heide Sturm," an armoured battle between two Brigades of the 7th German Armoured Division on Luneberg Heath. 7th Fernmelde Battalion provided control communications in the exercise, and these were so well organised that their officers had plenty of time to conduct us around. Their detachment organisation was very slick and technically proficient, all the more creditable when it is remembered that all their junior ranks are National Servicemen. Our drivers and radio operators with us were most envious of the petrol-fired heaters in each vehicle. The German field cooking was a change from our own. Meat appeared smoked, jellied, de-hydrated, canned and in sausages. We liked best a very rich and satisfying all-in-stew, but we must admit that for any longer period it might have proved too much for us. We thoroughly enjoyed our short stay with the German Army, who went out of their way to make us welcome. It was fun, too, after so many British C.P.X.s to watch an exercise in which large numbers of tanks, guns and A.P.C.s were participating." One individual contribution to Anglo-German relationship in Lippstadt is worth recording. The Regimental Ham Club continues to thrive under the guidance of **Yeoman of Signals Llewellyn. Sergeant Jim Rayment,** one of the leading lights, has been teaching English to a group of local German civilian enthusiasts. His class includes a priest, a doctor, a veterinary surgeon, a solicitor and a dentist, and they meet twice a week in the presbytery. So, if you hear a voice on the air speaking slowly and carefully, and saying: "The weather here is wet and foggy," you will know that it is probably one of Jim Rayment's class from Lippstadt.

Lippstadt Players

On 8th and 9th March the newly-formed amateur theatrical group, The Lippstadt Players, staged their first production, two one-act plays. These were a resounding success, and everyone concerned with the formation of the club and the production of these two plays can feel proud of what they have achieved in a few months of hard work.

The house was packed on both nights, and there is no doubt that this new venture promises to provide much entertainment for us in the future. It would be invidious to pick out any individual for special mention except perhaps for **Signalman Litton,** who brought the house down with an inspired piece of comic acting.

Sport

We congratulate **Sergeant Middleton** who took a week's leave in March and, driving a Landrover kindly made available to him by 30th Regiment won Class 3 in the Bristol Motor Cycle Light Car Club Restricted Rally for the second year running. **Sergeant Middleton** was ably assisted by **Sergeant Croad-Branwyn** of 7th Regiment, who was the navigator. The course was over 480 road miles with 12 special stages. All the participants, who included leading rally drivers of international calibre, were most impressed with the performance of the Landrover and marvelled that this vehicle could win the class for the second year running against specially prepared civilian rally cars like Mini Coopers, Cortinas and Saabs.

We also congratulate **Staff-Sergeant Quinn, Lance-Corporal Crampton** and **Signalman Hayes** on reaching the final of the 4th Division Inter-Unit Table Tennis Championship. Although they were beaten in the final by our old friends, 4th Regiment, the Table Tennis Club, under **Staff-Sergeant Quinn's** leadership, has had a wonderful season, despite the loss of **Corporal Roberts** and **Signalman Grogan** on posting during the winter.

Training

It would be wrong to finish these notes without mentioning that the unit has continued to train. Winter Sales, Rapier Thrust I, Monkey's Paw, Long Views, Front Centre, Hot Spot I and II—all these names will revive memories in those who participated.

STOP PRESS

We offer congratulations to Corporal Dau, A.C.C., on his outstanding success in the B.A.O.R. Cookery Competition Finals, which took place at Rhiendahlen, on 5th April, 1968.

Corporal Dau's entry won both his class and the best overall entry in the Table d'Honneur. For this outstanding achievement Corporal Dau received a well earned Diploma, Gold Medal and Shield. Well done.



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FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

Aspects of Life with the Mountain Desert Rescue Team

In a vast area—an SOS may mean a life is at stake

By Signalman Murland of 222 Squadron

Volunteers who are in constant readiness

WHEN you are posted to Sharjah in the Arabian Gulf, at first sight there seems very little you can do but find fault with the surroundings, or spend infuriating days fighting flies. However, if you are posted to 222 Squadron you may well join a bunch of volunteers who are in constant readiness for a desert emergency. These men who make up the R.A.F. Mountain Desert Rescue Team at Sharjah are responsible for land rescue operations over a vast area.

A modern life-saving force

The concept of desert rescue teams is of a small mobile force which can quickly be sent to the scene of an accident to administer first aid and organise Casevac operations. The mountain areas of the Trucial States, Iran and Afghanistan with heights of up to 6,000ft. are all within the immediate territory of the rescue team. In this terrain the concept of desert rescue has changed little since its first inception as a modern life saving force and any weekend the small convoy of long wheel base Land Rovers, 1-ton Bedford, signal wagon and ambulance as it moves out into the windswept desert differs little from the other desert rescue teams found in the North African Desert, El Adem or Idris. The signal wagon has the normal type of radio equipment, side by side with ground to air sets which enable us to talk with Shackletons and other rescue aircraft. For maintenance purposes a permanent radio operator travels with the rescue team.

Adventure—and an undeniable sense of achievement and exhileration

Much of the mountain regions of the Trucial States is composed of shale which has degenerated through the years until it has become vast scree slopes. However, a large area of hard climbing rock still remains and it is in this area that the team spends most of its time practising mock mountain Casevac operations. With a 'Rescue Territory' that takes in amongst other places India and Nepal, including the 29,000ft. Mount Everest along its sisters peak Annapura, K2 and Kachen junga to mention but a few of the world's highest mountain peaks, the training must be strenuous, but there is also a sense of adventure and when, as during the Christmas period of 1967 the peak of a particularly high mountain was reached, after we had spent the day fighting our way through thick 'clag' and unusually cold weather, there was an undeniable sense of achievement and exhilaration. Of course, not all the mountains are within our climbing scope and it may be recorded that a few of the higher rock faces had to be left for people of Joe Brown's calibre.

The woeful sound of an S.O.S.—and a life is at stake

Thirst and boredom are constant companions, as one small primitive settlement after another recedes and is engulfed in the dust. For now there is a lull and only the passing Bedouin and his camel enliven the desert scene, yet at any moment help may be needed as the radios bring the woeful sound of an S.O.S.

Three times during the last year such a call came to the desert rescue team, bringing to all our minds the knowledge that in an undertaking like this both minutes and drills must mingle with the thought that a life is at stake and life is a thing more precious than time or skill.



ARABIAN NIGHTS—MODERN VERSION

Men of 222 Signal Squadron spend a night in the desert. *Left to Right:* (*Squatting*) Signalmen Williams, Daniels, Lieutenant Hanbury, Signalmen Whittacker, Waring and O'Mahoney. *Standing:* Sergeant Cathcart and Corporal Harrild

. . . there will always be some memories!

Though you do not seem to think so at the time your tour in Sharjah will end and afterwards you will look back and wonder was it worth it. Perhaps there are a few scattered memories of Arabian sunrises or the whiff of a cool breeze as it flits across a packed London underground reminds you of the desert, and the answer must be "yes," for there is also the memory of a person who thought that salvation was past and then you knew that the hours given up from beach and beer and bed were little things compared with the feeling of fulfillment.

"The wayward sun has faded now
But watch for eyes on shadows fall
Breathe again and weep in joy
For yonder comes the rescuer."

ANON.

Festival of Thaipusam

By Signalman Muragaih—Receiver Troop, 237 Squadron

THAIPUSAM is an annual Hindu ceremony observed in Singapore and is the occasion on which a devotee fulfills his vows towards God as thanks for blessings bestowed upon him, e.g. birth of son, wealth or other such benefit.

A devotee is required to fast and pray for sixteen days prior to Thaipusam, then on the day he carries the "Kavadi" to prove his faith.



CARRYING THE "KAVADI"

The "Kavadi" is an elaborate framework made of wood and metal ornately decorated with wire and mounted on the devotee's body, the ends of the wires are barbed and are inserted into the flesh of the carrier. In addition metal skewers are thrust through the cheeks and tongue and dozens of lemons are suspended from hooks around the body. The man now has to carry the "Kavadi" for a distance of two to three miles to another temple, urged on by members of his family. On arrival, the framework and hooks are removed by the priest.

If the period of fasting and prayer has been strictly observed there will be no pain or blood flow when the objects are removed.

This would appear to be a good form of family planning or deterrent to would be pay rise seekers.

Trying out their ski boots at leading Norwegian resort

22nd Regiment men enjoy one of the benefits of Service life

(Contributed by one of the party)

ONE of the great benefits of life in the Army is that one can go to many interesting, exciting and unusual places, which, as a civilian, one could not afford to visit. A party of 30 such fortunate soldiers from our Regiment have just spent three weeks at the Norwegian School of Signals learning to ski at one of Norway's leading tourist resorts.

It was with considerable excitement that we set out from Lippstadt early on the morning of Sunday, 12th March. We reached Kiel that evening, and the next day we travelled the length of Denmark, to board the s.s. *Akershus* at Friedrichshavn. A smooth crossing brought us to Oslo, and after breakfast at H.Q. A.F.N.E., we set off for Lillehammer, which we reached at 6 p.m. A long, arduous journey in winter, especially in the back of a 3-tonner, but well worthwhile!

Kitted-out completely in Norwegian Army gear we began ski-ing straight away. The snow was very hard, and for the first few days we came away from ski-ing feeling as though we had just gone three rounds in the ring—and lost. On the second day we made a really long cross-country trek—we covered at least 400 metres!

Having mustered the rudiments of the game we moved up from the valley to Nordsetter, which must be one of the loveliest ski-ing resorts in Europe. Each day we had to ski some three kilometres to our training area, where we learnt how to snow-plough, ski turn, and how to pick ourselves up after falling—most of us practised this last lesson repeatedly, especially **Captain Miller,** the O.C. Party.

The Staff-Sergeant Gets Gallant — and Comes a Cropper

The most memorable fall, however, was that of **Staff-Sergeant Eric Le Quesne.** One afternoon we passed a long line of Women's Home Guard girls doing their annual ski training. **Staff-Sergeant Le Quesne,** giving his famous moustache a quick twirl set off down the line with great elan, raised his hat, and with a gay "Good afternoon, ladies"—fell off the track. Better luck next time, Staff!

On the second Friday of the course we trekked from Nordsetter to Peletors, a distance of some nine kilometres. Having had lunch at the hotel we skied back to Nordsetter and arrived at 2.15. Our Chief Instructor, **Lieutenant Thunselle,** was quite upset about this—we were too fast and should not have got back until 3.15. We had to do a full day's ski-ing, and so he decided to take us down from Nordsetter to Lillehammer, a route which even proficient skiers find difficult. It was only after innumerable falls, a great deal of effort and a lot of bad language that we reached Lillehammer some 2½ hours later. Still, after only seven days on skis 29 kilometres is a respectable trek.

We had a number of races, starting at four kilometres and building up through seven to ten kilometres. **Signalman Chris Furby** won the ten kilometre race in 46 minutes, a very good time which qualified him for the Norwegian Silver Medal, **Lance-Corporal Robinson** won the seven kilometre race. The most impressive performances, however, were put up by **Sergeant Danny Middleton,** who, as the oldest on the course, was determined to show the youngsters what grit and determination can do. In this he certainly succeeded, beating a number of fairly experienced skiers in the seven kilometre race, and completing the ten kilometre race after a very bad fall, just in time to qualify for the Bronze Medal.

Warning: Don't be misled by the 'Gentle Slope'

A few words of warning to those who will follow us to Norway. At some point on your course you will be given a lesson entitled: "Ski-ing down a gentle slope." Don't be misled! By "gentle slope" the Norwegian Army means a terrifying course through fir trees with a least six right angle turns down a gradient of 1 in 4. We found the best answer to "gentle slopes" was to pray, push off with our sticks and close our eyes firmly. We still hit the trees, but at least we avoided the agony of seeing them approaching at 30 m.p.h.

Another tip—avoid snow shoes in soft snow. Even ski-ing is easier!

Did you think, as the beginners on our course did, that you just strapped skis on and set off? Then, like us, you will be astonished when you are introduced to that most inexact of sciences—waxing the skis. There must be some thirty waxes to choose from, and even the experts get it wrong, as often as not.

The Norwegian Way of Life — We Join in with Great Gusto

One of the joys of life in Norway is that not only do the people work hard, but they also play hard, too. In this we were all able to join with great gusto, and there were many memorable parties.

All too soon the time came for us to leave. It was an exciting course, and one which we all thoroughly enjoyed. We will all remember the magnificent ski-ing, the fine instructors who were so patient with us, and the lovely countryside. But for all of us the most enduring memory will be of the Norwegian people, and of their kindness, hospitality and friendship for Britain and all things British.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the Norwegian Signal Corps for running the course for us, and especially our instructors, Lieutenants Thunselle and Hove, and Second-Lieutenants Pederson, Brekken and Nielsen.

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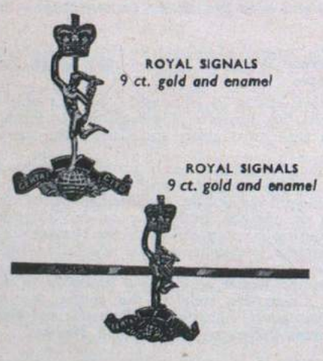
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A working winter

THE Squadron has been extremely busy during the first months of 1968 in preparing a large number of newcomers for this year's training season.

Exercise "Cold Comfort" lived up to its name in the snow of January and "A" and "R" Troops were kept busy in February on "Dib-Dob."

"B" Troop has been heavily committed in familiarizing itself with the new Bruin kit and now we hope has surmounted the problems of frozen masts and icicles growing from antennae heads. During Exercise "Sitting Bear" the 'trafficators' led by **Signalman Harris** bombarded the Divisional Comcen with miles of punched tape and we owe our thanks to the 4th Regiment relay who sat through blizzards on the Minden Ridge and kept the circuits open in sub zero conditions.

The Radio Troops under **Lieutenants McLean** and **Myatt** take to the field again this month on an extended range radio exercise and we feel confident that for the rest of the year we can now remain through.

SPORTING SUCCESSES

The Squadron has built up a fine tradition of success in sport and this winter has been no exception.

Soccer—justly proud of our efforts

At the beginning of the season, football followers in the camp were a little apprehensive. Half of last year's cup final team had gone, much rebuilding had to be done, and this year the unit was to play against major units in the newly formed Minden Garrison Division I. However, thanks to sheer hard work, and a splendid team spirit, the season has been just as successful as last year. **Millward, Fraser, McGurk, Ramsey, Park, Freeman** and the team captain, **Sergeant Barlow,** remained of last year's regulars and to these were added **Cunningham, Loveday, Dennis, King, Green, Massingham, Bailey** and **Petrie,** to give a very useful 'pool' of players from which to choose. Never at any stage of the season up to the time of writing has the entire squad of players been available at any one time, and it reflects great credit upon them all, that they should once again win the Divisional Minor Units Cup, beating the traditional enemy 7 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron 3—0, and be so well placed in the league. All three infantry battalions in Minden have been beaten, and a splendid semi-final victory against 11 Infantry Workshops certainly makes us undisputed local champions. Sadly, the unit went down 1—3 in the B.A.O.R. semi-final to 17 RVD but until well into the second half the scores were level and the game could have gone either way. A case of one good team beating another. This in no way detracts from what has been a very good season indeed and all the players, particularly **Sergeant Barlow** who has led them so well, may feel justly proud of their efforts.

Cross Country—the tables turned on us

The cross country team won the Brigade Championships in January and went forward to the Divisional meeting where we were second to 229 Squadron, thus qualifying for the B.A.O.R. race. 229 turned the tables on us this year and we could only manage 5th place.

Consistently good performances were put up by **Signalman Learoyd, Signalman Braley, Lance-Corporal Peel** and **Craftsman Cousins.**

Hockey—another good year

The Brigade H.Q. hockey team is having another good year and has reached the semi-finals of the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Competition. In the Garrison area league we have lost only one game this season and hope to finish in the first three. The Squadron has been represented in the team by **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Pearce, Lance-Corporal Staines, Corporal Young, Signalman Chapman, Corporal Bailey. Captain P. Symes,** R.A.O.C., of 17 Flight AAC, captains the side and **Captain J. Higton,** R Signals, is organising officer.

The Divisional Cookery Competition

Our A.C.C. personnel acquitted themselves well in this competition held at Verden on 21st February. **Lance-Corporal Hitch** won 1st prize in his class with a sweet in the form of a country cottage and **Corporal Porter** came 2nd in the class for the preparation of a meat dish.

Strength increases

Corporal Logan, a daughter, **Paula Anne,** 21st December, **Signalman Wilkie,** a son, **William Murray,** 30th December; **Signalman Alexander,** a daughter, **Christine Anne,** 14th December; **Signalman Beadnell,** a son, **Andrew George,** 1st January; **Corporal Ross,** a son, **David Thomson,** 10th February; **Staff Sergeant Gower,** a son, **Neil Christopher,** 2nd February; **Lance-Corporal King,** a daughter, **Adrienne Jean,** 26th February; and a belated entry, **Major Davis,** a daughter, **Catrina Mary,** November, 1967.

R.S.M.'s notes

W.O.I Pearce *has produced some cryptic comments for publication which O.I.C.* WIRE *Notes produces slightly abridged.*

" **Lance-Corporal Warne** *and* **Private Potter** *have purchased a go-cart and are practising hard. If they don't find somewhere other than my square to practice on I'll . . ."*

" **Lance-Corporal Turaga** *has arrived back from leave in Fiji sporting a lovely holiday tan."*

"February saw the arrival of **Miss André Hodges,** *our new girl. Now that she has exchanged her R.A. badges for Jimmies we hope she prefers Signallers to Gunners."*

"A blushing **Sergeant Steer** *had a rather trying evening in December while lecturing the Wives' Club on 'how to ice a cake.'"*

Squadron personalities

There has been a tremendous change in personnel over the last few months and we therefore feel it necessary to produce a list of principle appointments.

Squadron H.Q.

O.C., **Major P. S. Davis;** Second-in-Command, **Captain P. M. Stamp;** Communications Officer, **Captain J. F. Higton;** Adjutant, **Captain P. Hackett,** Worcestershire Regiment; Q.M., **Captain J. F. Thomas,** R.W.F., **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Pearce, R.Q.M.S. Turner, Colour Sergeant Kay** (Queens), **Colour Sergeant Hickson,** R.H.F.; Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Rose.**

"A" Troop: **Lieutenant D. McLean, Staff Sergeant Loveday, Sergeant Peacock;** "R" Troop: **Second-Lieutenant Myatt, Staff Sergeant Sim;** "B" Troop: **Lieutenant J. Barrett, W.O.II Boughton, Sergeant Stacey, Sergeant Ross;** M.T. Troop: **Captain H. Robson,** R.C.T., **Staff Sergeant Gower,** R.C.T., **Sergeant Pigg;** "M" Troop: **F. of S. Paul, Sergeant Page;** "Q" Troop: **Lieutenant J. P. Hayes, Staff Sergeant Austin.**

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
(212) B.F.P.O. 36

Comments on some Squadron Personalities

IT is often difficult to write an interesting article in these columns without going over routine events such as Administrative Inspections and so on. It is always worth mentioning, though, the comings and goings of personalities, and to this end the Unit says farewell to **Captain John Alexander** and his family who leave us after three and a half years for 13th Regiment. **Major John Taylor** and family have left the staff of the Brigade for the United Kingdom. Certainly all members of the "Osnabruck Outcasts" Rugby Football Club will miss his enthusiastic organisation. **Major (Q.M.) Bob Thomson,** our Quartermaster and his family have left us after three and a half years for retirement and **Captain (Q.M.) Norman Lane** has arrived from Malta to replace him. Regrettably, **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Sam Peberdy** and **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Roy Kelly** have both been in hospital since early January with leg injuries and although they are both back in harness again we feel they should both attend the drill part of our M.P.C. III just to make sure they haven't forgotten how to "Bend The Knee."

(Continued over)



THE SCORE IS 88 YEARS SERVICE

Left to Right: Major Bob Thomson, M.B.E., D.C.M., Scots Guards, 35 years service. Captain John Alexander, M.B.E., Royal Signals, 30 years service. W.O.I (R.S.M.) Sam Peberdy, Royal Signals, 23 years service

Hosts to R.A.F. Cadets

In early March the Brigade played host to some eighty Royal Air Force Officer Cadets from Cranwell. During their week's stay, apart from seeing all Units of the Brigade at work they saw a very elaborate display of communications equipment including Brigade and Divisional Bruin Comheads. One Officer Cadet was heard to say after the visit that our communications were nearly as complicated as those in modern jet fighters.

Towards the end of March we held a very successful Brigade Headquarters communication and movement exercise. We completed seven moves in forty-eight hours (is this a record?) and found our just how good the F.V. 432 is at recovering bogged-in three-ton trucks. During the exercise C.C.R. Signals 1 (B.R.) Corps, **Brigadier C. E. Page, M.B.E.,** paid a farewell visit to the Unit. After saying goodbye to all he left us for lunch at 2nd Regiment in a suitably star plated F.V. 432 driven by **Signalman Alan Hibberd** and commanded by **Lance-Corporal Gerry Pople.**

We Put Away Our Communications Equipment

At the end of March we put away our communications equipment and took to our feet in an Adventure Training exercise. In groups of five we were dropped from the back of closed down three-ton trucks at selected spots and handed a map and a riddle. Blisters were the order of the day and after some twenty-five weary miles (and a few illegal lifts) we arrived at our overnight camp site. The next morning after a very uncomfortable night in the open we were off to an early start. Nearly all of us ran into the Squadron Commander's carefully laid ambush and were moved on our way by innumerable thunderflashes and bursts of blanks.

Table Tennis—Supporting Great Britain

During the Easter break four of our members are going on an Adventure Training exercise of their own. They are all keen table tennis players and after having met the British Table Tennis Team when it visited Osnabruck, they have decided to make their way to Lyon, in France, to support Great Britain in the European Championships. We hope that when they return they will put pen to paper and submit a report of their exploits to THE WIRE. (*We shall look out for this.—Editor*).

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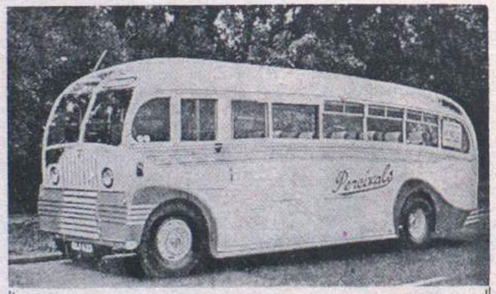
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Exercise " Ramasoon "—the Squadron in Thailand

TWO hundred miles by road, embarking on the ISL Bedevere. A three day voyage to Sattahip in the Gulf of Siam, a six hundred mile road convoy—this was the itinerary of the Squadron when it took part in SEATO Exercise "Ramasoon" in Thailand during February and March. Every vehicle made the final exercise location and all the equipment worked on arrival. A true test of both man and machine.

So many times SEATO exercises have been planned but never come to fruition but at last we were really there with the River Mekong a matter of half a mile from our H.Q.

Our camp, which was strictly non-tactical, was sited next to an American Air Force radar station, Camp Viking, who afforded us many facilities, such as showers, fresh water and the use of their clubs. There is now a firm affiliation between the Commonwealth Brigade and Camp Viking demonstrated by the placing of a Squadron plaque in their Club. One noticed a considerable difference in headgear. Americans wearing "hats floppy ridiculous Mark V" and Commonwealth heads topped by Texan-style and Base-ball hats.

In the first period of the exercise we spent ten days near Camp Viking on the edge of their airstrip. The climate was quite different from Malaysia, very hot during the day and cool at night but with no humidity. It did become cold enough one day for most of us to wear sweaters.

As is usual on such exercises we had our usual share of visitors. The most important visit was that of the S.O.-in-C. accompanied by C.S.O. FARELF. He flew in by Scout helicopter and spent some two hours with the Squadron, seeing it really at work in the field.

At the end of the first period the Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron had to redeploy to a new location some 100 miles away. Here our facilities were not so good—a bare piece of scrub, very hot and very dusty. In this part of the exercise we came under command of Anzuk Division and thus **Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Adams,** Royal Australian Signals, became our C.R. Signals. Being a Commonwealth unit we found no problems in working with the Australian Regiment—we even found we spoke the same language.

The exercise was deemed successful from the Squadron's point of view—all communications worked extremely well. On 17th March the long return journey began. First of all by road to Sattahip, embarking this time on the ISL, Sir Lancelot, with the smaller vehicles whilst the three-tonners were put aboard LCT. The ISL party arrived back in Terendak on 22nd March, having been away for just five weeks. There is just time now to shake the dust of Thailand out of our gear and ourselves, run through all the equipment and load up again for our next field training, Exercise "All Black," the Brigade Practice Camp, which will keep us away for a further three weeks. Life certainly isn't dull in the Commonwealth Brigade.

R.S.M. Goes to U.K.

We were fortunate in being able to send our Australian **R.S.M. W.O.I Rooney** to U:K. for the R.S.M's. convention in March. From all accounts much Whitbread flowed and we await his return and his impressions of "Pommy-land" with interest.

Hail and Farewell

This month we have a change of Administrative Officers; **Captain G. K. Lawson** leaves us after two years with the Squadron and his place is taken by **Captain R. Watson,** 4/7 D.G. **Captain Lawson** has been very much an integrated member of the Squadron and his cheerful countenance will be missed around these parts. Also by the time these notes are in readers hands we will have had a change of Foreman of Signals. "The most cheerful Foreman in the Corps" was the remark made by the C.S.O. when introducing **F.O.S. Chidley** to the S.O.-in-C. Not only was this a very apt description but behind that cheerful countenance lies a very dedicated technician who has given this Squadron a very high record of technical efficiency. We are sorry to see you go "F.O.S.," and wish you and your family every good fortune with 14 Signal Regiment.



ALL ABOARD

The Squadron embarks at Singapore on I.S.L. Sir Bedevere



ON THE HIGH SEAS

En route to Thailand



GETTING ACQUAINTED

Corporal Crowe with some interesting local warriors

216 Parachute Squadron, Aldershot

AS is usual in 216 Parachute Squadron it is all 'go'! Time only permits a brief rundown of the activities of the last few weeks which are as follows:

SPORT

Ismailia Cup (Winter Sports). The Squadron won the Brigade Minor Units Cup for the second time running. The victory being clinched by a 2—0 defeat of Parachute Squadron in the hockey competition.

Army Cross-Country Championships. The Squadron team came second to the Brigade OFP in the Minor Units Championships on 23rd February. Under the training guidance of **Captain W. J. P. Robins,** the team consisted of **Sergeants Cowell and Houston, Corporals McGovern** and **Angus, Lance-Corporals Baikie** and **O'Rourke, Signalman Pollard** and **Captain Robins** himself.

3rd Division Soccer Final. The Squadron won the 3rd Division Soccer Cup by beating 7 Squadron RCT by 3 goals to 1 in the final on 28th February. After being 1—0 down to a very good side, the Squadron came back to win with goals from **Signalman Titley, Corporal Angus** and **Lance-Corporal O'Rourke.** The team consisted of **Sergeant Andreou, Corporals Angus, Bartliff** and **McGovern, Lance-Corporals Dudding** and **O'Rourke, Signalmen Darby, Campbell (745), Campbell (223), McKee** and **Titley.**

Other regular players during the competition were **Corporal Cunningham, Signalmen Sharp** and **Wilson.**

Aldershot District Rugger Final. The Squadron was beaten into second place in the Minor Units Final by 9 Independent Parachute Squadron R.E. on the 6th March. The Sappers opened the scoring and despite a penalty from **Sergeant Haughie,** to bring the score to 3—3, they went on to win 12—3.

The team were narrowly beaten by SEME on 8th March by 6—3 in the semi-final of the Major Units Championships. This narrowly beaten, but not discouraged, team consisted of **Second-Lieutenant Hughes, Staff Sergeant Kirton, Sergeants Haughie** and **Houston, Corporals Gore, Hutchings, Newman** and **Leathers** (R.E.M.E.), **Lance-Corporal Evans, Signalmen Whitehead, Duffy, Mateyawa, Frost, Naden** and **Sefton.**

B.A.O.R. Recruiting Tour. On Thursday, 14th March, **Captain Robins** and his party returned from a two-week recruiting tour of Signals units in B.A.O.R. They were well received and looked after and returned with a list of eighty-five volunteers for parachute training.

We wish these young men the best of luck in their worthwhile venture.

Administrative Inspection

The date set for this was Wednesday, 6th December, 1967. On the evening of the 4th, however, things started happening. Early or not, the Inspection was to take the form of a quick move. A parachute assault, including a heavy parachute drop of vehicles and equipment, was to be made at Watchfield on the morning of the 5th. This was successful and communications were swiftly established.

The following morning (the 6th) the Brigade Commander inspected the barrack block and the Squadron Offices, but did not require a parade!

Rundown

During the month of March, the rundown of two officers and thirty-five men in the Squadron strength was announced. However, we plan to continue maintaining our high standards at work and play.

TRAINING

Denmark. The Squadron sent a detachment, under **Corporal Rose,** to Denmark with 2 Para. This visit took the form of an exchange with the Danish Life Guards, who lived in 2 Para accommodation during their stay here. The detachment enjoyed themselves enormously, both during and after the exercise. The bitterly cold weather was compensated for by the warmth of the welcome given them by the Danish people, who much appreciated the final march through Copenhagen with fixed bayonets.

Cyprus. A detachment went to Cyprus during March on Exercise "Skywave." They were led by **Lance-Corporal Wells** and provided communications for BASO (OS) 16 Parachute Brigade.

North Africa. The Administrative Base Unit (ABU) in North Africa contains an element from this Squadron. Our detachment is led by **Lieutenant F. P. Wilkinson** and is providing the communications for the ABU. They are out there to provide units with exercise vehicles and equipment. The remainder of the Squadron will be joining them shortly for exercise purposes.

POSTINGS

Postings Out. It is with a note of regret that we have to report that **Lieutenants McLean** and **Treeby** have left us. **Staff Sergeant Studd,** our Chief Clerk, is also leaving for other lands. They have served the Squadron well and our best wishes go with them for the future. Other postings out include **Corporal Speakman** (Kuwait Liaison Team), **Lance-Corporal McBirney** (249 Squadron), **Lance-Corporal Humphreys** (208 Squadron), **Lance-Corporal White** (3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment), **Signalman Thompson** (39 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron) and **Signalman Munro** (16th Regiment).

Postings In. We welcome to the Squadron **Second-Lieutenants H. Smith** and **D. P. Hughes** and hope they will enjoy their tour with us. Other postings in were **Signalman Duffy** (from 204 Squadron) and **Signalman Paterson** (from 11th Regiment).

222 Signal Squadron (Sharjah) B.F.P.O. 63

THE SAND RUNNERS

The Cross country team of 222 Squadron. They were fourth in the Garrison Competition. *Left to Right* (*Standing*): Corporal Gray, Corporal Reynolds, Lance-Corporal Smith. (*Kneeling*): Lance-Corporal Falconer, Corporal Hunter, Lance-Corporal Stevenson

(222 Squadron notes continued on page 181)

THE Squadron does not neglect the sporting side of life here. In fact sport is fairly predominant in Sharjah as there is a total absence of the fair sex, and all the other pursuits which go with them. The Squadron recently swept the soccer field by winning the Garrison Knockout Competition. Hockey also features in the sporting calendar, while the true blood Englishmen in the Squadron are, at times, seen to play cricket in the heat of the noon day sun! Recently a cross country team competed in the garrison meeting, and came fourth in the overall placings, being beaten by two Parachute Regiment teams, and a very fit Engineers' team. With training better results are hoped for.

Fantastic stories

Some of the senior members of the Squadron have taken to fishing as a relaxation from their everyday chores. **R.Q.M.S. Wood** and **Y. of S. Gallacher** come back with fantastic stories of their catches, but recently a spy amongst their midst reported that the only fish they 'caught' was one stolen from a fellow fisherman. The O.C., **Major Plant,** goes one better, however, and does his fishing from an Arab dhow. His fishy stories are therefore difficult to disprove, as he always claims he throws them back, and spies are not allowed aboard the dhow.

At the beginning of February a local CPX was held to prepare ourselves for the amphibious exercise in March. It so happened that the five yearly rainy season was upon us that week, and the previously hard sand became similar to the mud of Soltau ranges. However, the spirit of Mercury triumphed, and all returned safely to camp.

F. of S. Jeffery journey to Abu Dhabi at the end of February to repair the Sheihk's radio equipment, but on his return journey became firmly bogged in the mud flats. A plea for help reached the Squadron at 8 o'clock that night, whereupon the Squadron Commander gathered a band of trusty followers and disappeared into the inky blackness (and pouring rain). Early the following morning the party reappeared in Sharjah complete with a wayward Foreman, having out-rescued the R.A.F. mountain rescue.

237 Signal Squadron c/o G.P.O. Singapore

A REGULAR reader of "The Wire" is able to form a fair idea of where most Royal Signals Units are located, with the exception possibly of 237 Squadron which has successfully concealed its presence in a literary sense for some years. As we have been rationalised, devalued, re-established, re-rationalised and given a change of command in the space of a few months perhaps now is a good time to contribute, once again, to an excellent Corps magazine.

Well Spread Territorially—And for Talent

The Squadron command covers a large area in South East Asia, having a Troop in Bangkok and Brunei as well as Transmitter and Receiver stations and the Tape Relay Centre on Singapore Island. The sites are for the most part self-contained and independent with tied married quarters for the fortunate key personnel.

Despite the difficulties of distance between the sites, shift working commitments and the lethargy which seems to strike many soldiers due to the humid climate we manage to turn out some good sports teams and have many Corps representatives. **Captain Dai Rees,** who needs no introduction in contemporary rugger circles, **Sergeant Crowe, Corporal Mick Davies** and two of our civilian technicians **Alan Heywood** ex 3 G.H.Q. Signals, 1963, and **Dave Lomas,** are all regular members of the Corps team.

Captain John Radford, Sergeant Paddy Hyde, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Bob Massey and **Signalman Alan Dixon** are Corps cricketers, **Captain Radford** was also a member of the Joint Services Singapore side which had a successful tour of Hong Kong recently. He managed to get stranded there for two weeks at the end of it but that's another story.

We also produce good soccer and hockey sides. **Sergeants Paddy Hyde** and **Alan Walsh** feature prominently in these. **Corporal Peter Sutherland** is one of the star basketball players and plays in the Army team.

Some individualists do well also. **Mr. John Netherton** plays



HARI RAYA PARTY

Left to Right: Mrs. Sweet, S.S.M. Fisher, Mrs. Cushen, Mrs. Fisher, R.Q.M.S. Terry Cushen, Staff Sergeant Ibrahim, O.C. Major Chris Fowke

a very good game of golf and his most recent success was in the Singapore Open Championships when he and his partner took the third prize in the Professional/Amateur Tournament. A very fine achievement in the face of strong international competition.

Lance-Corporal McGarva, who is a Corps athlete, has shown his versatility and won the District Road Walking individual title. We congratulate a very fit young man.

A good posting for sailors

The Squadron Commander, **Major Chris Fowke** is promoting a keen interest in the field of sailing, our sailing club now owns two motor launches and has part ownership in a very nice ketch, so there is every opportunity for all to enjoy life at sea. **Corporals David Lang, Peter Sutherland** and **Signalmen Fallon** and **Reilly** are at present attending a helmsman's course, which is being run by our neighbours, 18th Regiment.

Our congratulations go to **Signalman Andy Hearne** and **Miss Marion Parker** on the occasion of their wedding, which took place in the Roman Catholic Church, Tanglin, on 10th February. The best man was **Signalman 'Skip' Harding,** and the bride was given away by **Captain Radford,** the reception was held in the J.R.C. at Amoy Quee and turned out to be a swinging affair lasting until nearly midnight.

The Fitness For Role inspections have been completed, resulting in the usual high standards we grow to expect in the Corps. The Inspecting Officer was the C.R. Signals, **Colonel C. E. Tonry, O.B.E.** Parades were held at each outstation and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was presented to **Sergeant Sid Murray.**

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus) B.F.P.O. 53

ALTHOUGH it is some time since we last appeared in THE WIRE, this does not mean that life in the Squadron has been uneventful. On the contrary, we have been very busy. The run down of Dhekelia SBA and the move of many branches of Headquarters NEARELF from here to Episkopi has called for the reorganisation of commitments and installations. We were also very much involved with the recent period of tension in the island.

We have lost a lot of old friends on posting and take this opportunity to wish them all good luck in their new units. To the many new arrivals, we say "hello" and hope that they enjoy their tour with the Squadron.

The Squadron has many detachments, and we hope to bring news of them all during the next few months.

Who's Who in S.H.Q.

It's been some time since the Squadron last appeared in print, so here is a run down of who is who in S.H.Q.

The O.C. is **Major D. R. Beadon**—just celebrating his first anniversary at the helm. Second-in-Command is **Captain I. J.**

Hamilton whose tour comes to an end in July—not to worry, though, he goes 'overseas' again, well, Northern Ireland. Our new S.S.M., **W.O.II J. B. Appleby,** is busily settling down, not only as Squadron martinet but as MTO as well. We wish **W.O.II Hehir** all the best in his next posting. The next trio to be mentioned caused alarm in the Squadron last June, for all three came from 7th Regiment, and it looked as though another take-over bid had got past the monopolies board. They are the S.Q.M.S., **Staff Sergeant H. Sankey,** the chief clerk, **Staff Sergeant R. Brodie,** and **Lance-Corporal Tom Gratton,** the office staff and sandwich fetcher. The Troop Sergeant is **Sergeant B. Turner,** who also does a lot of first aid work on the garrison telephones. We must not forget **Lance-Corporal 'Dinger' Bell,** our technician storeman, who is at present sharpening his cricket bat for the coming season.

Now to our female element—O.C. W.R.A.C., **Captain J. M. Bunyan,** certainly gets around. In the ten weeks she has been here she has seen the snow-covered slopes of Troodos, when she took part in a ski course, and is now busily practicing for free fall parachuting. Our post N.C.O. and Administrative N.C.O. (W.R.A.C.) is **Corporal Daphne Stevens;** 'Daphers' is quite a tonic and keeps our sense of humour in trim. We must not forget **Liz,** our typist and coffee operator, after all, she will type these notes.

Over the road, we have the MT Section, ably led by **Corporal 'Tug' Wilson,** assisted by **Lance-Corporal Theobald, Signalmen North, Masson** and **Simpson.**

That's our line up and is enough for now, next time we will tell you what we do.

Comcen Troop

When you have a troop of 20 W.R.A.C. and 2 Royal Signals, life can be interesting. There have been too many engagements to mention and so many changes of personnel. The W.R.A.C. have been showing the way on the ski courses, no broken bones, but lots of bruises. The average proportion on these courses was one W.R.A.C. to 70 men. Sport is the main thought in the mind of everyone at the moment—you name it, we do it, not with much talent possibly, but we certainly try.

Tech Troop

It's all new arrivals in the troop at the moment. A very happy event was the birth of twin daughters to **Corporal and Mrs. Watson,** though this nearly ended in tragedy when, on the night of 13th February, a whirlwind struck the married quarters in Richmond Village. The roof of **Corporal Watson's** house was blown off, and fifteen other houses were damaged. Another happy event was the birth of a daughter to **Corporal and Mrs. Underwood.** Two more new arrivals in the troop are **Lance-Corporal Pete Martin** and **Lance-Corporal 'Pip' Dinsdale,** who are both settling down well.

Corporal Ben Lawson spent a couple of days in Libya setting up a radio relay link to replace a telephone cable that has been in use since the war. He writes it all off to experience—quote "What an experience!"

It seems as though our Foreman has forgotten us—he returned briefly after a two-week tour of the Pye radio works and is now back in England on a refresher course. He spends more time in England than he does with us. How does he manage it?

Another lucky chap off to England is **Lance-Corporal 'Stew' Gregg** who is getting married in March. Another one bites the dust!

Radio Troop

Some people are born to write WIRE notes, others have this honour thrust upon them. I am one of the latter. . . still, if you can't beat them join them!

Introducing ourselves—Radio Troop, 262 Squadron. Our task—to provide I.S. Communications for the island. We were previously known as F Troop, until the troop O.C., **Second-Lieutenant Alan Macgregor,** got fed up with being called the scourge of the West.

After the excitement of November's flap, everything is settling down to the normal routine of training. One piece of good news is that four of the troop—**Corporal Sully, Lance-Corporal Buick, Signalmen Halfhide** and **Signalman Good** have been chosen to accompany a scientific expedition to the Fezzan Desert. The object of the expedition is to locate the lost cities of Sharaba and Gasr Mara. **Corporal Sully's** detachment will provide communications with El Adem and Cyprus. We wish them luck and hope to bring news of them next month.

Mount Olympus Detachment

The detachment is suffering from the coldest winter for over 20 years, but a change in the layout of the workshop, radio room and rest room is giving a lot more comfort to the operators.

All our antennas are now on towers much closer to the detachment and we have 'borrowed' space on the R.A.F. towers where necessary. The British Forces Broadcasting Service, who have relay equipment with the detachment are also building their own tower here, and we hope to put some of our borrowed space aerials on this tower as well. The R.A.F. have been very helpful to us in the past and are very good friends to the detachment. But in all fairness to them we try to keep our aerials off their towers.

Detachment life goes on, and we are now well into winter, laughing at all the keen skiers on Sun Valley, who think the snow is something wonderful. **Lance-Corporal Graham Boast,** one of our newer arrivals, can be seen wending his way to the all-male Corporals' Club, muttering something about beer being great, but no substitute for birds. So, taking our bow, we don our parkas and set off into typical winter weather, 6,403 feet above sea level.

SPORT

Football

The season finished for 1967/68 with the Squadron team halfway down the league table. We did manage to reach the semi-finals of the Minor Units Cup, and **Sergeant Tom Foody** and **Lance-Corporal Tom Gratton** were selected as reserve and substitute for the Army (Cyprus) team. Our team captain, **Lance-Corporal John Beaumont,** together with **Sergeant Foody** and **Lance-Corporal Gratton,** were all selected to play for the Garrison side in the Major Units Cup.

Hockey

We had a team in the league, but although most of our players were keen until the bitter end, we never won a match.

We have also participated in the Garrison Squash and Basketball Leagues and some of our members have played in the Garrison rugby side. There is hardly a sport in which we do not take part. At present, we are all eagerly awaiting the novices boxing competition, in which **Signalmen Tony Pollard** and **Keith Walker** are trying their skills.

Well, that's it for this month. We hope to bring pictures and more news from 'sunny' Cyprus next month.



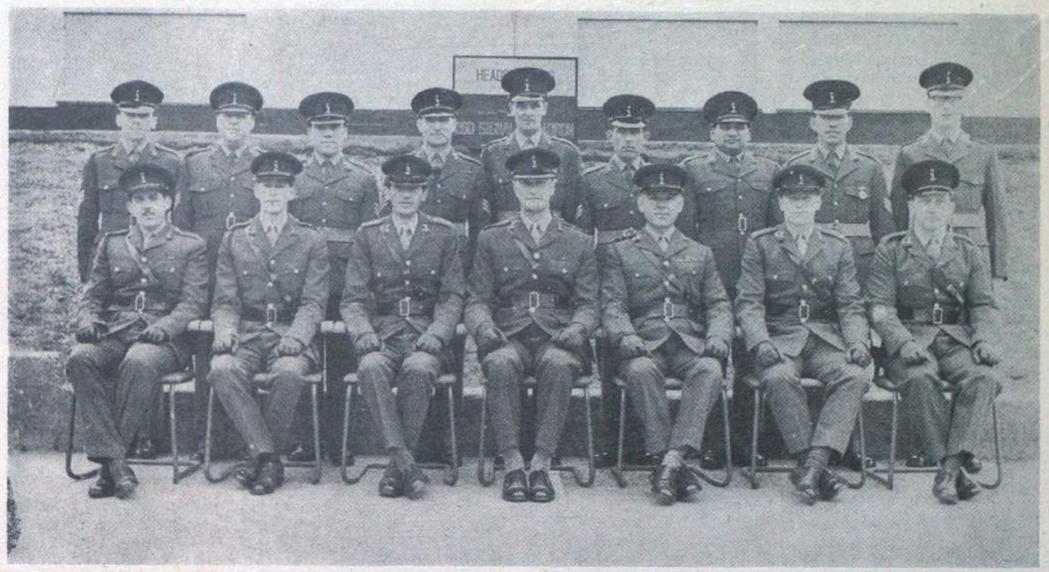
[Courtesy: S. Jardine

OUTSTANDING CORPS SPORTSMAN

Staff Sergeant R. Hills, honorary Huntsman of the Pimpernel Beagles (Royal Signals) Blandford Camp, from 1963 to 1966/67 season, now stationed with 2 Squadron 21st Signal Regiment

Expert Huntsman—Staff Sergeant Hills (*on left*) hunted the pack twice weekly covering an average of 30 miles hard running a week and provided some excellent sport for large fields. The Boxing Day meets brought followers from far and wide with as many as 200 out on one occasion. Ron is a well known and popular personality in hunting circles and did much for the prestige of the Corps over a very wide area

With him is Mr. A. B. Cole, of Spettisbury, Joint-Master for many years. It may be noticed that the uniformed hunt staff all wear "Jimmy" on the lapel; though the correctness of the description "collar-dog" is suspect when mentioned in the same breath as a pack of hounds



SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE NEW SQUADRON

Back Row, left to right: Sergeant Hutchman, Sergeant Stevens, Sergeant Johnson, Staff Sergeant Kerr, Staff Sergeant Burrows, Sergeant Thomas, Sergeant Joglekar, Sergeant Baynes, Sergeant Thomas

Front Row left to right: Second-Lieutenant Lewis, Lieutenant Barry, Captain Morgan, Major Campbell, Captain Stephens, Second-Lieutenant Riley, W.O.I (F.O.S.) Stringer

Absent: W.O.I (S.S.M.) Foster, Staff Sergeant Rogers

Welcome to a New Unit

260 Signal Squadron, Shoeburyness

KEEN readers of the magazine will surely be heard to say "260 Squadron?"

"Never heard of them, must be a typing error" or words to that effect.

For the record let me say that "260 Signal Squadron it is," "never heard of them," well, we hope to put that right.

"A typing error?"—no it isn't.

On the fine sunny morning of 1st April, 1968, to the strains of the Corps March this very proud newly formed Squadron marched on to the sports field of Horseshoe Barracks, Shoeburyness to play our part in the amalgamation parade held to commemorate the joining of two Heavy Air Defence Regiments Royal Artillery into the new 36 Regiment Royal Artillery. We in our turn saw the amalgamation of 654 Troop recently returned from Dortmund and the 655 Troop already here, to form the new 260 Squadron.

Quite a Day

The parade was inspected by the **Master Gunner, General Sir Robert Mansergh, G.C.B., K.B.E., M.C.,** and was attended by a large number of spectators, which included **Brigadier K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E.,** C.S.O. Southern Command. The celebrations that followed the parade included receptions and lunches in the various Messes, a football match in which the Regimental team played host to Southend United "A" team, a dinner dance for officers and Senior N.C.O's. at Cliff Pavilion, Southend, and an All Ranks' dance in the gymnasium. No fewer than five members of the Squadron were included in the football team, and though defeated gave a good account of themselves. The players were **Sergeant Thomas, Corporal Dolby, Lance-Corporal Gilmour, Signalman Howie** and **Signalman Shiel.**

The Squadron is commanded by **Major John Campbell,** Royal Signals, and some of the officer personalities are **Captain Gordon Morgan, Captain Vivian Stephens, Lieutenant Roger Barry** and **Second Lieutenants Owen Lewis** and **Colin Riley.**

Note for sailing types.—The Squadron is situated virtually on the water's edge of the Thames estuary and the Garrison Sailing Club is within our compound—not more than 100 metres from the Squadron Office in fact; therefore we insist that all applicants for posting to the Squadron must w.e.f date be qualified helmsmen (O.I.C. Royal Signals Records, please note). For further details of this Squadron—**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

WANTED. Good home offered for one figure of Mercury, all communications acknowledged.

647 Signal Troop S.R.D.E. Christchurch

In Two Places at Once

SINCE the last contribution to THE WIRE was made a great deal has been happening both to Troop personnel and to the role of the Troop.

The Troop is now in two places at once, rather an unusual occurrence; the main party in U.K. at S.R.D.E., and the rear party still in our previous site in the Far East.

The main party took over from the Senior Service at Christchurch on 1st February. We are now helping to convert the station into a test instrument. When the "Skynet" satellite is launched, early next year, acceptance tests will be carried out by our (Christchurch) station.

At the same time the R.A.F. Skynet teams are in training and are being given practical instruction in operating and maintaining the earth's stations. One of these teams is to replace the rear party of the Troop who have had the unenviable task of having a care and maintenance role. The tedium was broken on February 9th, when both stations manned by 647 Troop, operated a Satcomms Link of about 8,000 miles to each other. Is this a record?

As the rear party had left the Troop depleted in numbers we welcome several new technicians from 14th Regiment and they have had the benefit of a crash course in Satcomm techniques with individual tuition, to enable them to operate the station without serious damage to themselves or the equipment.

PERSONALITIES

On the main party's return to U.K. the O.C., **Major J. M. Newman,** left to become O.C., 4 Squadron, 14th Regiment, of which the Troop became part and our new O.C., **Major M. J. Hales,** who had previously been connected with the Planning and Control Section of the Satcomm trials, assumed command. It was somewhat unusual to find an O.C. with one fully serviceable earth station waiting for a Troop to arrive to man it!

Corporals Rusling, Still and **Austin** are at present on upgrading courses at 8th Regiment. **Corporal Gardiner** is now at Mons O.C.S., and we wish him every success there and in his future career. **Corporal Smurthwaite,** our veteran footballer, after his successes in the Far East is making his mark again in U.K. by playing for the Corps and Regimental teams. We also congratulate him and his wife on the arrival of a baby daughter in March.

Foreman Taylor can't decide whether to play golf (like the new O.C.) or to sail (the pastime of a more senior military member of S.R.D.E.). **Sergeant Dixon** has now become Troop Sergeant but spends most of his time acting as an estate agent (all the married members have had to find hirings in an area which is a noted holiday resort). **Sergeant Ferrier** now arrives at work tousle-haired on a very fast, twin exhaust motor cycle (he keeps the limousine for week-ends). **Corporal Pheasant,** one of our new arrivals, has been seen on a bicycle puffing gently after a nine mile ride from his house. He can't decide whether to claim mileage allowance or hard lying money.

649 Signal Troop

ROUGHING IT IN BANGKOK

Billeted in the Grand Hotel

IT is probably a wish of most people serving in the Far East to visit Bangkok, it comes as a surprise to some to find a British Unit serving there when they arrive.

649 Troop is attached to 237 Squadron and exists in Bangkok to serve the A.N.Z.U.K. elements of S.E.A.T.O. The Troop lives in the Grand Hotel, opposite the National Stadium, where the Asian and S.E.A.P. Games are held. Working accommodation is some two miles away in a swamp. It consists of a long, low wooden hut containing some of the most modern high power transmitting equipment in the British Army. We radiate 24 hours a day which means shift working, but Bangkok has its compensations.

We have recently been visited by Installation Troop (DCN), who, under the management of **Captain V. Fairey,** R.E.M.E., completed a long and complex project, involving the fitting of a screened enclosure and much new equipment. They also put our bar sales up to what must have been an all time high. We were sorry to see them go.

Families

We have three families in Bangkok, those of the O.C., **Captain D. J. Henning,** the Forman of Signals, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Cochrane,** and **Sergeant Smithurst.** Since there are no quarters, all families occupy hirings, normally air-conditioned flats built in the American style, which of course, includes a swimming pool. It's tough at the sharp end!

We are a well visited Troop. Within the last three months our more notable visits have been from:—**Mr. C. E. Starling,** Command Secretary, FARELF; **Brigadier A. D. Brindley, M.B.E.,** C.S.O. FARELF; **Major General D. N. H. Tyacke, O.B.E.,** G.O.C. Singapore District and **Rear Admiral M. D. Kyle Pope, M.B.E.,** Chief of Staff to C.-in-C. Far East.

Bangkok itself offers much to the tourist, the girls are said to be the prettiest in the world, and our connoisseurs agree. We enclose some photographs of the more well-known tourist spots in the city and hold ourselves ready to show visitors some of those less well-known. (*Not received.—Editor*).

Plenty of Sport

The Troop, although small fields a reasonable football team, which of late has won a few of its matches. If we continue to improve at this rate we shall be entering the S.E.A.P. Games soon, instead of watching. The team is inspired by **Corporal Clarke,** who invariably plays a good game, even in the tropical heat, but this does not belittle the rest of the team, who always give of their best.

We also support a ten-pin bowling team who play in a local league each week. What they lack in expertise they make up in appearance wearing light blue shirts enscribed with "Royal Signals, Bangkok."

Other sports include tennis, squash, badminton and swimming. We even have two budding karate experts in **Corporal Cole** and **Lance-Corporal Thorpe.** We hope soon to be able to backload our saws and sledge hammers and rely on them to use their hands.

It is in all a full, rewarding and enjoyable life in Bangkok—in fact an "ezzy bezzy" posting.

Obituary

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. N. HIGGS

ROLAND Nicholas ("Harold") Higgs started his military life as a Yeoman in 1914. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1917. In 1918 he transferred to 2nd Bn. 4th Rajput Regiment until being seconded to "D" Divisional Signals (ISC) in the 1921-24 Frontier Operations. He transferred to Royal Signals in 1926. In 1930 he was Chief Instructor at the Signals Training School Jubbulpore, where he enjoyed the shooting for which that station was famous. He was then Wireless Officer to the Burma Military Police from 1934-36.

After serving in the B.E.F. he returned to India to command the Training Battalion in Jubbulpore. He retired in 1945, having commanded No. 2 S.T. Battalion for his last year.

His funeral was attended by members of the Aldershot Branch of the Association headed by **Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.,** his old Jubbulpore shooting companion.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. W. SMITH-AINSLEY, M.A. (CANTAB)

JOHN Witney Smith-Ainsley, a Channel Islander from Guernsey, joined the Corps from the 'Shop' in 1934. He gained his 3rd class honours in the Mechanical Sciences at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, in 1939. He served on the staff of CAFSG H.Q. 2 Tactical Air Force 1944-45 as a Lieutenant-Colonel. After a short time in command of 10 Corps Signals he became S.O.I. Signals at H.Q. Eastern Command India 1946-47. He then served in Austria and Middle East before retiring in 1958. He was mentioned in despatches in 1945.

EX SERGEANT R. F. (REG) BROOKS

THE many friends of **Reg Brooks** which he made during some 19 years in the Corps as a Regular and eight years as a Territorial will be saddened to hear of his death in Taunton on 22nd February.

He enlisted in the Somerset LI in September 1925, was discharged and re-enlisted in 1937. He transferred to the Corps in 1940 and served in the B.E.F., becoming involved in Dunkirk, and in the operations in N.W. Europe from 1944. Finally leaving the Regular Army in February 1959, he was soon back into uniform with the Territorial Army with 43rd (Wessex) Signal Regiment (T.A.). Here his wide experience was invaluable. He served as S.S.M. and also doubled in the role of civilian clerk at the Bridgwater T.A. Centre, and his knowledge, freely and willingly given to all his colleagues, was greatly appreciated by not only the newest recruit but also by the older hands.

To his widow and son, **Patrick,** at present serving with 28th Regiment, goes our sincere sympathy.

He was a man to whom the word "service" meant just that.

HARRIS.—Ex Sergeant W. T. Harris on the 30th March at the age of 39. He served in the Corps 1947-49 and was an annual member of the Association. His home address: 118, Carlton Avenue West, Wembley, Middlesex.

PETTIFER.—Ex Signalman H. J. Pettifer on the 27th March at the age of 57. At one time he served in 5 London Corps Signals from May to December 1940. He was an annual member of the Association. Home address: 32, Council Houses, Blackwell End, Pottersbury, Towcester, Northants.

NEWMARCH. — Ex-Sergeant E. J. Newmarch, on the 5th April, at the age of 69, at his home at 116, Birdhill Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Nr. Loughborough. He served with the Corps from 1919 to 1938 and was a Life Member of the Association.

Escaping from the wife and the tele?

One view of the modus operandi of being a Volunteer!

WHAT makes a chap give up several nights a week and most weekends to take part in Volunteer training? Enthusiasm . . . the pay . . . ? Well, not strictly that . . . In this light and breezy article from 38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers), of Manor Training Centre, Sheffield, they point out, without even a blush, that there may be another reason—a reason, moreover, which may seem to have some substance, judging from the happy faces shown in the photographs on page 186.

* * *

For a Regular, life is curiously different in a Volunteer Regiment; I mean apart from the fact that I'm officially out several nights a week and most weekends, I get nagged to death by the wife, of course. She never really believes that men can be daft enough to want to play soldiers in the evenings when they could be comfortably at home, watching the tele, with their wives. But there she's getting dangerously near the truth, only I daren't tell her. These poor devils in the Volunteers are all in it to escape from their wives and the tele. You can guess that by the way they behave. They're all happy and enthusiastic, not a bit like Regulars, can't wait to get into the Training Centre on a Tuesday night. They talk signals and football non-stop, shove their faces into endless mugs of beer (well, that's if they're walking home, of course), and they enjoy themselves.

* * *

Funny how some people can't see the obvious, though. There was the C.O., standing up at a meeting of what you might describe as the biggest bunch of tearaways in the outfit—that is the Officers and Sergeants, in case you didn't guess—and he (that's the C.O.) was saying how they should try and bring their wives in on the social life of the Regiment more, and have the wives up every pay night. Well, he asked for ideas, and you could have heard a pin drop. You never saw such a frightened lot in all your life. Then, fortunately, a Sergeant-Major, who is very popular, but I won't mention his name, suggested a visit with the families to the zoo! You can imagine, by the time they'd finished belly-laughing and picked themselves up off the floor, the whole unpleasant subject was quietly dropped.

But now, where was I? I started off wanting to say something important, but I was interrupted.

* * *

Then another difference, being a Volunteer—you're not 'authorised' to do adventure training. Well all you Regulars know that adventure training covers a multitude of larks and happy expeditions to unlikely places; life as a Regular just wouldn't be the same without it. But for the poor old Volunteer, who likes his adventure more than most—he's got to pay for it himself. Anyway, a party of about twenty of the more wealthy members of the Regiment, like **Lance-Corporal Bridge** and the C.O., for example, took off for a ski-ing weekend in Scotland a while ago. The attraction, as explained by **Major Revill,** the organiser, was the 'Apres Ski.' None of us knew what this was, but we weren't going to ask and look stupid. But seeing the twinkle in **Major Revill's** eye, and knowing him like we do, we took it all on trust. The worst bit turned out to be the twelve-hour flog up to Aviemore, in the mountains between Perth and Inverness, in case you're ignorant. We rolled up to a sumptuous hotel, and the first thing we saw was some character being pushed in a bath chair with his leg in a splint, which rocked us a bit. Most of us had never been on skis before, but we all took to it like ducks to water, and by the end of the day we were all zapping about on our skis like we had been born to it. Being truthful, I should mention that a fair bit of our ski-ing was done sliding on our backsides, but it was all good clean fun, and to our immense surprise, nobody broke any bones or bent any muscles.

The highlight of the weekend, like all good adventure training was this 'Apres Ski' bit, which turned out to be a party with an incredible selection of ski-ing type birds at the local Saturday night hop. As we were packing up to come home on the Sunday we got talking to a hoary old Sergeant-Major from another volunteer unit who told us that the way to make our expensive weekend legitimate and paid-for was to call it 'fitness training' instead of adventure training. Isn't that typical of the system? We hope to do the same again later in the year with more of the Volunteers, and hopefully on the cheap . . . You live and learn.

Another thing we Regulars have been doing is to visit big firms in our area to find out how our Volunteer brothers earn their living, and the sort of problems they face in getting time off from shift work to soldier in the evenings and week-ends. So far we've been round Samuel Fox, a big steel mill, and a coal mine, both near Sheffield, and to Rolls Royce's at Derby. All very interesting and educational.

* * *

I suppose I should mention that we've also found time for normal training and to take our annual administrative inspection in our stride. And with spring just around the corner, we'll be out in the long grass any moment now on the first of our working-up exercises. And, by the way, before I finish, compliments to our Regimental Photographer, **Sergeant Skevington,** who did the art work for this article and our earlier ones too.

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It's a great life with the Modern Volunteers — and 38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) show some of the reasons why











There was that ski-ing weekend in Scotland not so long ago, and (1) shows a team of skiers confidently looking forward to a good day's sport; the most experienced of all were Major Revill and R.Q.M.S. Headland (2) but spills do occur and photo (3) shows Captain Cottage and S.S.M. Sivell coming a cropper

(4) But all is not ski-ing. We can even show the 'Can Can' girls a thing or two. Back row of the chorus Lieutenants Wardley and Woolfson and W.O.II. Sivell. At the footlights Lance-Corporal Armett, Signalman Lloyd and Corporal Leeming

(5) "Its nice to see you again, Sir." Brigadier Hoerder at the annual inspection, chats to Staff Sergeant Bradbury and the C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. D. Francis. All three were last together in Korea in 1955

Ski-ing in the Cairngorms

By Captain G. R. Funnell

602 Troop sponsor a combined team with 14th Regiment to have a crack at the Army Scottish Ski Championships. Captain Funnell gives a graphic description of their adventures and concludes with an apt comment or two on possible reasons for the indifferent performance of the Corps in Army ski-ing events.

"Aim high in the gate and start your turn early. So, **Dick,** you first. Just the five gates. Get ready; three, two, one, go!"

Eric Mobeus, our Norwegian instructor, gave us a running commentary as **Sergeant J. C. T. Richards** attended the practice course which **Eric** had set. As we each went down, he called our the times. We averaged about twenty seconds.

"Now I show you what I mean," **Eric** shouted. "You time me, yes?"

He then flashed down the course giving us a brilliant demonstration of precision ski-ing.

"Eleven seconds, **Eric.** Not bad, you're coming on," this from **Corporal P. S. Strugnell. Eric** grinned, "So—we go back up." As we climbed he moved each gate in slightly to speed up the course.

"This time a bit faster, yes? And remember, you must attack the gates, you must get angry with them, you must cut them to bits. So this time, **Bob,** you first."

Signalman R. A. Scott, a courageous skier, was going fast and well until the fourth gate, where he caught a tip on the lower post and crashed.

"That's quite good," said **Eric,** "but you must keep your body more upright. You cannot turn quickly if your body is low."

"I think he's hurt himself," said **Signalman M. Middletcoate.**

"O.K. We go and look for him, but first I show you how to make the fastest start."

An Early Casualty

So, after a mini-lesson in start technique, we skied down to the uncomplaining **Scott,** who said he had a sharp pain in his ankle. While we gave what first aid we could, **Eric** schussed down to the lift terminal to telephone for the ski patrol. In the meantime we made an improvised sledge out of skis. Fortunately for **Scott** is was not required, since, just as we were lifting him onto it, the stretcher sledge arrived. We took him down to the car park and thence to the doctor and Inverness hospital. We learned that he had a fractured ankle and would not be able to race. This was depressing and we all sympathised. But fortunately, we had reserves.

A Beautiful Course !

The day before the Army Race was, in our experience, typical of the Cairngorms. Snow was still falling on top of the couple of feet we had had the previous night, and, as the upper lifts were in cloud, we concentrated on gate training on the lower slopes. During the afternoon we heard that the course had been set, and we took the lifts up to Fiacaill Ridge to inspect the course. At the top, we met **Karl Fuchs,** as always, full of exuberance. "It is a beaut-i-ful course," said Karl. We looked at it in horror; at first sight it was nothing less than a motor-way with occasional gates to make one swerve and take the top off one's speed. But as we skied down to inspect each gate, the more interesting it became. It started with a schuss, and then wound through four or five gates, after which one was confronted with a ridge. On the far side of this the next gate was well to the left in dead ground. We made a mental note to check just before the ridge so that we were not carried on below this gate by our speed. The lower part of the course included a verticle of three gates. It was certainly a giant slalom, but one would have to incorporate both downhill and special slalom techniques if one was to ski it well.

Furious With Our Own Mistakes

On race day the weather was glorious, and, for the first time since we had been there, the Cairngorms looked really Alpine. At the start, the competitors sprawled in the snow and soaked up the sun. We smoked furiously because we all felt that the course was primarily a test of courage and not technique. At last my number was called. All went well for the schuss, the bends and the ridge. But at the verticale I fell, and in the process, lost a ski, which delayed me considerably. I finished 80th. **Sergeant Richards** had a better run and finished 73rd, while **Corporal Strugnell** and **Signalman A. W. B. Pearson** came in 99th and 100th—a very good effort on **Pearson's** part as a novice. **Middlecoate,** our other novice, finished 106th — all out of 147 starters. We were all furious with ourselves for our mistakes, and all felt we would like to have another go. But of course, in ski-ing you have got to get it right first time. As a team we finished 21st out of 24.

Experience and Skill Count

In spite of our remarks about more courage than skill being needed, the results ran true to form, and proved that it **is** experience, and it **is** skill that counts. Notably, **Lieutenant Lort-Phillips** of the 9/12th Lancers, who was a late entry and started last, finished fourth.

From the results of the Regular Army Race, only **Sergeant Richards** and I (of our team) qualified to compete in the Open Race on the following day. **Karl Fuchs** had again set the course, this time on the Coire-Na-Ciste. It started with a fast schuss followed by a fairly flat traverse which meant that one entered the slalom section at a very low speed. This was just as well, because the slalom was steep. The previous night the snow had been wind-blown into ridges across the schuss-line, which, in spite of stamping, was very bumpy. However, it was necessary to take this as fast as possible if one was not to lose time on the flat traverse. I came to grief at the third gate, where, in the flat light, I did not see a large hole made by a previous competitor. Again, in spite of having tightened my bindings, I lost a ski. Of the 104 starters, I finished 71st, and **Sergeant Richards** a very commendable 50th. The Royal Signals Individual Championship was won by **Corporal West** of 30th Regiment, who skied well to finish 14th. At the finish we were delighted to meet **Brigadier D. R. Horsfield,** who, as many will know, was Army Ski Champion in 1951, and who is still very active both with Army Ski-ing and the Ski Club of Great Britain.

That Mini-Skirt

With all the race tension gone, we had a glorious day's piste-bashing before returning to the Rothiemurchus Hut. That night, at the end of the prizegiving, **General McLeod** announced a special prize for the shortest mini-skirt to be seen in the Cairngorms. There was no doubt as to the winner: she had attracted everyone's attention when she arrived. In comparison with hers, my wife's mini-skirt was positively Victorian. Unfortunately, the girl was reluctant to come forward, whereupon she was seized and lifted head high, putting her in a very vulnerable position. She eventually decided that discretion was the better part of valour, and walked up, amidst boisterous applause, to receive her prize.

What Did We Learn ?

What we learnt from our debut into the Scottish Ski Championships is now summarised:—

Since ski-racing is a competitive sport, training for it must be **race** training, and not pure ski technique as taught by most holiday ski-schools. The best training is racing and although this can be difficult, one can often enter other people's races hors de concours. Equipment should be racing equipment. Throughout the Corps there is a vast number of skis, but it is difficult to find amongst them one pair designed for modern competition work. The minimum snow training time should be a month. This in itself may be a problem, but no skier worth his salt would hesitate to give up some leave for this.

Apropos the comparatively poor result produced by the Corps at this meeting, **it is interesting to note the success of the Royal Highland Fusiliers team. Last season they were trained by their assistant R.S.O.—Lieutentant A. B. Grant, Royal Signals. This season they were trained by Corporal West of 30th Regiment. They finished sixth out of 24 teams.** We have got the talent within the Corps: why is it that we cannot produce the results? We were surprised to find we were the only Royal Signals team competing. It is hoped that for next season a trophy will be presented for the best placed Royal Signals team, which should encourage more teams to take part.

Finally our thanks are offered to the Royal Signals Games Club, the C.O. of 14th Regiment and H.Q. Special Communications for their generous grants, and the School of Signals for the loan of equipment, without all of which we could not have competed.

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Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Looking through our archives we came across the fine photograph which forms the subject of our cover picture. We felt that it was a 'must' for THE WIRE. Unfortunately we seem to have mislaid details as to who the lineman is although we believe the photograph originates from Cyprus. We would be interested to hear from any reader who can give us any further identification.

The subject, however, stands on its own as it portrays so well the fine services rendered by those characters—the Corps linemen. Since our earliest days our linemen have established a reputation for being a tough, hard slogging bunch who get the job done come what may—in their own inimitable way. In time of war they excelled themselves, as often as not under considerable danger. It would be a sad day indeed if the advance of modern techniques in the telecommunications field ever rendered the trade of lineman obsolete. The Corps would not be the same.

SINGLE SOLDIERS' DEPENDANTS' FUND

The Soldiers' Widows' Fund has been a great success, and most married soldiers have had the sense to contribute to it. For the sum of 24/- a year (only 2/- a month!) a widow now receives a sum of over £500 in the sad event of her husband's death.

Now the Army has started a Single Soldiers' Dependants' Fund on the same lines, which should commend itself to many who have parents or others dependant upon them financially.

The following is the text of a letter from the Ministry of Defence, which explains the purpose and the operation of this new fund. It merits some consideration.

"In view of the success of the Soldiers' Widows' Fund, it has been decided to establish a similar fund for the benefit of soldiers serving on regular engagements (including members of the Women's Services) who are ineligible to subscribe to the Soldiers' Widows' Fund or to the Gurkha Dependants' Fund.

The purpose of this new Fund, to be called the Single Soldiers' Dependants' Fund, will be to provide a sum of money for the immediate needs of the dependant nominated by the subscriber in the event of his death while serving on a Regular Army engagement. The nominated dependant need not necessarily be a relative.

The annual subscription to the fund will be £1/4/-, and the benefit payable initially will be £350, but it is hoped that this sum will be increased as the fund develops.

The Army Kinema Corporation has contributed £10,000 to enable the Fund to be inaugurated and has agreed to underwrite any abnormally heavy expenditure, should this occur during the early life of the fund.

The fund will be administered in all respects in the same way as the Soldiers' Widows' Fund. A subscriber will automatically be transferred to the Soldiers' Widows Fund on marriage and will qualify immediately for benefit under the provision of that fund in the event of death.

The relevant forms are now being printed and will be issued to Commands as soon as possible. It is anticipated that the fund will be opened on 1st August, 1968; an explanatory D.C.I. (Army) will be issued within the next few weeks."



The Signal Officer-in-Chief reviews Corps affairs

ONCE again on the 20th April the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., was kind enough to talk to a representative gathering of the Royal Signals Association on "Corps Affairs."

We are always delighted to publish this annual talk exactly as it is given as it provides a UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY for all, from the latest joined Signalman upwards, to hear DIRECT from the head of the serving Corps himself just how things are going with the Corps.

Introduction

As you know, I took over from **General Peter Bradley** last August, so this is the first time that I have had the privilege of addressing this gathering. I am very pleased indeed to have the opportunity to see you all, and to talk to you in this way, and through you to the whole Corps, a Corps in which we all take the greatest pride, and for whose future we are so very much concerned.

These are difficult times, and I suppose it would be easy for me, and for any of us now serving in positions of authority in the Corps to take counsel of our fears. But let me tell you from the start that I have no intention of so doing; despite the many difficulties that face us, I remain absolutely convinced that if we, as a Corps, are clear on what we want, and press on steadily without changing our aims, we ought to be able to surmount most of the problems.

Visits

First of all let me say how fortified and encouraged I have been, as was **General Bradley** before me, by visits to Royal Signal Units. I have already seen many Regiments and Squadrons in B.A.O.R., other parts of Europe, the U.K. and very recently the Far East. Nowhere were there complaints of any sort from the Commanders or Staffs—indeed the converse was the case. Everywhere I found high morale and a very high degree of professional competence. As soldiers, communicators and sportsmen our Corps everywhere gives the very best impression, and I for one am intensely proud of them. I have been particularly impressed by our Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, and by the young soldiers who are coming on so well and will soon be fully capable of replacing them. It is the management, advancement and encouragement of them all that concerns me more than anything else at this time.

The Shape of the Corps

As you are all aware, the emphasis in defence is now towards Europe. In future, B.A.O.R. and our support for NATO will, therefore, take top priority, but this has really come as no great surprise to me, nor I imagine, to many of those concerned with Corps management. It does not in fact call for any radical changes to be made to Corps policies.

You are also aware that in the Far East we will be left with Hong Kong only; that our commitments in the Gulf will disappear, leaving in the Near and Middle East, Cyprus much as at present and small commitments in Gibraltar and Malta.

Within these areas that remain we are rationalising the responsibilities of the three Services, and the most important change in this respect concerns ourselves and the R.A.F. The R.A.F. are taking over all the long haul and associated commitments, and as our part of this package deal we are taking over from the R.A.F. their static radio relay and tropospheric scatter systems within Theatres, together with any ground tactical radio or radio relay requirements they may have. This means of course that within Theatres, the Army C.S.O. will be responsible to both the Army Commander and the R.A.F. Commander which both enhances his status and responsibilities.

To meet these requirements and to ensure adequate management of communications we will, wherever possible, set up a command structure of Groups, Regiments and Squadrons and will also wherever possible separate this executive side of our affairs from C.S.O.s and the staff function.

At Divisional and Brigade level, the policy will remain one of integrated H.Q.s, where the communicator, in fact, runs the H.Q.

This is all progressing very satisfactorily.

In the U.K. there have been changes to the Command structure and you will already have noticed that H.Q. at Hounslow, is now H.Q. Southern Command, and the one at Wilton, near Salisbury, is H.Q. Strategic Command.

Fortunately we see no great change in the requirements for our T.A.V.R. Groups, described to you in previous years, particularly as one of these supports B.A.O.R., one N.A.T.O., and the other will, in all probability have to be retained to meet requirements in the U.K. and other special needs.

There are, of course, bound to be reductions in the size of the Corps—the demise of those units now in the Far East is an obvious example. On the other hand we are taking over considerable responsibilities from the R.A.F., and see little change in the overall requirement in B.A.O.R. and N.A.T.O., so that the effects need not be on a large scale or very serious. Certainly we will be less affected than others.

Systems and Equipment

I would now like to bring you up to date on the subject of systems and equipment.

(a) Satellite Communications

General Bradley told you last year that we were on the threshold of military satellite communications. This remains the position today, although, as you can well understand, the new defence posture East of Suez has necessitated a complete review of our plans. Although not finally settled, I am fairly hopeful that the plan will go ahead and that we will see the system in operation in 1969/70.

(b) Mallard

Last autumn, the decision was given by the Government for us to join the other ABCA countries, i.e., U.S.A., Canada and Australia, in the development of the tactical trunk system for the late 70's, known as Mallard. So since then we have been extremely busy establishing our teams and catching up with the other partners in this quadripartite venture. The importance of this is, of course, immense, and its success is essential if we are really to achieve interoperability with our allies.

(c) Clansman

A complete new range of radio equipment will also be required in the early to mid 70's to replace the current sets on issue to all Arms. These are well ahead in the development stage, with various firms in the electronic industry, and although, for financial reasons, the programme is currently under review, I am still very hopeful of the outcome. I have seen most of the equipments myself and they are coming on very well and should be a great improvement to the present range.

(d) Bruin

I must also mention BRUIN. This is a new tactical trunk system for 1 (BR) Corps. It has just been deployed in B.A.O.R. and is having its first major field trials during the next few months. I am going to Germany at the beginning of May to take the field with C.C. R. Signals to see for myself how it all works. But I am sure it represents a great step forward, and for the first time the trunk system will operate from communication centres—divorced from formation H.Q.—and the whole system will be secure. It is a far cry indeed from the old days of book ciphers and "off line" arrangements that caused such tremendous bottle-necks. We are indeed lucky to have this excellent new system just coming into service during these difficult times, and it will enable us to keep right up-to-date and well to the fore in comparison with other national armies in the N.A.T.O. set-up. We gave demonstration recently in Brussels, showing what BRUIN can do, and undoubtedly our N.A.T.O. partners are very envious.

(e) ADPS

As you probably know, we have always foreseen the need for Signals to take a close interest in computers and ADPS generally, so as to ensure that development proceeds along lines compatible with communications.

But here we could find ourselves in a curious dilemma: we could go for wholesale Army computerisation now, and no doubt affect considerable improvements on "business efficiency" lines. But in order to take full advantage of coming signalling techniques, existing systems of command and control (and indeed of staff work generally) must be radically reviewed. So our computer requirements must be geared to a system which is not yet laid down, and, indeed, which will itself be influenced by computer developments. It is a real "chicken or egg" situation. We are pressing on by keeping up with all aspects of the ADPS art, and by fostering the growth of computer knowledge at Blandford.

Here, as you know, we already have an ICT computer, and around it we are seeking to establish a Joint Service ADPS Centre. So far, we have set up a series of courses, including those of 12 months' duration, to give officers a real grounding in the subjects, and four weeks' "Acquaint Courses" for the military and civilian users of existing computers.

Real Estate and Training

I would like now to mention the School of Signals, the Training Brigade and the Army Apprentices' College at Harrogate.

As you know, the School and the Headquarter Mess moved to Blandford last summer and, despite the many difficulties inherent in setting up in a completely new environment, long before the building project is due to be completed, tremendous progress has been made. I am most impressed with the School and remain absolutely confident that as building proceeds, and we are now well into Phase II, we will find more and more that we have a modern, "with it" set up, second to none in the country.

The Training Brigade is now using the old H.Q. Mess in Catterick, and this, although no longer the H.Q. Mess, remains a Corps Mess. The plan still remains to rebuild the instructional accommodation for the Brigade in Vimy Lines, and I hope that this will proceed during the next few years.

The Army Apprentices College at Harrogate, with the demise of the Junior Leaders' Regiment last year, is now, of course, all the more important for us. Here, too, there has been tremendous rebuilding, and the College is now one of the finest technical training establishments I have ever seen.

We are, I think, very fortunate to have these three excellent training establishments, and their importance to us as a Corps, of course, remains paramount. The training carried out by all three is quite first class, and has been a major factor in the successful build-up with our Regular Corps over the past few years.

Manpower

A word about manpower. The books are now just about balanced, both for Officers and Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and soldiers. However, problems within this situation do remain, for instance, a slight trade imbalance, and an imbalance in the age structure—particularly amongst officers, and we are still very short of Captains. But these are problems we can sort out in time. Much more important, however, is recruiting, and there is absolutely no room for complacency. Army recruiting has dropped off as a whole, and we as a Corps still require a considerable intake of suitable young men each month if we are to maintain our present satisfactory position. In the past we have overcome our difficulties largely by our own efforts, and I am sure that this still applies. I shall be very grateful for the continuing help and efforts of the Corps, both serving and retired, in this field, and would again like to thank all those who have done so much in the past, particularly perhaps our splendid Special Recruiters, who are regarded by the Director of Army Recruiting as about the best he has got.

Proposed Travels

I think I should perhaps mention that I am off to Berlin and 1 (BR) Corps to see the new BRUIN equipment deployed in the field early next month.

I am also planning to visit the U.S.A. and Canada in September and early October, and plan further trips to B.A.O.R. later in the year. It also seems highly probable that the next ABCA Signals Conference will be in Australia early in 1969, so this will be an opportunity for me to strengthen the bonds with the great Commonwealth Corps of Signals. I am half "Kiwi" myself, so look forward to another visit "down under" very keenly indeed.

Corps Matters

I think I should mention that a committee has been set up, under the Chairmanship of **Brigadier Rex Robinson,** to go into the programme for the Corps 50th Anniversary in 1970. In this connection, too, you will be very glad to hear that **General Scott,** the Master of Signals, has agreed to extend his tour by a year to cover this event. I am sure you will all confirm that it is the wish of all of us that this should be so, and I am happy to be able to report that the Military Secretary has given his official agreement to this proposal.

I said at the beginning that the Corps was giving a very good impression in the field of sports. There is not time in which to enumerate all the various successes, but I would just mention perhaps the following:

4th Regiment won the B.A.O.R. Fencing Team Championships. Army finals are in Aldershot next month.

The B.A.O.R. inter-unit cricket final was between two Signal Regiments—2nd and 22nd—the former winning.

The B.A.O.R. Gliding Championship was won by **Captain Wheeler.**

19th Signal Regiment's hockey team in the Far East defeats all comers.

Lance-Corporal Cutts, of 30th Regiment, is Army and Combined Services Welterweight Boxing Champion. In B.A.O.R., five individuals reached the boxing finals and two won championships in their weight.

Our shooting successes, thanks again to **'Paddy' Walsh,** and an excellent team, were enormous, and we hope to do even better this year. I need not enumerate these, they were all in THE WIRE.

The point is, however, that everywhere the Corps is putting up a very good performance in a very wide variety of activities. I am delighted to see this, as I am sure you are too.

Conclusion

I have now, I think, covered all the important aspects of Corps business that I wanted to put over to you. I can honestly report to you that the serving Corps is in excellent shape, is carrying out its tasks effectively and efficiently, and is held in high regard. There is still much to be done, and you can rest assured that we will all of us press on with the "doing."

And lastly, thank you for listening to me so patiently and attentively, and may I, through this meeting, thank the whole Corps for the excellent results they are achieving in all theatres. We, for our part, in my Directorate, will do all we can to support them.

Special Mention

— ***Lieutenant (T.O.T.) John Jupe, Lieutenant Hugh Bennett, of 261 Squadron and Sergeant Bill Elliott, of 9th Regiment***

for forming a trio which certainly put a large feather in the Corps cap by winning the team event in the Cyprus Combined Services' Parachuting Championships.

Not content with this, **Lieutenant Bennett** achieved the best individual result of the day, and was runner-up to the Individual Champion.

Taking into account the very strong opposition—especially from the R.A.F. team—it was a very meritorious showing indeed for the Corps in Cyprus.

Lieutenant Jupe writes about the championships on page 225.

— ***229 Squadron***

for their all round sporting successes with particular reference to their hockey team who came through to win the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Championships.

— ***260 Squadron's Tug-of-War Team***

for being such doughty pullers as to be selected "en bloc" to represent their parent Unit—36th Regiment, Royal Artillery—in the local District Sports.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in April			**29**
Number of clothing parcels sent ...	...		**39**
Amount spent in grants and loans ...	**£604**	**10**	**1**

One of the Month's Cases

DRIVER, wartime soldier. Has been unable to work for the last five years, owing to a progressive and incurable disease, and is now bedridden and paralysed. His wife nurses him. The Association made a grant of £25 for much-needed bedding replacements.

One of the Month's Letters

"I WRITE with deep gratitude from my wife and myself for the kindness and consideration shown to me. It has helped me immensely to know I have no bills hanging over my head. There is no sign of return to work yet, as I am still under Specialist's orders and have to attend hospital twice weekly for treatment, and the worry about bills was getting me down. Would you please pass on to the Committee my sincerest thanks, and may their good work be blessed to carry on, and to be appreciated by others as it has truly been appreciated by us."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

PROMOTIONS

No further details of promotion for promulgation in "The Wire" will be submitted until the publication of the 1968 edition of the Blue Book.

Movements

Officers

Major K. S. H. Allwright	To	21st Regiment
Major R. C. K. Baron	,,	2nd Signal Group, Aldershot
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) V. C. Brown ...	,,	253 Squadron
Captain H. M. Bonaker	,,	9th Regiment
Major A. R. Bushell	,,	14th Regiment
Captain A. M. P. Barker	,,	30th Regiment
Major W. C. Cunningham	,,	Trucial Oman Scouts
Lieutenant (Tfc.) R. J. D. Davies ...	,,	4th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. H. Farey	,,	School of Army Aviation
Major W. B. Foote	,,	235 Squadron
Captain J. A. Gatward	,,	261 Squadron
Captain S. H. D. Golding	,,	H.Q., AFCENT
Captain S. G. McK. Gordon ...	,,	School of Signals
Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E. ...	,,	SHAPE D. Asst. Ch. of Staff, Comms. and Electronics
Captain A. J. Hervey	,,	R.M.C.S., Shrivenham
Captain J. A. Hood	,,	216 Parachute Squadron
Major R. G. Jones	,,	H.Q., 2 Signal Group
Major(Q.M.) W. E. Judd	,,	21st Regiment
Lieutenant (Tfc.) W. A. Littlejohn	,,	School (attached)
Major F. W. Leatherhead	,,	Cent. Vol. HW & Trg. Wing
Lieutenant D. F. Leighton	,,	8th Regiment
Captain T. J. Licence	,,	237 Squadron
Major G. Oehlers	,,	207 Squadron
Major F. W. Oakes	,,	CAFSO, R.A.F., Germany
Major R. F. B. Power	,,	Training and Evaluation Team (Catterick)
Captain J. D. Potts	,,	28th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Pounds ...	,,	H.Q., NEARELF
Major M. H. Priestley	,,	M.O.D. (Signals)
Lieutenant-Colonel F. G. G. Rapsey	,,	H.Q., S.W. District
Captain H. Scott	,,	H.Q., UNFICYP (644 Troop)
Second-Lieutenant J. C. B. Simpson	,,	30th Regiment
Lieutenant J. M. Sweetman	,,	School of Signals
Major (Q.M.) R. F. Thirkell	,,	30th Regiment
Lieutenant J. J. Ventham	,,	209 Squadron
Captain P. J. F. White	,,	16th Regiment

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I (Y. of S.) P. B. R. Kent ...	To	7th Regiment
W.O.I (F. of S.) D. D. Tetlow ...	,,	8th Regiment
W.O.I L. F. C. Curtis	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II (F. of S.) B. W. Thomas ...	,,	9th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) A. G. M. Buckland	,,	237 Squadron
W.O.II G. H. Brooker	,,	222 Squadron
W.O.II R. W. J. Hammerton	,,	33rd Regiment (V)
W.O.II (Y. of S.) D. T. Llewellyn ...	,,	Fed. Armed Forces of Malaysia
W.O.II T. Blackburn	,,	13th Cadet Training Team
W.O.II (Y. of S.) K. Palmer	,,	30th Regiment
W.O.II J. Maher	,,	8th Regiment
W.O.II R. Good	,,	33rd Regiment (V)
W.O.II D. S. T. Sparrow	,,	4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.II L. G. Didlick	,,	7th Regiment
W.O.II V. F. M. Thom	,,	10th Regiment
W.O.II L. R. Jones	,,	13th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. T. Massey ...	,,	14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. H. Richardson ...	,,	5th Inf Bde. H.Q. & Sig Sqn.
Staff Sergeant P. Donnelly	,,	257 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. P. Edgar	,,	38th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant P. E. C. O'Connor ...	,,	19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. G. Sizeland	,,	253 Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. Jones	,,	5th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig Sqn.
Staff Sergeant R. T. Thompson ...	,,	St. Andrew's University O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant T. Balch	,,	233 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. R. Purdy	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. M. McEwan	,,	249 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. P. Jewell	,,	H.Q., Strategic Command
Staff Sergeant F. R. Lee	,,	31st Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant B. K. Williams ...	,,	H.Q., FARELF
Staff Sergeant J. H. Izzo	,,	H.Q., Singapore
Sergeant W. J. Thomas	,,	17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. Hill	,,	3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant K. B. Backett	,,	3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant W. Eastham	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant A. Aitken	,,	257 Squadron
Sergeant C. L. Smith	,,	257 Squadron
Sergeant B. A. C. Burt	,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Richardson	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Robertson	,,	H.Q., British Gurkhas L. of C.
Sergeant A. J. T. Burt	,,	5th Inf. Div. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant H. A. Docherty	,,	249 Squadron FARELF
Sergeant J. Brackston	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant E. Delargy	,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant T. Skinner	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant C. C. Clay	,,	36th Regiment (V)
Sergeant N. Kynnersley	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant R. G. Donavan	,,	33rd Regiment (V)
Sergeant P. R. Hardman	,,	10th Regiment
A/Sergeant J. H. Brown	,,	638 Troop (AF)
Sergeant T. P. M. Smith	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant R. G. Mills	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant F. Needham	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant D. W. R. Monteith	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant S. M. Fowler	,,	H.Q. BALTAPS (BE)

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

A Royal Signals idea which has now become an Institution

SPARKED off by an idea of Lieutenant-Colonel Lionel Gregory, while C.O. of the Royal Signals Junior Leaders' Regiment, the well-known Ten Tors Youth Expedition on Dartmoor has gone from strength to strength since it was first held in 1960. Now a national event, with an entry of some 2,000, it will be held this year under the auspices of H.Q. Regiment, South-West District—for, alas, our Junior Leaders who ran it so well for seven years, no longer exists as a Regiment.

The writer—Mr. W. S. Landon, of Bushwood, Liverton, Newton Abbot—looks back with a certain nostalgia over eight years of 'Ten Tors,' eight years which have provided such a splendid and appealing challenge, over beautiful countryside, to a wide selection of British youth.

This year, 'Ten Tors' has an overseas appeal as a team of six young Gurkha soldiers from Gurkha Signals who are on a course at Catterick are entering. It will be interesting to see how these hillmen from the Himalayas will fare amongst Dartmoor's granite tors.

"Living as we do, in an overcrowded, highly-regulated island, it needs considerable ingenuity to find an outlet for the spirit of adventure," wrote His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. "But 'Ten Tors,'" he went on, "provides just the right mixture of challenge to the ingenuity, toughness and adventure of healthy young people."

These words were contained in his message before the 1962 Ten Tors Expedition over Dartmoor, in Devon. They accurately sum up the aim of this increasingly-popular annual test of skill and endurance. Similar support from Sir John Hunt and others in subsequent years has given added weight to the enthusiastic backing and national recognition that Ten Tors now enjoys.

This year's arrangements

What of Ten Tors this Whitsun? Will the organisation be as smoothly and efficiently carried out over the three days by the new Army arrangements as in past years?

The Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, from their base, just outside the border of the Dartmoor National Park at Denbury, Newton Abbot, ran Ten Tors successfully for eight years. When it was known that the Regiment was to close down last August, it was expected that the 1967 expedition would be the last. Later in the year, however, Headquarters, South-West District, at Taunton, Somerset, decided to take over the responsibility for planning the event.



TYPICAL OF THE WILD ROCKY TERRAIN
A patrol finds its way to the next Tor

Staffing and detailed organisation on Dartmoor will be carried out by several Regular Army units stationed in Devon and Somerset. In the main, the arrangements will follow those of previous years, guided by the comprehensive records built up by the Junior Leaders' Regiment.

The only notable change will be that, for administrative reasons, the start this year will be from Oxehampton Battle Camp. The finish, as before, will be at Willsworthy, on the west side of Dartmoor.

How it started

The basic idea of a Dartmoor expedition was born in September, 1959. Three officers from the Junior Leaders' Regiment—**Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. M. Gregory, M.B.E.** (the Commanding Officer), **Major P. Parker** and **Captain J. W. Joyner**—were supervising a military exercise on the moor. They noted that the young signallers entered into the spirit of the exercise with obvious enjoyment and some intriguing questions occurred to them. Why shouldn't the youth of other organisations, such as schools and clubs join in on some exercises? Why confine the challenge to Devon? Why not girls as well as boys? Thus ran the early thoughts around the germ on an idea.

It was **Colonel Gregory** who coined the title "Ten Tors." He planned an annual project for teams of youths and girls to hike over the moor within a 36-hour time limit, "taking in" ten predetermined tors (outcrops of rock on the hill tops) en route. A year later, in September, 1960, the first Ten Tors Expedition took place under his control.



CONTROL H.Q. IN ACTION
A widespread radio net keeps a close surveillance on all competitors

The Junior Leaders' Regiment was responsible for the entire organisation: accommodation, transport, manning of tors, first aid, communications. And all these responsibilities were ably carried out every year until the Regiment disbanded.

Colonel Gregory was succeeded two years later as Commanding Officer, and therefore as Chief Controller, Ten Tors, by **Lieutenant-Colonel A. Holifield, M.C.** And a further three years later the last C.O. and Chief Controller took command: **Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., Captain** (later Major) **J. W. Joyner** had a leading part in the working of the expedition for six years.

Early days

Each patrol taking part in 1960 consisted of ten youths between the ages of 16 and 18 years, and although girls were invited, no entries were received, possibly because of the distance—55 miles of rough country to cover in a day and-a-half! Twenty-one teams started off from Haytor, on the eastern edge of the moor, including 10 from the Junior Leaders' Regiment itself. They were permitted to check in at their ten tors in any order, finishing the course at Denbury Camp. Only seven teams managed it.

From this pilot run many lessons in control and organisation were learned. For the following year, the number in each patrol was reduced from ten to six, and a 35-mile route added for girls of all ages and boys of 14 to 16 years.

By 1961, the number of teams entered had grown to 156, including 11 girls' teams; 83 teams completed, finishing at Hexworthy, near Princetown. Eight of the girls' teams came through.

In 1962, a 60-mile route for young men aged 18 to 20 years was introduced, and all routes finished at the Army camp at Willsworthy, near Lydford. The number of entrants for that year was over 1,000, half of which (83 teams) finished successfully. By then the event had reached the status of a national expedition and teams of youths and girls came from all organisations—the three Services, schools, youth clubs, scout troops, police cadet forces.

The appeal of Ten Tors spreads

During the following years the popularity of Ten Tors increased tremendously. Entries were much higher in 1963, and the 150 teams who succeeded in completing their course intact was nearly double the number of the previous year. By 1964, the number of individuals entered reached over 2,000. Early the following year entries quickly reached well over this figure, and as it had been decided that 2,000 was the maximum number that the administrative machinery could handle very many young people were disappointed.



TIME FOR A BREATHER
Patrols shelter by a wall during a pause

This has been the situation every year since as more and more applications have come from all over the country, and even the Continent. Preference is given to those organisations who have supported the expedition since its inception. Last year more than 1,000 were turned down. Entries for the 1968 Ten Tors closed in mid-February when the figure reached the 2,000 mark.

In the early years of Ten Tors about half the number of teams taking part managed to complete the course. In more recent years, though, proportionately higher numbers of teams had been successful, pointing to longer and better training before the event, coupled with the fact that the weather had always been favourable. Until last year, that is.

The thrill of the start

The Ten Tors start, on the Whitsun Saturday each year, had been a most impressive sight. On the gentle slope before Haytor Rocks a raised dais for the V.I.P. starting the event, the padre and officials faced a flag-bedecked enclosure for the 2,000 entrants and—even at 7 o'clock in the morning—hundreds of parents and well-wishers. The padre would give the Ten Tors Prayer, " . . . Go, we pray Thee, with all who today set forth on this great adventure among the tors of this ancient moorland. . . ." The senior Service officer would pronounce the start of the expedition. A group of buglers from the Junior Leaders' Regiment would give a fanfare from the top of Haytor Rocks, and the teams were then on their way, with 35, 50 or 60 miles ahead of them.

1967—a year to be remembered

Whitsun, 1967, was much different. The Saturday broke very wet, very foggy and very cold. Several civilian teams opted out at this point and did not even leave Denbury Camp.



A PROUD MOMENT
A successful competitor forms up to receive the certificate which shows he has completed the circuit in the laid down time

And a few, having been transported to Haytor and finding conditions even worse, did not start. The continual icy rain and very limited visibility were enough to dampen the enthusiasm of the most determined walker!

The inspiring effect of pomp and ceremony was lost in these conditions. Only a few teams could see the officials announcing the start and no-one realised the buglers were atop the rocks till a thin wail floated through the mist! An unforgettable sight was that of the padre hurrying up from the road, lifting his ecclesiastical skirts above the mud to reveal tough Army boots and gaiters!

The thick mist continued throughout the two days. Those who came through said the whole journey—with visibility never more than 40 yards—was marched on compass bearings. By 2 p.m. on Sunday, only three teams had arrived at Willsworthy. Although the organisers point out that Ten Tors is not a race, in previous years 50 teams had hurried in by this time.

The final count showed that 1,250 people fell out and that of the 312 teams who started, only 86 completed. The worst hit were the 60 teams taking part in the 60-mile route section.

A splendid sight

What recognition do successful entrants receive? Every team of six to complete the route, having checked in at the right tors in the right order, receives a certificate, and each member of the team receives a bronze medallion. Individuals finishing the course but not in a complete team are given certificates.

Every year the crowd assembled to applaud the teams home at the finishing point grows larger. Visitors are made very welcome by the Army. As well as adequate parking arrangements a large information marquee gives them the complete picture on the whereabouts of all teams at any one time. This is continually kept up to date by radio link to every tor to be checked at on all routes, involving some 46 field radio sets and the passing of nearly 5,000 messages.



SOMETHING FOR THE YOUNG ONES TOO
Youngsters take part in a modified version of Ten Tors appropriate to their age

All the routes funnel into the finish over the high ground of White Hill, 200 feet above the camp. It is a splendid sight to see wave after wave of teams coming over the top in line abreast and trudging down the last threequarter-mile to the welcoming banner: "Ten Tors—Finish." In past years pipers from the Junior Leaders' Regiment were at the foot of the hill to pipe in their own successful teams.

That little bit of extra 'swank'

In spite of their gruelling experience every team seems to pull out that little bit extra as they reach the end of all their efforts and approach the reception from the crowd. Most Service teams smarten up and attempt to march in briskly over the undulating ground. Some teams from the Women's Services change into their smartest walking-out uniforms somewhere in the vicinity of the last tor so that they can make "the grand entrance!" And in recent years, teams from the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, have actually trotted all the way in from the last tor, Hare Tor—a distance of 2½ miles over steeply falling and rising ground—to end their 60-mile journey!

From our "In" Tray

MAJOR AND MRS. P. E. C. DAVIES

Sir,

It is possible that WIRE readers may have read an account in the papers of an accident to **Mrs. Margaret Davies,** wife of **Major (T.O.T.) P. E. C. Davies,** of this Regiment. The article was brief and not very explicit, so we thought that a letter to THE WIRE would be the best way of letting all their friends know what happened.

Major Peter Davies was due to return to U.K. in April this year, then retire from the Army and emigrate with his family to Canada. On 19th March, whilst carrying out a recce in Central Malaya, the Land Rover in which he was travelling, overturned and he was thrown out. A passing motorist took the injured to a local hospital and from there he was flown out by helicopter to the Military Hospital at Terendak. It was there that it was discovered he had a broken neck. The prescribed treatment was for him to lie flat on a bed, under traction, until the injury healed and his plans to move to U.K. were consequently postponed.

Margaret Davies and her youngest daughter, **Helen,** aged five, visited daily. On 24th April, on returning to their quarter here in Seremban, three Chinese youths followed them into the house and attacked them. **Margaret** defended her daughter as best she could and drove them off but sustained a knife wound in the abdomen. She was rushed to the same hospital as her husband, seriously ill. The Regiment responded quickly and put a guard on the house whilst the little girl **Helen** was looked after by **Mrs. Dacre,** the C.O's. wife.

The following day our **Second-in-Command, Major Kevin Kirkby,** and **Staff-Sergeant John Harvey,** packed up the private property of the family into M.F.O. boxes and handed back the quarter to M.Q.A.S.

The unit signalled **Major Alan Dexter,** of the School of Signals, who is the Gurkha Signals Liaison Officer in U.K., and ask him to inform the two elder daughters at college in Essex. This he was able to do and a flight was arranged for the eldest daughter to be flown out here to see her parents. She has since arrived and is with her parents now. **Mrs. Davies** is recovering well and it is hoped that mother and daughters can return to U.K. at the end of May. Meanwhile, **Major Peter Davies** is being transferred to Singapore for a specialist to decide if an operation is necessary.

The Regiment would like to thank all those who have signalled here on receiving this unfortunate news. Their wishes have been passed to the **Davies family** who now have to delay their plans to emigrate, but are extremely grateful for the help and offers of help that have been made to them at this difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

W. P. B. Thomas,
Captain and Adjutant.

17th Gurkha Regiment,
c/o G.P.O., Seremban,
Malayasia.

2nd CAVALRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

Sir,

May I draw your attention to pages 319 and 320 of THE WIRE for 1938, which records the demise of a fine unit.

This event took place only 30 years ago, and the then young men are just now approaching middle age.

Our C.O. was **Captain K. C. O. Bastyan,** our Troop Officer was **Mr. D. A. Pringle,** whilst our Troop Sergeant-Major was **"Banger" King** (ex-'A' Corps, Pindi).

We were a happy lot, serving in a well-run unit.

Best wishes, chaps, wherever you are: perhaps you also hear the faint echo "Sections right, walk march."

Yours faithfully,

'Signalman' George Cook

Canadian Forces Communication System,
Ottawa 4, Ontario, Canada.

(Captain K. C. O. Bastyan is now Major-General Bastyan—retired; Lieutenant D. A. Pringle is now Brigadier Pringle—also retired. What news of Sergeant-Major King and other members of the Troop?—Editor)

THANK YOU!

Since the beginning of February, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

W. E. Osborne, Esq.
Major (T.O.T.) A. G. Pritchard
2 Squadron, 7th Regiment
Mrs. M. Perks
Major A. D. Lewis
Lieutenant-Colonel K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., T.D., D.L.
Major R. Iliffe
951 Sub-Region Signal Troop
Mrs. Mather
Major T. W. Hackworth
Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Day, O.B.E., T.D.
Charles Clawson, Esq.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Hibberd
Mrs. Cooper-Kibble
Sergeant G. Parsley
Major W. G. Cunningham
Sergeant Newton
Major A. D. Lewis
4th Div. H.Q. and Regiment P.R.I., 7th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Y. Ferguson
Major A. W. Stewart
Mrs. G. S. Power
Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow
Major and Mrs. F. F. Ellis
Mrs. D. E. Blease

Major D. A. Barry
Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E.
Major and Mrs. R. Lawrence
Mrs. R. Uttley
A. Walsh, Esq.
K. C. Howard, Esq.
A. E. Stead, Esq.
Major J. H. W. Roake
Captain J. F. Bedford
Major D. S. A. Hutley, G.M.
Major S. C. Finch
Brigadier and Mrs. T. I. G. Gray
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) and Mrs. R. A. McKay
Captain (T.O.T.) C. J. Bayfield
Captain and Mrs. N. A. Vandyck
W.O.II and Mrs. J. Maher
Major J. L. Donne
Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.
Major R. E. Wells (Royal Australian Signals)
Major L. A. Harry
Mrs. M. S. Wheatley
Sergeant Gunn
Major and Mrs. R. F. D. F. Painter
Mr. and Mrs. F. Stockdale

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations have been most gratefully received:

	£	s.	d.
83rd Regiment (V) Warrant Officers and Sergeants	2	0	0
7th Regiment	1	19	6
21st Regiment	50	0	0
11th Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron	1	0	9
237 Squadron (DCN)	50	0	0
9th Regiment (Warrant Officers and Sergeants)		8	6
245 Squadron	17	9	0
U.K. Support Element, Kolsas	5	0	0
Gloucestershire Branch	50	0	0
Hull Branch	3	3	0
Portsmouth Branch		6	0
Central Scotland Branch	1	1	0
Bath Branch	10	10	0
Huddersfield Branch	5	0	0
Shrewsbury Branch	30	0	0
Glossop and District Branch	21	0	0
Thomas Lilley Memorial Trust	200	0	0
J. P. Franklyn, Esq.	5	0	0
M. C. Stanley, Esq. (Deed of Covenant)	6	0	0
Colonel D. R. W. Thomas, M.B.E. (through Corps Funds)	3	10	0
Captain N. C. Moody	2	2	0
G. A. Vincent, Esq.	1	6	6
Various individual donations	20	14	0
Total Receipts	£487	10	3
Expenditure during March, 1968:	£1,148	6	4
Expenditure during April, 1968:	£604	10	1

Corps Motor Cycle Display Team starts season with impressive show

Featured on Colour Television News

40th Birthday

AS the paraplegic patients of Stoke Mandeville Hospital returned to their wards, the nurses to their duties, and while the Mayor of Aylesbury and others sipped their gin-and-tonics, the country was informed that once again the display season had started. The date, 18th April, marked the start of this, our 40th birthday season. Our first 1968 press coverage was on B.B.C. Television news, and in colour, too! The team returned to Catterick with the Press Show behind them; and so, on with the show!

Despite two or three months of hard training, the team members have by no means finished practising, for now starts the dull routine of polishing up tricks and perfecting the small, but still important disciplines of the display. Let no reader be under the impression that our life is easy—it is not, and "someone" gets his every drop of blood out of us. However, life is grand with the team, and we are all enjoying the 1968 season.

A Combined Corps effort

The Press Show was not held in Catterick, as it was felt this had become too routine a matter, and so the Stoke Mandeville Show came into being. There we had a real 'Corps effect,' and it was marvellous to have 30th Regiment and 10th Regiment helping us out so well—thank you both. Our own Squadron also did a great deal for us, and our S.S.M., **W.O.II Tearse** deserves full credit for his efforts.

The B.B.C. Television cameraman turned up and, despite having to find an excuse for our O.C. falling off, the result on television news was better than we had hoped for. At the end of the shows, guests were invited to ride pillion, which some did, including one mini-skirted admirer! The day was a great success, and we thank our Brigade Commander, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson,** for spending all day with us, together with all the other helpers, who laid out the arena and marquees. Added to that came the Corps Band which, with its normal professional standards, helped us enormously: how proud we were to have them with us for an all Royal Signals' day. It was therefore especially appropriate that amongst the guests was the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.**



CORPS DISPLAY TEAM IN ACTION

After the evening display, many guests were entertained, and besides the local Mayor and other dignitaries, a Bedford vehicle representative was noticed being entertained very well—perhaps the O.C. is hoping for a subsidised vehicle after all, to replace our worn-out old lorry. Another guest it gave us particular pleasure to welcome was **Mr. Neale Shilton,** of Triumphs, who has done so much for us all and continues to be almost a "Royal Signaller" in their midst. Thank you, **Mr. Shilton** and Triumphs for those most excellent machines. The hammering we give them is test enough and still they go on producing the goods.

It's the W.R.A.C. next

After the opening show, we were back training and preparing for an open day at the W.R.A.C. Centre at Guildford. No shortage of volunteers there for guard duties! Just fancy being locked up in a camp with 800 women. As a result, our two regular "guard" Signalmen, **'Lofty' Long,** from Harlow, and **Dick Keppler,** from Teddington, knowing the area well, obviously required two separate tents, but why a third sleeping bag? Perhaps the team mascot can explain?

Touring around with the team is certainly an eye-opener. The quiet, shy, retiring member slips off and can always be seen with a girl in tow—he always says they are cousins—what a family! Another one, recently married, always gets to the stalls and fair grounds first, to buy up furniture and goods for his house—he'll owe us transport charges soon!

Never any time to spare

It is not all amusement for the team, however, as hard work alone keeps us out in the front of all other motor cycle teams. The O.C. doesn't like bumff; well, he appears to get rid of so much that he just can't! Four hundred letters out one day, two hundred the next—it just doesn't stop, and after all, this he just fills in those few spare days we had with yet more shows! Our first free weekend after April is in September! At least if no one else has heard of the 24-hour Signal Regiment we have! Soon we will need two teams to fulfil our engagements. With possible trips to America in 1969 and 1970, hard work is unlikely to stop all you volunteers trying to join us. If you want to visit America and have free trips around the U.K.; if you are above average ability (at anything), keen, smart, daring, waiting for promotion, or even want an upgrading or MPC course, then come and join us. Get away from soldiering for eight months, but see what we cram into those other four! Volunteers are required for this October/November, so apply now, if you think you are good enough. You don't have to be able to ride a motor cycle already.

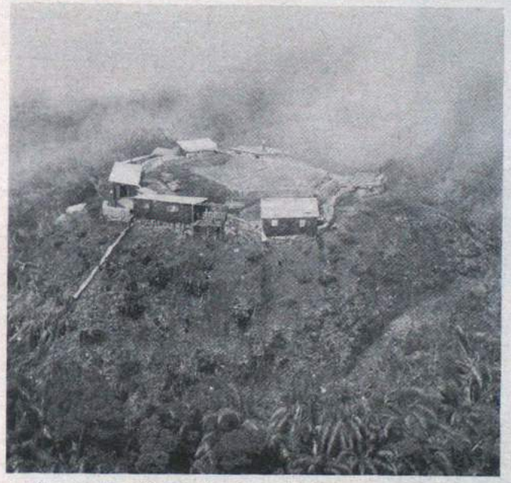
(*Continued on page 197*)

Hard work, but well worth it

These short notes stop here, as the writer is about to do some death-defying stunts in the arena and, even more miraculous, get this to the Editor on time. However, if we leave one impression, it should be this: to work in the Display Team is frustrating, full-time and extremely hard work, but ours is the honour of representing Royal Signals, and for that, we thank every member of the Corps, from the newest recruit to the most senior officer for allowing us to do it. We thank them for their trust in us, and also for the effort and hard work they do on our behalf, there are so many. From Officer-in-Charge of Records, who is really quite marvellous; from Commanding Officers who send off their best men; from R.Q.M.S.s who scrounge anything from beer barrels to No. 1 Dress; from Q.M.s who provide all our wants; and the wonderful backing from our own Regiment, from the Colonel down. Thank you all very much, we shall try not to let you down.

If you want further information about the Display Team please see your P.R.I. for the annual souvenir programme of the team—plenty of articles, action photographs, and background interests of value to all the Corps. Or send to Royal Signals Display Team, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, enclosing 2s. 6d.

PRESENTATION TO THE HEADQUARTERS MESS



Photograph of Gunong Serapi on which the painting is based

In May this year, an oil painting is being presented to the Mess on behalf of 60 of the officers who served in Borneo, including the 12 Queen's Gurkha officers of Gurkha Signals.

The picture shows a re-broadcast and relay station in the mountains of Sarawak, similar to those established and manned by the British and Gurkha Brigade Squadrons during the Indonesian confrontation with Malaysia. The highest of these was at 8,000 feet above sea level, from which ranges of over 100 miles were obtained on the Brigade Command V.H.F. net.

The picture was painted by **Captain R. D. MacDonald, C.B.E., R.N.,** Commander Naval Forces, Borneo, 1965-1966, who based his painting on a photograph of Gunong Serapi in the 99 Gurkha Brigade area of Sarawak.

There is an inscription on the picture which reads:—

"Presented by the officers Royal Signals and the British and Queen's Gurkha officers, Gurkha Signals who served on operations in North Borneo (Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei) December, 1960-August, 1966."

In memory of **Lieutenant (T.O.T.) V. De Witt, M.B.E., Royal Signals."**

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Victor De Witt, M.B.E., was a member of the Joint Communications Unit Borneo, and was responsible for the initial installations for Force H.Q. on Labuan Island. He died in 1967, aged 37, after serving 20 years in the Corps.

Corps Band at Liverpool Cathedral

SINCE 1904, stone masons have been building Liverpool Anglican Cathedral to the designs of Giles Gilbert Scott. The second of the three bays of the nave of this great building was dedicated by the Archbishop of York in a ceremony on 4th May.

The Corps Band, under our Director of Music, **Captain C. H. Pike,** with the Cathedral organ and choir, provided music for the occasion. The service opened with a stirring fanfare by the Trumpeters, in full dress, on the altar steps. As the dedication proceeded, the band could be heard vying with the organ in raising echoes from the great central space of the Cathedral. Later the musicians, in their scarlet uniforms, added vivid colour to the procession of clergy and dignitaries, as they slowly paced the length of the aisle to the new nave, watched by the thousands in the congregation. The service then reached its climax in the Dedication, during which the Trumpeters and choir joined in Jubilate Deo, by Gabrielle.

This was certainly an occasion of which the Corps and the Army could be proud. As the great congregation dispersed, there was praise on all sides for the magnificence of the Service of Dedication, and for the splendid part played in it by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Sergeant Radio "Ham" in Life Saving Bid

Thirty-hour task

SERGEANT RAYMOND VASPER, of the Royal Corps of Signals, stationed with 39 Missile Regiment, R.A., in Sennelager, Germany, was for 30 hours the key figure in an international life-saving bid. He is Secretary of the B.A.O.R. Royal Corps of Signals' Amateur Radio Association, and when listening-in on his transmitter/receiver in the basement of his married quarter, he picked up a morse distress signal from an amateur in Yugoslavia. This man was relaying a plea for a rare drug from a Bulgarian doctor in Sofia.

Sergeant Vasper called an amateur in Switzerland, who confirmed that the name of the drug was cosmegen, and who telephoned the International Red Cross in Geneva, where a Swiss doctor said it was unobtainable in that country and suggested contacting England.

Perseverance

The Sergeant was able to raise an English 'ham' who contacted a doctor by telephone, only to be told that the drug was obtainable in the U.S.A. Again **Sergeant Vasper** searched the air and made contact with an American doctor in Louisiana, who suggested that the American Forces Hospital in Frankfurt might be the one hospital in Germany to hold stocks. **Sergeant Vasper** was unable to raise a German colleague near Frankfurt, and after five hours' continuous night work on his radio was forced to close down early in the morning. That night he contacted a 'ham' near Frankfurt, who telephoned the hospital, when full emergency routine was set in motion and the drug flown to Geneva and onward to Sofia.

Two nights—six countries

In the 30 hours that elapsed from the time of the distress signal until the rare drug was found and released, **Sergeant Vasper** and his international link of amateur radio operators spent a total of ten hours at their sets. The rescue bid involved five European countries and the U.S.A.—and two nights' sleep—but **Sergeant Vasper** said: "We just did what we could, and we hope the drug reached the patient in time."

Sergeant Vasper featured in another rescue effort in 1966, when his knowledge of 'ham' radio brought succour to himself and his colleagues. With a Royal Corps of Signals Troop, he was aboard H.M.S. "Yarnton" en route to the island of Kuria Maria when the vessel was hit by a cyclone in the Indian Ocean and severely damaged. Through a link-up with 'hams' in the Middle East, he was able to contact H.M.S. "Mohawk," in dock at Bahrein, which steamed at full speed to the aid of the stricken ship. (*Courtesy British Army News*).



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(Photo courtesy Captain R. E. Buckee, R.A.E.C.)

ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE, HARROGATE, SPRING GRADUATION DAY
The Senior Squadron marches past headed by A/T Sergeant D. A. James and led by A/T R.S.M. Hitchens

THE College's Spring Graduation Day was held this year on Wednesday, 10th April. Centrepiece of the day was, as always, the Graduation Parade on which 33 Apprentices, in unusually warm sunshine, passed out to become technicians and telegraph operators of the Corps, no fewer than 30 of them overseas.

The Parade was commanded by **Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major William Hitchens,** and the Reviewing Officer on this occasion was **Major-General E. F. Foxton, O.B.E., B.A.,** Director of Army Education, who later presented the prizes.

In his introductory address, the Commandant, **Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D.,** noted that it had been a quiet term—in that they had had none of the strikes, demonstrations, sit-ins or love-ins that seem to be such a feature of modern student life. That it was far from quiet in other directions was proved by his review of the term's activities and achievements.

Before presenting the prizes, **General Foxton** stressed that the brunt of the continuing increase in technology throughout the Army was being borne principally by technical arms such as Royal Signals, and he urged all members of the Corps to lose no opportunity for further study to improve and maintain their professional standards.

Prizes were awarded to the following:—

The Army Commander's Prize for All Round Excellence: **Apprentice Regimental Sergeant-Major W. J. Hitchens.**

The Commandant's Prize for Conduct, Discipline and Example: **Apprentice Regimental Sergeant-Major W. J. Hitchens.**

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award for Best All Round Tradesman of the Term: **Apprentice Tradesman D. Pyle.**

Royal Corps of Signals Colonel Commandant's Award for Best All Round Soldier/Tradesman of the Term: **Apprentice Corporal N. W. J. Keep.**

Prizes awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee to the Apprentices who have made the best use of their opportunities at the College:—

Technician Radio Relay: **Apprentice Tradesman G. A. Y. West.**

Technician Terminal Equipment: **Apprentice Tradesman D. Pyle.**

Trade Prizes awarded to the best Apprentice Tradesman of 9th Term, in each trade:—

Technician Radio Relay: **Apprentice Corporal N. W. J. Keep.**

Technical Terminal Equipment: **Apprentice Tradesman N. D. D. Tipton.**

Telegraph Operator: **Apprentice Tradesman P. J. Kelly.**

Borough of Harrogate Prize for the best set of Essays on Local Government: **Apprentice Corporal N. W. J. Keep** and **Apprentice Tradesman E. T. Robinson.**

It is worthy of note that the Champion Squadron Cup was won by Rawson Squadron for the first time for 11 years. Much of their success can be attributed to the leadership and enthusiasm of the O.C., **Major R. P. Wilson,** 10 H; the **Squadron Sergeant-Major, W.O.II W. A. Ramsay,** Royal Signals, and **Apprentice Squadron Sergeant-Major, A/T S.S.M. P. Rainer.**

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment Bulford Camp

WE seem to be spending most of our time out of barracks these days. Not that it worries us unduly, but the NAAFI manager and the local shops have had to appeal for Social Security.

The dirty end of the stick

"Hobson's Choice" saw us all prepared to move out to Keevil for ten days. We were sending out a large Adv J.F.H.Q., including quite a number of Staff Officers and staff branch clerks. Normally these join when all the graft of setting up the H.Q. has been done, and this time we thought we'd show them the dirty end of the stick. In what we can only describe as retaliation the staff told us, 12 hours before the move, that we were not going to Keevil but to Cove, which was 50 miles in the opposite direction. So much for pre-planning and careful reconnaissance. However, the move went off with no slip ups and the phased build-up went as planned, with of course, a certain amount of ad hoc improvisation, which resulted in the R.S.M. becoming the highest paid fork lift tractor driver in the Army.

Visit of S.O.-in-C.

During this exercise we were visited by the S.O.-in-C., **Major-General J. E. Anderson,** who flew across from his home in Newbury, and after having a good look round J.F.H.Q., had



IT WAS'NT ALL THAT TOUGH, SIR

The S.O.-in-C. appears to be very interested in Signalman Harding's account of Exercise Hobson's Choice

lunch in the Mess and then went on to visit 5 and 19 Brigades in their exercise locations.

1 and 2 Squadrons then spent another 10 days in the field when the staff and R.H.Q. went back to Bulford. The staff to lick their wounds, R.H.Q. to catch up with the bumph. This proved an unrewarding task so they decided to join the Squadrons.

Now we are out again on Exercise "May Fly," just the Regiment without staff. We are doing a Regimental Exercise which culminates with a move into R.M.A., Sandhurst, to show the young gentlemen what a J.F.H.Q. looks like.

During these exercises we were also visited by our own G.O.C., **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond,** the C.S.O. Army Strategic Command, **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray,** and C.S.O. 3 Division, **Colonel J. Piddington,** who all take a great interest in what we get up to.

Praiseworthy people

We are all proud of our M.T. Troop, who, having won the 3rd Division Safe and Skilled Driving Competition, swept the board at the Southern Command Competition by winning seven of the eight awards, went on to come third in the Army Competition. This reflects well on the team which consisted of **Corporal Stevenson, Lance-Corporal Campbell, Drivers Hobbs, Peckham** and **Lloyd,** all of the R.C.T., but very much a part of the Regiment. **Lance-Corporal Ashcroft,** of the A.C.C., was the individual winner of the Southern Command Cookery Competition, and by sheer coincidence, is now **Corporal Ashcroft.** The rugby team won the final of the South West Rugby Competition. This was played against the School of Mechanical Engineering from Bordon, at Tidworth, and resulted in a win for S.M.E. after a good, hard game. The soccer team, after a goodish season, were beaten in the final of the South Wilts Services' Cup by 17 Aircraft Workshops from Middle Wallop.

4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

An eventful month

APRIL has been an eventful month for the Regiment. Most of the time has been spent in the field on no fewer than five Exercises. There was hardly a drop of rain during the month and everybody enjoyed being out of barracks. Most of the sporting competitions have ended this month, and as usual, we have carried off our share of the prizes during the winter. To summarise a few of the details:—

Fencing: Winners of the Divisional Team Championships. B.A.O.R. Team Champions.

Ski-ing: Divisional Meeting—Runners-up in the Military Combination.

Army/B.A.O.R. Meeting—Winners Biathlon Relay "A."

Table Tennis: Winners of the Divisional Team Championship.

Hockey: Runners-up Divisional Championship.

Golf — B.A.O.R. Spring Meeting

The Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Spring Golf Meeting was held at R.A.F. Bruggen on 4th/5th April. Fifteen players from the Regiment made the long journey and a most enjoyable time was had. Our golfers came away with more than their fair share of prizes and individual winners were:

Major W. B. Towers (R.A.O.C.): Winner Bogey Singles (All Square—won on last three holes).

Captain A. J. Field: Runner-up Bogey Singles (All Square).

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson: Runner-up 36 holes Stableford (64 points).

Sergeant McNulty: Winner 18 holes Stableford (35 points).

Signalman Wilkinson failed to win the Best Novice Prize this year, but **R.S.M. Aitken** managed to carry off the special prize for the lowest score in the 18 holes Stableford, having amassed a total of four points!

Corporal Smith showed golfing talents we did not know he possessed, and this augurs well for the future.

We now look forward to the Divisional Meeting, which is being held at Hanover Golf Club this year, and, of course, the 'renewal of hostilities' between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes in their biennial contest now approaching.

Visit of Brigadier Sawers

Brigadier J. M. Sawers, M.B.E., the new C.C.R. Signals, paid his first visit to the Regiment on 8th April. He arrived at Hammersmith Barracks at 10.30 hours on a fine spring day, and **Sergeant Nutter** and the quarter guard gave this first visit a smart and businesslike send-off. The Brigadier warmly complimented the guard on their turnout and drill. Our photograph shows the Brigadier inspecting them.

The Brigadier was then taken round on a rapid programme, which showed him most aspects of the Regiment. At 24 Flight he met the three Royal Signals pilots, **Captain M. F. Andrews, Sergeants Stirling** and **Blackburn.**

During the morning he saw a layout of our Armoured Tactical Headquarters and met **Captain J. Pertwee** and **Staff Sergeant Common, Corporal Birchall** and **Lance-Corporal Thomas,** all of 'Alpha' Troop.

The Brigadier was interested in the furnishings and wall



FIRST VISIT

Brigadier J. M. Sawers, M.B.E., C.C.R. Signals, I (BR) Corps, inspecting the Quarter Guard on his arrival in the Regiment

(*Continued on page 201*)

(*Continued from page 200*)

decorations in the barrack accommodation of 2 Squadron, where he met **Major Brian Edwards,** Royal Australian Signals, who has recently taken over the Squadron.

After a quick visit to the new Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, which will shortly be ready for occupation, he then paid a visit to their present mess, where over a hundred members had gathered to meet him for pre-luncheon drinks. During this period he presented **Staff Sergeant Wrixon, B.E.M.,** who is leaving, after serving five years in the Regiment, with a travelling clock.

Finally, the Brigadier left for the Officers' Mess, where he joined all the officers of the Regiment for lunch.

We enjoyed his visit very much and hope that it will not be too long before we have the opportunity of welcoming him again to Herford.

Sergeants' Mess

One of the more pleasant aspects of life in an integrated Regiment is the interest that the various staff branches take in our affairs. One Saturday morning recently, the Staff Paymaster, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. P. Young,** R.A.P.C., and our own Unit Paymaster, **Major L. J. Sharp,** R.A.P.C., presented to the Sergeants' Mess a large print of Herford, which will eventually be hung in the new mess when it is opened.

Fencing — B.A.O.R. champions

The B.A.O.R. Team Fencing Championships were held at the B.A.O.R. School of P. and R.T. during the month. These championships were a most hectic and exciting occasion. Six teams, each of six fencers, qualified for the final and, once again, the issue was in doubt until the last contest of the last match of the day.

The day started for us with a victory in a tough match against our old opponents, 4th Division Engineers. Having fought each other several times before, this was one of the most difficult bouts of the day, as we knew the strengths and weaknesses of each other, and, of course, these were exploited to the full!



Major R. A. King receives the winning trophy from the Corps Commander

We then relaxed a little and got more into our stride, with victories in our matches against 94 Loc. Regiment, R.A. and 42 Medium Regiment, R.A.

By this time, 11 Hussars and H.Q. Regiment 1 (BR) Corps (last year's winners) had tied — **Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson,** of H.Q. Regiment, 1 (BR) Corps was fighting with his usual dash and ferocity, and we knew that we were going to have a tough time.

The match against 11th Hussars went well for us. We were through to the Army Team Championships, and our last match was to decide the B.A.O.R. Championships.

As expected, this last match proved to be the most tense and difficult of the day, with each hit being closely fought and loudly applauded by the many spectators. The issue was not finally decided until the last bout of the day, when **Major John Moore** defeated **S.M.I. Talkington,** of H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps team.

The final placings were: 1st, 4th Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment (10 points); 2nd, H.Q. Regiment 1 (BR) Corps (7 points); 3rd, 11th Hussars (7 points); 4th, 4th Division Engineers (4 points); 5th, 42nd Medium Regiment, R.A. (2 points); 6th, 94 Loc. Regiment, R.A.

Our team consisted of: Foil, **Major H. J. Millman, S.M.I. R. Mobbs;** Epee, **Major R. A. King** (team captain), **Sergeant G. Frazer;** Sabre, **Major J. Moore, Lieutenant R. Collins.**

The prizes were presented by the Corps Commander, **Lieutenant-General Sir Mervyn A. H. Butler, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.**

Our chances in the Army finals at Aldershot in May are difficult to predict, but we are training hard in between exercises, and we aim to do our best to bring the Army Championship back to B.A.O.R.

Late News

And they did! Victory was theirs in the Army Senior Inter-Unit Championships at Aldershot. They now qualify for the Inter-Service Championships to be held at Earls Court. Well done, 4th.



OUNDLE CUP

The Divisional Commander, Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C., presenting the Oundle Cup to Major Gregory, O.C. 4 Squadron

This cup was kindly presented by Oundle School for annual competition in an inter-Squadron Hockey league to commemorate a successful visit to the Regiment in 1967

A little more about the Bear — by D.H.B.

The early faltering steps of BRUIN bear have been much strengthened by the tests and demands of the 'Hotspot' exercises, the Divisional CPX 'Great Guns,' and C.C.R. Signals annual exercise 'Brown Bear,' which has just ended.

The doubts of the faint-hearted and sceptical that this young concept could not be reared into a sturdy and reliable beast have now been shown to be fallacious, as far as we are concerned. Naturally, there have been stumblings and the occasional fall, but nothing that this well-bred product of a sophisticated conception has not been able, with patience, to overcome. We have spent more of the past month nurturing the beast in various types of terrain, and our soldiers have great confidence in it. It is a real winner!

The long-awaited official birth of BRUIN took place during C.C.R. Signals exercise 'Brown Bear' and the event was attended by a distinguished gathering of observers.

The technical and administrative difficulties which have had to be surmounted in fielding this complicated system were, in 'Brown Bear,' secondary to the exciting, if unconventional, tactical stresses imposed by the "pink."

"There they go!" were the surprised cries of onlookers as this Division, three Brigades under command, on one occasion streaked through the night hours no less than 90 miles to become the leading division.

During the build-up for the long gallop, 2nd Division kindly provided the facilities of Comcen Ech. while our Comcens were being redeployed forward. This expedient was at once successful, and an example of the rare occasion when a foreseeably straightforward play turned out to be just that—straightforward.

The exercise held other interests, too, the most important being a flying visit by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** together with C.C.R. Signals, **Brigadier J. E. Sawers, M.B.E.** The S.O.-in-C. had to compete with bad flying weather and the vagaries of the control

staff of the Hanover International Flying Show, but he managed to arrive on time for lunch and afterwards to visit elements of the Division Headquarters and Comcen Golf, the latter commanded by **Captain Desmond Lavender.** Other visitors during the exercise included **Colonel (Retd.) Dai Harris,** now with S.T.C., and a member of the Mallard Study Group, who, with a distinguished group of civilians, watched interestedly as the Division moved into a new location early one morning. Undoubtedly there were lessons to be digested by the study group. Perhaps a new range of variable size vehicles will emerge!

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

"APART from exercises, what happened in April?" asked O.C. 3 Squadron, when he learned that somehow or other no one had reminded him that it was his Squadron's biennial turn to compose the notes. "Easter," came a helpful reply from a face hidden under a camouflage net. It wasn't funny, because, in fact, Easter had been tightly packed between to 'Hot Spot' exercises.

"Lombard landed in Lage," came a voice from the back of the cipher trailer. Again it was a facetious and thoughtless remark. "Just the thing," exclaimed O.C. 3 Squadron. "Do a bit about gliding; it will be something different. Tomorrow morning, by 09.00 will do." It was no use protesting that most "Wire" readers know little or nothing about gliding.

I had to agree that there are many popular misconceptions. Reactions on one's landing vary from "too much wind?" to "not enough wind to keep you up?"

Gliding "gets you"—even if there is the odd unscheduled landing

Take this landing at Lage, for instance. I had had a winch launch to 1,000 feet from Detmold airfield, found a thermal upcurrent almost immediately and managed to centre in it, spiralling up to about 4,000 feet or so. There was a moderate breeze at the time, drifting me gently towards Lage, and Bad Salzuflen beyond, some 25 km. away. With all that height in hand, and the thermals fairly strong, I decided to take a bird's-eye look at my old home on the 'patch' at Bad Salzuflen. Twenty minutes later I was orbiting overhead, idly wondering if anyone would notice the glider. People rarely do, in fact. After a few minutes of this, I decided to head back towards Detmold. Ten minutes later I had covered only about 7 km. and lost about 2,000 feet in the process—the wind speed appeared to have built up rapidly to some 30-odd knots. Finding another thermal, I tried to regain some of my lost height. I did in fact, but lost so much ground drifting backwards whilst circling that the net gain in distance was nil.

After about twenty minutes of fruitless struggle, I eventually had to give it best and land at Lage in a field which was sheltered by a factory and trees. There were rather more power wires around than I would have liked, but I had height and room beyond to clear them comfortably. Safely down, hood open, parachute off, I stepped out to play the magnificent aviator to the inevitable party of German children that appear from thin air wherever a glider touches down. Experience had taught me the safest thing is to detail off the biggest lad present as 'boss' and appoint him 'Guardian of the Glider,' with the job of preventing the others from poking fingers through the fabric and so on. This I did, and having made the glider safe against the wind, wandered across to the factory to telephone Detmold. A short conversation with an interested salesman resulted in a hair-raising lift to Detmold, with much cementing of Anglo-German relations on the way. I was thus able to use my own car with a couple of helpers and a trailer to retrieve the glider. Within the hour, we had de-rigged it, loaded it on to the trailer, tipped the boy and were on our way. It transpired that the wind on the airfield had strengthened so much that gliding was abandoned for the day, so I was not so shame-faced about being caught out as I might have been. So there it was—another 75 minutes and 35 cross-country kilometres in my log book.

Just another flight—including the physically and mentally shattering effects of working like mad to get up and stay up—the decision which are perpetually called for . . . shall I go for that cloud? What if there's no lift there? Will I make it back to the field? or shall I chicken out and head back now? and so on. The thrill of being all on your own, with no one to consult or order, and only your own competence to depend on, to look after yourself and your thousand-pounds-worth of machine. Still, I had better not ramble on, it was just one of the many such flights made by members of the Eagle Gliding Club at Detmold. But if you try it one day, and get bitten by the bug, you'll understand . . .

Time for Sevens again—and our Commonwealth team go through to win

To the strains of "get those legs apart" and "lift those weights high," we began our determined and strenuous course towards this year's 4th Division Seven-a-Side Tournament, under our faithful and ever-loving Fuhrer, **C.S.M.I. Dolphin.** One day that boy will realise that 'Grandfather Time' is catching him up. The tournament this year took place at the Garrison ground on Saturday, 27th April, and we were determined to show our worth after having succumbed to The Dukes in the B.A.O.R. Championships.

For ten gruelling days we pummelled our unwilling muscles into shape and rediscovered our latent, youthful energies. In the glorious sunshine of the afternoons, we put into practice our rigorously discussed tactics, only to find that **Corporal Cairns** and **Sergeant Zoing** fooled us all with their unrealised speed. Possession was the key word to our training, and it proved to be the criteria which stood us in good stead for the tournament.

Saturday arrived at long last and we went into the tournament with two confident strong teams (after one or two last-minute changes due to certain unmentionable people not being available). The second team, disguised as the 'A' team, were to be the stalwarts who were to receive unlawful punishment along the tougher path, and unfortunately were knocked out in the third round by the 17/21 'B' team. However, they had had a hard, well-fought fight against 4th Signals 'A,' but **Davies** came to the rescue and shocked us all when he disappeared from the scrum, only to be found clutching that precious composition of leather behind the goal post. How he ever made it is yet to be discovered.

The first team began as casually as the 'B' team, and had an almost unopposed fight to the final, except for a slight tussle with 17/21 'A' team, who were permitted to score a try before the bile was raised in the spleens of our Commonwealth team. Inevitably they reached the final, where they met 24th Missile Regiment, who proved no match for the likes of **Drika** our 'Hippy Swinger' and **Corporal Taylor,** that devastating Thunderbolt winger, and **Sergeant Zoing,** ably complemented by **Pinder** and **Erasito,** and **C.S.M.I. Dolphin,** whose sudden lightning bursts even surprised himself.

A promising team who, the following week, did enough to get into the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Championships, only to lose, 10 points to 8 points to the eventual runaway winners, 34 Lt. Air Defence Regiment.

Sailing—and five helms open the Mohnsee season

That short Easter break saw the opening of the Mohnsee Sailing Club on Easter Monday. This day was chosen for the opening of the new club house by the Corps Commander, **Lieutenant-General Sir Mervyn Butler.**

The Regiment was well represented, with five helmsmen taking part in the two races. **Staff Sergeant Kitchen,** a member of the club committee, having helped to entertain the visitors to lunch, retired in time to win the second race, with **Major Spear** in second place. Judging by the gleam in the eye of several people, the battle has only just begun, and interest is such that some will sit ashore waiting their turn. It all augurs well for a successful season.

The Motor Cycling 7th take the challenge to local German clubs

The motor cycling team, headed by **Lieutenant Davies,** and very ably aided and abetted by **Captain Burns, Sergeants Fayers** and **Atherley, Corporal Bishop, Lance-Corporal Lloyd** and **Signalman Purden,** is eagerly awaiting the dates of the Army Trials for 1968, but, more important, the release of new B.S.A. 350 c.c. machines from Ordnance.

After an excellent season, riding in both Army and civilian trials, our record for the year includes the B.A.O.R. champion-

(Continued on page 204)

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ROVER

In an age of mass production thank goodness a Rover is still a Rover



(*Continued from page 202*)

ships, the Berlin Brigade and 2nd Division Championships. In the German trials field, our successes were no less, considering the difference between our 500 c.c. Army machines and the specially-prepared civilian machines. We gained excellent places in such trials as the Bielefeld Sieber Club, the Cella Monya and the MSC Pörz (Köln).

This practice of competing in German trials gives us excellent experience in preparation for a year of defending our trophies, including the Army Cup. It has been made the more difficult with the loss of our international class riders **Sergeant Lasota** and **Lance-Corporal Clare.** However, we are not dismayed and have even branched out to tackle the German civilians on their own ground, with **Sergeant Fayers** and **Lance-Corporal Lloyd** obtaining their own Greeves machines, and after a very few trials, **Sergeant Fayers** gained a second place recently in the MSC Hamburg Trial.

A fine past record, a satisfactory present and, we hope, with plenty of hard work, a successful future.

Wives' Club—an outstanding modelling display

The Wives' Club Fashion Show, which is rapidly becoming a date for everyone's diary, was held on 23rd April in the gymnasium. A great deal of work had obviously gone into the preparation of the catwalk and the decoration of the walls.

It was all worthwhile, for the show was a tremendous success. The models were all chosen from within the Regimental circle of families, and whilst some had obviously modelled before, all combined to give an outstanding display.

There were several visitors from other Wives' Clubs in the Herford and Bielefeld area, and everyone quite obviously enjoyed themselves.

The professionalism of the occasion came from the background work of **Mrs. T. Mason,** the NAAFI Regional Clothing Manageress and **Mrs. Margaret Guy,** the wife of the Officer Commanding the 4th Division Provost Company, who introduced each model with a natural flair.

At a small party after the show, **Mrs. Sherratt** introduced the models to **Mrs. Erskine Crum,** the wife of the G.O.C., 4th Division.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Visits

ON Friday, 19th April, the Regiment was visited by the Director of the W.R.A.C., **Brigadier the Hon. M. M. Anderson, M.B.E., A.D.C.,** who spent a short time speaking to the Commanding Officer and met the W.R.A.C. girls who work in the Regiment.

The S.O.-in-C. paid a short visit to the Regiment on Tuesday, 23rd April. The sun shone for the visit and the General spoke to many of our younger soldiers. He also paid particular attention to the tree he had planted and the fact that it was the only one in flower in the Regiment.

Pass-off parade, 10th April

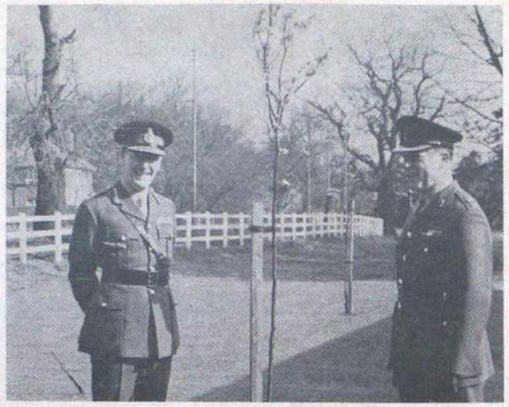
The pass-off parade for No. 4 Troop was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Le-Messurier,** who is the A.A. and Q.M.G., Northumbrian District. There were 16 recruits on parade, under their Troop Commander, **Lieutenant P. J. Whitehead.** The best recruit was **Signalman K. Dunderdale,** who joined the Army because he found civilian life boring and uninteresting; he is a good swimmer and has swum regularly for Scunthorpe Swimming Club.

Arrivals

This month we welcomed **Major Jerry Fleming,** who is taking over from **Major Joe Waterworth,** as O.C. H.Q. Squadron. **Major Waterworth** is retiring next month and emigrating to New Zealand. Also newly arrived is **Lieutenant Tony Singleton,** from Bahrein; the Catterick spring is a sudden change from the weather he has been used to.

Rugby

The season's rugby in 11th Regiment has been both enjoyable and eventful, despite the lack of recruits to bolster the



THE TRAIL BLAZER

The S.O.-in-C. seems well satisfied with the progress of the Pissardii tree (known as The Trail Blazer) when he visited Catterick. The General planted the tree some time ago and he must have been well rewarded—it was the only tree in Catterick flowering at the time of his visit! In the photo also the Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel C. O. Bound

Regimental XV. Some twenty-four matches were played, mainly against civilian opposition, with no small measure of success, with eight wins, two draws, and 14 defeats, 231 points for and 268 against. Catterick weather once again caused many cancellations, but all was forgiven when the sun at last made an appearance for our annual seven-a-side competition for the Jackson Trophy. Ten teams took part, with some remarkably good rugby coming from unexpected quarters.

The final was fought out between 2 Squadron 'A' and O.R. 1 Troop, with 2 Squadron running out deserved winners. Credit for this win, the second success in two seasons, must go to the 2 Squadron coach, **Lieutenant W. A. Barnes,** and their manager, **Major R. Trelawny.** The aim is now for a third successful defence of the cup.

The season finished with two wins for the Regiment against old rivals from Leeds and Redcar, perhaps this is a foretaste of what is to come next season, weather and recruiting permitting.

Cricket

The Regimental cricket team has started the season well. The first match, against 7 Company, R.A.M.C., resulted in complete victory for the Regiment. We scored 171, and 7 Company were all out for 18. This win takes us into the second round of the Northern Command Cup. We hope the season continues in this manner.

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16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Manual Recovery

OUR drivers are normally allergic to being photographed, expecting that the end product will be used in evidence against them. A little uncertainly, they are allowing us to print one picture in which the number plate is obscured and the driver indistinguishable. Cross-examination established that **Signalman Phil Marston** put the 3-tonner in the water under the orders of **Corporal Johnny Mobbs** as part of driver training and that the rest of the course were then required to pull it out by hand. As a precaution, we have since counted our trucks and if anyone is short it isn't us.



WHO DID THIS?

All in aid of driver-training—so they say

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NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS

Signalman Alan Holmes' fake wound gives useful practice

16th Regiment's Training Wing is renowned for living up to its motto "They shall not fail." The photograph of **Signalman Alan Holmes** is a warning to the reluctant, and begins to explain how results are achieved. Anyhow, his loss was someone's gain, and **Yeoman Leitch** passed **Signalman Holmes** over to the First Aid Course for further treatment. Successive First Aid Courses have much use of **Signalman Holmes** and he now gives a very polished performance.

Pedestrian Pride

Another Yeoman who has been creating a disturbance is **Yeoman Golledge** who, leading a detachment from H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Troop brought home the trophy from the Stevensweart International March. This normally sleepy village in Holland came to life on 28th April when the teams and spectators for the 25 kilometres march assembled. The teams were played off by a youth club band; H.Q., B.A.O.R. Troop being second away behind H.Q., Rheindahlen Garrison. Time taken by the Troop was just four hours, which put them 45 minutes ahead of their nearest rivals—a fair margin. The team wit was **Signalman 'Scouse' Dry,** while the team's spirit was well represented by **Corporal Paddy Magee,** who completed the course although suffering from a temporary indisposition.

Scheduled now for the rest of the season are marches at Rheindahlen, Nijmegen, Berne and in Austria.

Travel Agents

There is a slice of the Regiment, led by the R.S.M., who believe in "Do unto others before they do unto you," but the more civilised believe in a helping hand to those in need. However, when 1 (BR) Corps asked us to look after their dozens of visiting experts for Exercise 'Brown Bear,' we preferred not to hear. It didn't help and we landed the job; and very interesting it was, too, both in terms of meeting people and having a good look at the way the Corps Signal Regiments are handling their BRUIN equipment. Not ourselves being involved in BRUIN, we could take a detached but professional interest in the Corps Regiments, and we were much impressed by the enthusiasm and efficiency shown.

18th Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

MERCURIAL THESPIANS

THE heading might be Greek to some people, but there's more to it than that. Our Corps symbol is the image of a Greek God, and Thespis was the father of Greek drama. Recently within "18th" we have seen ample evidence of dramatic talent within our ranks.

The Malay Cultural Club

Those readers who were in the Regiment in the period 1962 to April, 1964, may remember the Malay Cultural Club, run by the then **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Yahya.** The club was reformed in November last year with (now) **Captain Jimmy Yahya,** Royal Signals at the helm. The club has acquired the top floor of Meiktila NAAFI as its permanent home.

A great deal of enthusiasm is devoted to a variety of activities which include Malay dancing, the Malay art of self-defence, music, painting, and—yes! you've guessed— drama!

The club was "on show" at the old A.R.C. Cinema, Ayer Rajah Road on Saturday, 6th April, when it presented a variety programme and a 45-minute play. This play was co-written and co-directed by **Lance-Corporal Hussein** and **Signalman Ali,** both of H.Q. Squadron. It is called "Senja Gelisah, Senja Berkesah," which means "Unpleasant Incident at Dusk," and club members rehearsed for two months before presenting it at its world premiere! May the Thespians go on from strength to strength.

Brigadier and Mrs. Brindley were kind enough to attend and the opportunity was taken by the Malays of the Regiment to present the outgoing C.S.O. with a farewell present of a ceremonial songkok.



THE BRIGADIER GETS HIS SONGKOK

Brigadier Brindley receiving his Songkok from Captain Jimmy Yahya

The other play

During the week 22nd/27th April, Singapore's Stage Club presented David Turner's comedy, "Semi-Detached," at the Cultural Centre, which is on Fort Canning Rise and near to the barracks where H.Q. Singapore District used to be situated. The Stage Club is not a Service Club as such, but draws its membership from Britishers of all walks of life in this cosmopolitan city. For years it has enjoyed the reputation of providing theatrical entertainment of near-professional standards. The Regiment was strongly represented in "Semi-Detached," in that it was produced by **Major Ron Roberts,** O.C. 2 Squadron, and in the cast were **Captain Jenni Brady,** our W.R.A.C. Assistant Adjutant, and **Mrs. Jacqueline Roberts,** wife of the producer (cries of "nepotism" from the wings!) The show was very well received by the public, and praise was lavished on it by the Press critics. One Press report went so far as to say: "A production standard, but rarely achieved during the last three years." The acting of both ladies was well praised. A credit mark to members of the Regiment who showed that their talents are not confined to day-to-day work.

PFEIFFER'S PROGRESS

As you saw in last month's notes another Regimental soldier showing prowess is **Sergeant Tony Pfeiffer,** of 3 Squadron. On 26th April, at H.M.S. *Terror*, he took part in the light heavyweight division of the Far East Inter-Services' boxing. **Sergeant Pfeiffer** ended as champion, having defeated **Leading Seaman Dryden** in the semi-final and **Corporal Conlin,** R.A.F. in the final. **Sergeant Pfeiffer** has been boxing since he was a lad of 10 years of age at the Duke of York's School at Dover, where he was taught by an ex-professional then on the staff. When asked whether he considered it remarkable to become a champion at the age of 33, **Sergeant Pfeiffer** replied: "It isn't that I'm good, it's that the opposition was poor." That statement should be doubted. **Sergeant Pfeiffer** is a dedicated sportsman who does circuit training and roadwork every day. We now hear that the Singapore national team have their eye on him, and it could be that further honours are on the way.



A SOCIAL DRINK

In the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. *Left to right:* Staff Sergeant Walton, Brigadier Warren, Sergeant Burt, W.O.II Cassling, Sergeant Sharp and Sergeant Brown

Visit of the new C.S.O.

The Regiment was delighted to greet its former Commanding Officer in the person of **Brigadier Warren,** on 9th, and again on 24th April. The C.S.O. met a large number of M.O.Rs and civilians who served with him in Dover Road between 1960 and 1962. His visit around the Regimental parish just had to include the Warren Golf Club, which, readers will remember, was built as a result of his initiative and foresight.

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TOUGH TRAINING PAYS OFF

Members of 3 Squadron, 9th Regiment, who won the Cyprus Patrol race after an extremely close and exciting finish, only 14 minutes covering the first four teams home. The race was open to all units except Infantry.

From Left to Right: (Standing): Lance-Corporal G. A. Kilpatrick, Corporal A. I. Cheese, Staff-Sergeant J. W. Olink, Lance-Corporal P. D. Wapshott, Lance-Corporal P. Thomson; *(Kneeling):* Lance-Corporal J. J. Greig, Corporal S. R. Radford, Corporal S. Alexander, Lance-Corporal F. Mallows

The race is designed to test out field force units in the use of basic Infantry skills, and this year's event, over a tough 15-mile course, certainly did just that. The teams were faced with various tasks en route, including watermanship, grenade throwing and ascent and descent of a ravine. Then, at the final rendezvous, heavy metal boxes were handed out for them to carry for the last three miles.

Having crossed the finish line, the teams faced their final task—the firing of Stirling, self-loading rifles and light machine guns at balloons.

So the race is over for another year, with a thoroughly well-deserved win for 3 Squadron, who had trained for many months with the race in view.

And what does the winning team remember most about the race? The sight of O.C. 3 Squadron, **Major Keith Haycock,** on the finish line, clutching pints of ice-cold beer!

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

THIS month has been as varied as the weather—we have celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force, said goodbye to G Troop, taken the Administrative Inspections of the Regiment and R.A.F. Laarbruch in our stride, finished our 24th MPT Course and made preparations for the arrival of the TAVR—all 287 of them!

Visit of the Rhine Area Commander—and some questions asked

Our Annual Administrative Inspection was rounded off by the visit of **Brigadier J. B. A. Glennie, C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C.** who inspected the members of the Regiment stationed at Laarbruch, Wildenrath and Bruggen. He considered the Regiment to be alert and carrying out its task extremely well, and showed his interest in us by the many questions he asked all ranks (some of the 4ft. 6in. drivers of L Troop still have not found the answer how to start a 10-tonner with a starting handle on a cold, damp morning!).

Goodbye G Troop

The 1st April saw the official closure and handing over of the R.A.F. Station at Geilenkirchen and the disbanding of G Airfield Troop. The married quarters area, however, was retained for R.A.F. use, and the last project the Troop carried out was to lay all the cables required and to tail and join up the automatic switchboard installed by the Deutsche Bundes Post.

We take this opportunity of thanking **Captain T. J. Licence** and his staunch troop for keeping up their high standard to the bitter end and wish them continued success in the various troops of the Regiment into which they have been absorbed.

Guard of Honour

The Annual A.O.C.'s Inspection at Laarbruch, which is the equivalent to our Administrative Inspection, took place this month. The Inspecting Officer was once again **Air Vice-Marshal A. W. Heward, O.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C.,** and for the third year running, the Regiment had the privilege of providing a guard of honour. **Captain E. P. Hughes** was in command again, and also had his Station Volunteer Band on parade. The

men, representing all stations on which we serve, were very well turned out, held themselves excellently, and were warmly congratulated by the Air Vice-Marshal. He also spoke to many members of the Band and congratulated them on their standard of playing and turnout.

Basketball—Rhine Area League Champions

The play-off for the Rhine Area Basketball League Championship between H.Q., B.A.O.R. and the Regiment ended in a win for us.

This means we are Rhine Area League champions for the second year in succession. Of the 12 games played, our team won 11. They scored 482 points and had 286 points scored against them. The nine members involved in the league matches were **Corporal Hornsby, Corporal Dore, Sergeant Goss, Corporal Whelan, Corporal Jaques, Craftsman Johnson, Lance-Corporal Harber, Corporal Lock** and **Sergeant Scriven.**

Horner Trophy

The annual Seven-a-Side Rugby Competition for the Horner Trophy was a triangular match this year, with D, L and N Troop competing. After an entertaining afternoon's sport, L Troop emerged the clear winners with N Troop second. D Troop, though last, made up for their lack of skill by their great enthusiasm and the way they literally threw themselves into the game.

Visit by C.S.O., B.A.O.R.

Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E., paid the Regiment his second visit and had the opportunity to see the demonstration of cable jointing, plumbing and mobile exchange working, provided by L Troop for all visiting parties. The C.S.O. was so interested, it was all the Commanding Officer could do to get him away so that he could see the remainder of the Regiment at Laarbruch.

Departures

Major D. G. Handley retired this month to take up teaching, in Scotland. We wish him and his family every success in civilian life.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

General happenings

DURING the past three months the pace of training has quickened and during April and May the Regiment has been concerned almost exclusively with Exercises. "Rapier Thrust II," "Hot Spot I," "Hot Spot II" and "Brown Bear" have followed one another in quick succession. As we were blessed with astonishingly fine weather throughout this whole period, everyone has shaken the cares of winter off his shoulders, filled his lungs with fresh air and taken on a new lease of life. I Squadron have renewed their acquaintances with many of the villages of North Rhine, Wesphalia, and have managed to retain their clean appearance and air of elegance as they flitted from barn to barn. 2 and 3 Squadrons, however, are "hill people," and have spent most of their time in the woods. 2 Squadron on Exercise "Brown Bear," found a hill so steep, having got their vehicles into position on the wooded summit, they thought it wise to send for the L.A.D. in order to be winched down again!

On Exercise "Brown Bear," we welcomed many visitors to the Regiment, including the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **General Anderson,** and the Director S.R.D.E., **Mr. Mills.** All our visitors expressed great interest in the Regiment's new role and, we hope and believe, they were pleased with what they saw.

Sport—A notable soccer success

Training commitments have prevented us from playing much Regimental sport recently, but 2 Squadron have scored a notable success in winning the Detmold Minor Units Soccer League Cup by beating H.Q. Squadron, The Royal Dragoons, by 2 goals to 1. This was a fine game of soccer in which 2 Squadron, having been one goal down at half-time, fought back splendidly and scored two goals in the last 20 minutes, the winning goal being a magnificent header by **Lance-Corporal Campbell,** which rocketed into the net from about 20 yards.



HOLD THAT TIGER!
2 Squadron football supporters produce a long note prior to their victory match

Perhaps, however, the defence should take the main credit for victory, in particular, **Lance-Corporal Beard** in goal, who saved the day on many occasions in the first half when the Royals were well on top.

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess—Beer and art in Amsterdam

Under the influence of **R.S.M. Declancy,** some 35 members of the Mess spent a day at the end of May touring the Art Galleries of Amsterdam, dropping in en passant, we understand, on the famous Amstel Brewery. Indeed, it is possible that the tour proceeded no further. However, they returned the next day well satisfied with their trip.

Personalia . . .

Captain Glydon and his family have returned to U.K., where **Captain Glydon** is to attend No. 1 T.E. (Automation) Course. We wish him every success and hope they all enjoy their stay in Blandford.

We have been sorry to say goodbye to **W.O.II Mercer,** who was such a tower of strength to 3 Squadron in its formative days. However, we congratulate him on his well-merited promotion and wish him every success as R.S.M. of 20 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. We hope he will look up his old friends in Lippstadt whenever he can spare the time. In his place we welcome **W.O.II Arnold,** who joins us from Mons O.C.S., and hope that he and **Mrs. Arnold** enjoy their tour with the Regiment.

We have seen two Regimental weddings in our Station Church during recent weeks, and we congratulate **Craftsman Bearsby,** of our L.A.D., on his marriage to **Miss Marilyn Servis,** of our Quartermaster's Department, and **Lieutenant Tilson** on his marriage to **Miss Gail Parks,** who teaches in the Station B.F.E.S. School.

We have enjoyed the company of three volunteers who spent two weeks with us in May. **Lieutenant Ramsey** and **W.O.II Weddell** came from 32 (Scottish) Regiment (V), and **W.O.II Headleand** from 38th Regiment (V). We hope they found their attachment enjoyable and instructive.

FARAWAY PLACES !
UNUSUAL JOBS !
WHY NOT WRITE YOUR STORY FOR "THE WIRE"?

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

Visit by D.W.R.A.C.

THE Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, **Brigadier The Hon. M. M. Anderson, M.B.E., A.D.C.,** visited the Regiment on Friday, 19th April.

In the morning she visited the W.R.A.C. lines and planted a tree in front of the accommodation.

In the afternoon, after visiting R.H.Q. and the Chief Instructors' Office, the D.W.R.A.C. toured 3 Squadron training area and saw the W.R.A.C. girls undergoing trade training as switchboard operators and comcen operators.

The Director presented the "Jimmy" to W.R.A.C. girls who had that week passed out from trade training.

Visit by Signal Officer-in-Chief

The Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** visited the Regiment on 23rd April.

After visiting R.H.Q. and the C.I.'s department, the S.O.-in-C. toured the unit lines, noting the many improvements that had been done and many that required doing. We were privileged to receive the General in our new location and look forward to him repeating the visit when we are more settled.



ENCOUNTER
The S.O.-in-C. talking to Sergeant Young. In background Captain (T.O.T.) J. D. Ferguson. Smiling—Lieutenant-Colonel Jimmy Hellier

Adventure Training

Nearly every week a party of basic trainees go to Pooley Bridge, on Lake Ullswater, for adventure training, under the guiding hand of Military Training Wing.

After setting up camp, often an adventure in itself, with the trainees' limited experience of living in the field, a day is spent fell walking in the Helvellyn area. The third day is spent rock climbing and abseiling and the fourth day canoeing on Lake Ullswater. On the last day the trainees strike camp and return to Catterick, refreshed after their week's break from the classroom.



IT'S HIGH UP THE MOUNTAINS FOR THE 24th REGIMENT
Corporal Overend, Military Training Wing, demonstrates abseiling with confidence

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Bermuda now on our list

After a period of comparative quiet, the Regiment now finds itself heavily committed and able to add Bermuda to the long list of countries in which members of the Regiment have served.

Mid-April saw the return of our two ex-castaways, **Sergeants J. Walker** and **H. Stickley,** from their eight-month stay on the Island of Aldabra, in the Indian Ocean, with the Royal Society Expedition. The tales they have to tell will ensure a regular flow of beer for a long time to come.

Our rallying enthusiasts had a chance to enjoy themselves recently during Exercise "Five Star," the Southern Command B.A.M.A. Rally. We didn't win any prizes, but three crews finished. Not too bad when one considers that there were only 30 finishers out of 96 starters. We also had some entries from B.A.O.R., in the persons of **Sergeants Middleton** and **Croad-Brangwyn**—ex-BRUIN Squadron. They had a free invitation entry from the Bristol Motor Club to take part in their major rally. Once again they won, so we shall perhaps be seeing something of them next year.

AMF(L) Signal Troop—a report on Winter Warfare Training in Norway

Members of the Regiment do not always head for the tropics, as the following article, written by **Signalman Hindle** shows:

Last November saw the resurrection of AMF(L) Signal Troop, here at Blandford, as part of 2 Squadron. The Troop provides rear-link and liaison communications for 1 SCLI (the present U.K. AMF(L) Battalion) and has the Northern flank of NATO as its major stamping ground.

Initial training, mainly concentrated on getting the Troop fit, ready for the winter warfare exercises, whilst **Sergeant Mackey** and two Corporals attended a winter warfare course run by 1 SCLI.

In January, the Troop was fitted out with its winter warfare clothing, most of which had just arrived from Canada and Norway. Then members of the Troop went on an internal refresher driving course for three weeks, whilst the remainder continued with fitness and trade training.

During the last three weeks of February, the whole Troop went on Exercise "Hard Fall II" in Norway. The exercise was for sub-unit training in winter warfare and was held at Voss, which is some 50 miles inland from Bergen. The Troop Commander, **Lieutenant Byrom,** was fortunate enough

to have been in Norway for the three weeks prior to the Troop's arrival and so training began immediately.

Lieutenant Bengstom, of the Royal Norwegian Army, was assigned to the Troop as its instructor, and was virtually in command for the first two weeks of training. This initial training was mainly on basic Infantry subjects and we began by learning to pack sledges, erect tents, use the cooking equipment—and walk on snow-shoes (we found we had muscles we never knew we had). This part of the training culminated in a five-day exercise, which included all that had been practised previously, plus field-firing and night-patrolling in temperatures of down to –30 C.

Thanks to 1 SCLI, lending the Troop radios and vehicles, the last week was spent on a communications exercise in which each vehicle travelled 400 miles on snow or ice-covered roads. The views were always marvellous; communications somewhat difficult, and all agreed that both snow chains and studded tyres were needed. Only one vehicle went off the road (unfortunately being driven at the time by our only 'professional' driver, our ED, **Lance-Corporal Cummins**), and everyone had cameras out to witness a 3-ton FFR being rescued by a passing dried fish lorry.

Weekends in Voss were spent on the civilian ski-slopes under the watchful eye of **Lieutenant Bengstom.** Voss is a large civilian ski centre and has its fair share of off-duty attractions, and, despite the limitations of having to wear uniforms, a few of the Troop found pleasant "extra mural" activities, who they then proceeded to entertain in the NAAFI at duty-free prices. All good things come to an end, however, and we soon found ourselves back in Blandford. Perhaps we're the only people looking forward to next winter.

SPORT

Boxing.—Our welterweight boxer, **Lance-Corporal Cutts** is to be congratulated on reaching the semi-final of the A.B.A. Championships at Belle Vue, Manchester, in April.

Sailing.—Some keen Regimental sailors and a few beginners had an instructive week aboard "Stella Lyra" in early May in the Solent. In spite of the weather being kind, they are all convinced that Compo Irish Stew is not the best thing to eat on board a yacht.

Corps Sailors Please Note

There are still some opportunities for booking "Stella Lyra" this season. At the time of going to press, the following periods are still available: 19th-25th July, 4th-13th August, 7th-29th September.

Those interested should contact **Captain C. J. Crow,** 30th Signal Regiment.

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

A Pilgrimmage to Mecca— and the Tenets of the Muslim Faith as they affect the would-be pilgrim

(Contributed by 18th Regiment)

READERS may remember that Corporal Amran, a lineman in 2 Squadron, was selected as the Regiment's first sponsored pilgrim to Mecca, and he set off on his journey in January. Below we read of the Muslim Fifth Commandment, which enjoins on each pilgrim the various acts of worship and the religious ceremonies he must perform while undertaking the pilgrimage.

Finally, Corporal Haji Amran relates his own reactions to this once-in-a-lifetime journey afforded to him by the 18th Signal Regiment.

The Fifth Commandment and what it involves

To become a Haji involves more than merely visiting the Holy Land. The detailed programme is as follows:

Whilst in the Holy Land to wear Hiram at required times. This is a piece of cloth, some five yards long, worn in the manner of a Roman toga. It has no stitches or ties of any kind.

To go from Mecca to the Arafah Desert on the 8th Zulhijjah (Muslim calendar) and stay overnight.

At Arafah Desert on the midday of 9th Zulhijjah, every pilgrim isolates himself from all others, and prays, worships Allah, and begs forgiveness. This isolation lasts until the Dusk Prayer.

After the Dusk Prayer, all pilgrims travel three miles to Muzdalifah to collect a minimum of 70 pebbles, to be used in religious ceremonies during the next three days.

At midnight, the pilgrims set off for Mena, some four miles away, which they must reach by the Dawn Prayer. There, at cairns of religious significance, they throw the first seven pebbles and cut off some of the hair of their head. The throwing of pebbles at four sites is repeated during the next three days and is very important. A missed ceremony would incur a fine of atonement, which takes the form of the sacrifice of a sheep or goat.

On the 13th day of Zulhijjah (three days after the day of Hari Raya Haji) the pilgrims return to Mecca for the ceremony of Tawaf Ifadah. This involves walking in meditation seven times around the square temple at the centre of which stands the Baitual Haram or Ka'abah. This is a massive stone edifice, covered with precious drapes. Tawaf Ifadah also involves running to and from the Zam Zam well, which is on the spot where the Prophet Ismail, when a child and thirsty, stamped his foot, and out of the footprint flowed clear water. Having completed this ceremony, the pilgrims may wear their normal clothes again.

The pilgrimage is almost over. Before leaving Mecca, each pilgrim must again cut off "three or four looms" (locks) of their hair, or better still, shave the head entirely, and again walk round the Ka'abah seven times in meditation and prayer.

Reflections on the Pilgrimage



Corporal Amran in his robes

Corporal Haji Amran's story follows the pattern set out above (closely), and he had this to say on his return:

"We sailed from Singapore on the 5th January. Everything about this pilgrimage was very wonderful and exciting. At Port Swettenham, the S.S. Kuala Lumpur picked up more pilgrims and afforded me the chance to say farewell to my mother and relatives. We stopped again at Penang, and some 2,000 pilgrims in all set out across the Indian Ocean. I was very honoured on both outbound and homeward trips to be selected as a member of the welfare committee on board, and as a bilal, or Imam assistant at prayers. On the way to Jeddah, where we disembarked, we refuelled at Djiboti.

There were three most moving events during the pilgrimage. The first was when the pilgrims prayed together, although each was isolated, at Arafah Desert, there were thousands of pilgrims of all races and nationalities from all over the world. A vast Muslim brotherhood praying for peace and harmony in the world.

The other two were my visits to Medinah and Jebal Rahman. At Medinah I saw the grave of Mohamed and his two disciples, Saidinah Abu Bakar and Saidinah Omar. At Jebel Ramah is the hill where, according to Islamic teaching, Adam and Eve landed when they were thrown from heaven to earth.

The journey home took three weeks. We left Mecca on the 15th March, and, having come via Jeddah and Aden, arrived at Singapore on 4th April. I arrived back a happier and wiser man because of my visit to the Holy City of Mecca, and will be forever grateful to the Regiment for having made it possible for me to be called 'Haji' for the rest of my life."



MECCA
The Holy Ka'abah at the moment of sunrise

"Cable 66 is Out"

By Sergeant D. G. Palmer, N.C.O. i/c Colony S.W.S. Store, 253rd Squadron, Hong Kong

A Problem for "Yours Truly"

ONE of the first problems which greeted our new Troop Commander, **Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. F. A. Davies,** on his arrival in the Colony was that Submarine Cable 66 running between Kowloon and Hong Kong Island was faulty. He did not seem to be particularly perturbed by this somewhat distressing information and neither did the Foreman of Signals, **Staff-Sergeant D. R. Sanders.** In fact, the only member of the Troop whose normally good humour was liable to be "frayed" at the edges by this turn of events was yours truly. My task, as always, would be to organise the supply of the new submarine cable to effect repairs. In Hong Kong, as some readers will doubtless know from their own painful experiences, this is not always as simple as it appears.

One morning the Foreman of Signals disappeared with technicians and many "magical" instruments. On his return he announced that the fault was only 50 yards out to sea and on the Hong Kong Island side of the harbour. On hearing this the T.O.T's. reply was of the greatest simplicity, "Good, now go back and test it again." I do not remember seeing the Foreman again that week!

A Long Dreaded Chore...

While all the various tests were being carried out I decided that it would be useless to attempt to stave off the evil day and I enquired the type of cable that would be required. The reply was 28-pair. I was momentarily delighted by this because I knew from my 18 months in charge of the Ordnance Depot Cable Park that there was no stock in the Colony. However, upon announcing this, complete with a big beaming smile and a word of sympathy for the technical types, I was informed that if this was the case then we would have to use 25-pair. Again I sank into a depression. I knew that the only 25-pair submarine cable available in the Ordnance Depot was in lengths of 500 yards on drums 11 feet in diameter and weighting nine tons each. The mere thought of having to move even one of these drums had been a dreaded chore in my mind for some 20 months, which, I hoped, would not be required during my tour. It was finally decided that to ease the problem of moving the cable across the harbour we would obtain 300 yards of cable on two drums of 150 yards each and store them in H.M.S. *Tamar* on Hong Kong Island. From this point cable 66 could be repaired and there would be cable left over to deal with any further breaks. This, in fact, was to happen sooner than we had expected.

The Cranes are Beaten

I set out to obtain the cable by first offering our assistance to the Ordnance Depot in rewinding the cable. My offer was accepted. I had already decided that the easiest way to do this part of the job would be to move the drum to a more accessible spot before winding off any cable. The Engineer Park Squadron and 56 Squadron R.C.T. were contacted and they agreed to loan me two 6-ton cranes. I was confident that together these cranes would lift the drum into position. Everything was ready with both cranes ready and I gave the order to lift. Unfortunately, all that happened was the rear wheels of both cranes left the ground and the drum stayed firmly in position. It was apparent that the only course left open was to have support brackets welded to the cable drum racks and wind the cable off on to the ground. The welding was carried out at very short notice by 50 Command Workshops R.E.M.E. Winding off was a back-breaking operation but was successfully completed by our coolie gang ably "driven" by **Corporal Ho Kam Wing,** using the help of many well chosen English and Chinese expressions; none of which are to be found in either dictionary.

A Tricky Landing

All that remained was to transport the cable over to H.M.S. *Tamar* using an R.C.L. supplied by 56 Squadron R.C.T. The T.O.T. decided to accompany me on this trip across the harbour and both of us experienced some very uncomfortable moments, particularly on arrival at H.M.S. *Tamar* where we had to get off the R.C.L. on to the harbour wall. Having carefully, and with some doubts, watched the T.O.T. climb up the front ramp of the vessel and perch somewhat precariously before making contact with the wall I concluded that the best way off was via the top of the wheel house. Having attained this position I discovered a sizeable stretch of Hong Kong harbour, about 40 feet below me, separated the top of the R.C.L. from the wall. It was shortly after landing the cable that the T.O.T. learned of a second fault, this time on cable 67. It was decided to do both repairs at once.

The Job is Done

The actual repair of these cables involves the hire of a civilian contractor with the necessary cable laying lighters and boats. There is only one man in Hong Kong who specialises in this type of work. This gentleman and his equipment were duly booked for a three-day period and the T.O.T. formed his plans for the operation.

By my own request I was to attend as an observer. Although I have moved, rewound and prepared many drums of submarine cable for use I had never actually seen the work carried out.

The Troop crossed the harbour to commence the job early one morning with the Foreman of Signals cheerfully reiterating all the way across that the results of his tests were absolutely accurate and that finding the fault was going to be no problem whatsoever. This opinion drew a very cool reception from the T.O.T who stated that he would be delighted to attend when the Foreman bought beers for the entire Squadron if he were wrong.

Upon arriving at the shore end of the cable we found a tremendous amount of activity. The contractor and his gang were already lifting cable 66 from the sea bed. They were aided by a diver breathing air from an ancient manually oper-

ated pump, and using equipment that no self respecting man would wear to enter a paddling pool. But despite the antiquated appearance of everything, and the seeming chaos aboard the lighters, the cable was extricated very quickly and efficiently from the water. The cable was to be taken out up to the first joint, a distance of about 60 yards from the shore. As this particular cable (originally laid round about 1933 as far as anyone could remember) crossed others at various points on the way out it became necessary to cut and reseal it several times to avoid causing damage to other cables. Each time this occurred the cable had to be lifted and straightened. During this part of the proceedings I was very much reminded of a famous story by Jerome K. Jerome as the task was carried out by three men in a very small boat which literally threatened to capsize with every ripple on the surface. However, although it appeared to me to be impossible, these worthy gentlemen managed to escape drowning or even being dumped overboard.

The Foreman of Signals Proved Right

Having arrived at the joint, the cable was opened and tested back to Kowloon. It could be seen at this point, much to the disappointment of both the T.O.T. and myself, that the Foreman of Signals was to remain solvent and that if we wanted beer we were going to have to buy it ourselves. The new cable, which was already set up on the sea wall, was then pulled out from the shore into position and prepared for jointing.

I spent the afternoon on board the lighter watching the new joint being made. This job was carried out by our jointers and took about four hours to complete, including replacing the armouring, before the repaired cable was finally lowered back into the water.

After Effects

Apart from feeling rather tired, I suffered no ill effects from this very enjoyable and interesting day at sea, but apparently the T.O.T. was not quite so lucky. Having returned home he was under the impression that his married quarter had been "launched" and was rising and falling on every "wave." In fact, I think he finished the day firmly convinced that satellite communications are definitely the answer!

Letter from East Africa

Written by

Major

J. R. E. Cross

Effendi,

The Electronics Group of the East African Institution of Engineers held its radio, electronics and business efficiency exhibition (ELECTRO 68 for short) in the City Hall, Nairobi, from the 3rd to the 6th of April, and was I glad to see the back of it! Being a member of the organising committee I had spent six months of spare time getting the thing off the ground. It is quite obvious that it is getting far too big for a part-time committee to handle, despite the fact that we had a professional assistant hired at vast expense. This show has now got international status with half the exhibitors coming from overseas. Creed used it as their African show window for their new teleprinter and flew in interested parties from all over the Continent. The snag is to find some interested body to take over the exhibition.

* * *

Having now helped to run three of these shows, I reckon that I know how to organise such an exhibition and how to cope with all the problems involved — getting people to take stand space is least of one's worries. **Sergeant Challis,** of the training team took four days' leave to help out and found himself operating as O.C. National Youth Service and entrance money accountant.

The weekend after the close of the show saw the start of the East African Safari and off we went again; the communications for the Safari are mainly run by the Radio Society of East Africa, and as I am an honorary life member (given to me for leading the pressure group in the Joint Signals Board in their successful efforts to have amateur radio licences reissued by the Government) I found myself helping to organise and run radio control at Wilson airfield. Safari H.Q. operated from the City Hall, but it is impossible to run radio from there due to the high noise level, so we operated remote with a V.H.F. link into H.Q.

* * *

Telephones are normally used from main control centres such as Kampala, Mombasa and Dar, but this year's weather put out most of the cables and most of the controls traffic was passed by radio with police V.H.F. links feeding into the controls in some cases. All "hams" are keen but the East African variety must be the most—they spend anything up to three days of their Easter holidays in remote bush locations diligently passing control traffic and this year it rained on them for most of the time. Control was using two Hallicrafter rigs, one on A.M., the other on S.S.B., plus two police provided V.H.F. links to Nairobi route control and to H.Q.

By the time that the second (South) leg had started watch-keeping became a bit of a bore as only 21 cars started and only seven finished (out of an entry of 92) and as these last few were spread out over a vast area of country the rate of signal traffic flow was slow to say the least. Once again the Safari lived to its car killing reputation. All the finishers were locals (including one lady team) and the strong overseas factory teams faded one by one. Once more members of the Signal Section of the training team volunteered to help out and **Sergeants Stevenson, Woodruff** and **Challis** did their stints at radio control.

During one afternoon control had a surprise visit from **Sergeants Walker** and **Stickley,** who were on their way back from the Royal Society expedition to Al Dabra—**Stickley's** full face of hair was a wonder to behold! I am told that a contact has been made with **Walker** since his return to Bulford.

* * *

You tell me that you are an old Kenya hand, and I am sure that a lot of readers are old hands, too, so perhaps a few brief notes on changes here might be of interest.

Nairobi has followed the trend of most newly independent states and has blossomed forth with a rash of new and huge buildings and such places as the Standard building with its clock tower and the old theatre next to the New Stanley have been hauled down and office blocks built on the sites. New ministries go up almost daily. The management of the New Stanley has passed into the hands of the Hilton organisation and two new hotels are being built, one on the old bus depot site and the other behind the Central Post Office, and one of these will be run by Hilton. Two old inns outside the city, the Brown Trout and the Banda, are now schools. The city now has a new park, complete with boating pond, below the cathedral. Tourism is now one of the main industries here and a lot of new lodges have been built to cater for the tourist, and one now has to pay to see the flamingos at Nakuru. Naivasha is now a tourist centre with a Marina and a placed called 'Safariland' (yuck), and the Lake Hotel has changed hands and is run by a syndicate of which Sir Malin Sorsbie is a member.

Enough for now.

Kwaheri, CRO.

Nairobi,
April, 1968.

REGULATION PATTERN

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

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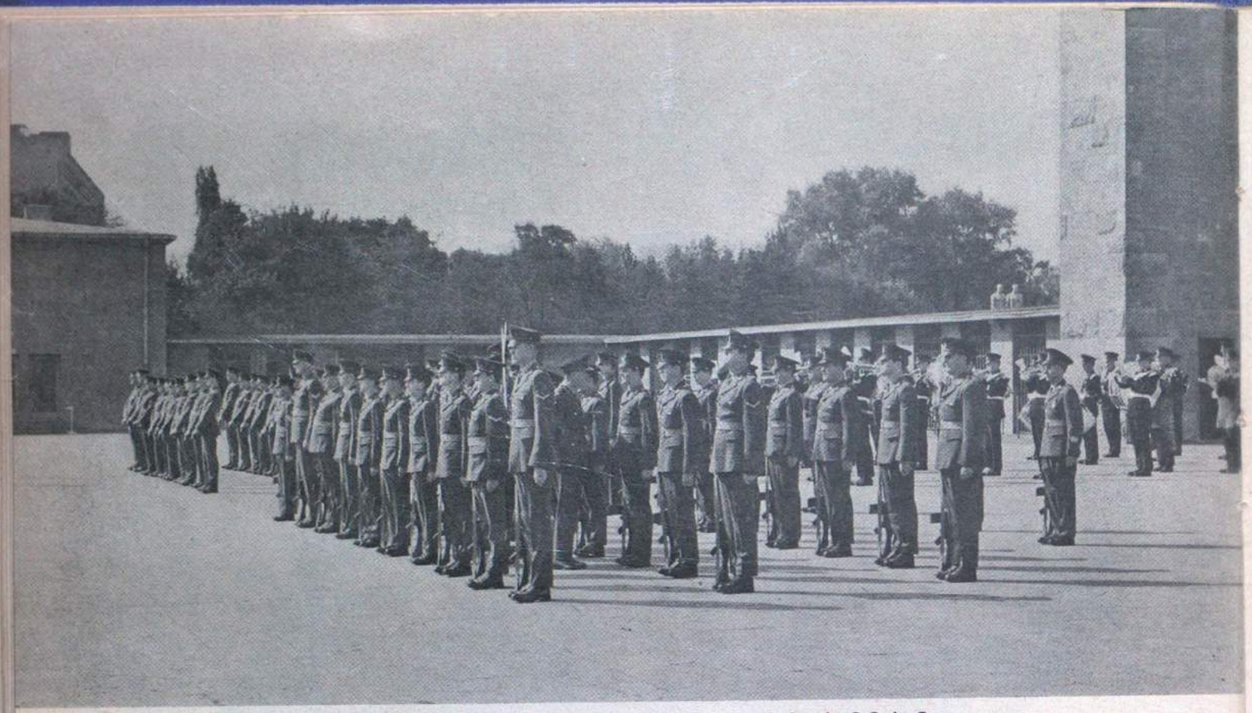
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ALVIS OF COVENTRY



Berlin Signal Squadron make a fine showing on parade for the S.O.-in-C.

229 Squadron (Berlin) B.F.P.O. 45

Domestic News

JANUARY/February saw a change of Squadron Commanders and as we said farewell and God speed to **Major A. D. Lewis** and his family, we welcomed **Major J. N. Hancock,** with the news that the Annual Admin. Inspection was only six weeks hence, the Rugby Team needed his services, and we hoped his stay would be eventful. Since then **Mrs. Hancock** and family have arrived and we all wish them many happy times in Berlin.

We also take this opportunity of saying farewell to: **Second-Lieutenant Montgomery-Swan** (returning to 16th Regiment). We shall miss our D.J. at the next Discotheque; **Corporal Barber** (to Kuwait) (their gain in the hockey team will be our loss); **Signalman Greenhill** (to Bahrein (a footballer of distinction); also **Corporals Hill** to civvy street, **English** to Blandford and **Bayliss** to Singapore. We welcome **Second-Lieutenant Farrell** from 16th Regiment, and a special mention for the new R.Q.M.S. H.Q. Berlin Infantry Brigade, **W.O.I K. J. Williams,** Royal Signals. We all hope you enjoy having our problems **Ken,** as it is nice to have the Corps Badge in high places.

Births

In our midst we have two sets of proud parents in **Captain** and **Mrs. Barrett** and **Corporal** and **Mrs. Barber.** Both glowing with the pride of producing a son first go, well done Dads! (Oops—Sorry, Mums!)—now the trouble starts.

Talking of Children

The thought of Easter Hol's was producing problems for parents on how to occupy the children, and it was with a sigh of relief they learned that **Lieutenant R. W. Simmons, B.E.M.,** had arranged a series of trips over the holidays, of various sorts. First was to Berlin Zoo (noted as one of the best in the world). Yes, all returned safely. Second was to an Egyptian Museum. Third, a trip to the East Sector of Berlin, and finally a day .22 shooting. From all reports they were first-class and most enjoyable. All are now looking forward to Whitsun.

A With-it-Night

We held our first Discotheque in the Corporals' Club and it was a swinging, booming, screaming success, with all the latest records (by kind permission of B.F.B.S.) being spun expertly by our D.J., **Second-Lieutenant Montgomery-Swan** (now we know what he did in his dark and distant past). The night was very colourful and the "With-it-clothes" of the young and old added to making an unusual night a big success.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS—PAST

Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Records

Colonel T. G. Grigg gave us the honour of seeing his smiling face and to some it was nice to see an old friend again. It was gratifying to us all to learn from "the horse's mouth" (please forgive the expression, Colonel) that all was well in our favourite office and in fact we were getting those goose pimples for nothing.

Annual Admin. Inspection, 10th March

This was our first for two years and was carried out by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier D. J. St. M. Tabor, M.C.** The programme of Parade, Inspection of Comcan, Offices, Workshops, Radio Troop in full alert kit, and other Troops in various forms was most thorough, however, very rewarding in that all our hard work gained good results. The day ended with a gratifying pull at the hardstuff in the Corporals' Club.

Visit of Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R.

Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E., paid us his first visit as the new C.S.O., B.A.O.R., and it was a pleasure to see him make light work of a series of visits and inspections throughout the Squadron and chatting to all he met. We are sure that it was with gratitude that he accepted a "wet" in the Brigade Sergeants' Mess at lunch time.

Visit of the General Officer Commanding H.Q. in Berlin (British Sector)

Major-General F. J. C. Bowes-Lyon, O.B.E., M.C., paid us a courtesy visit as the new G.O.C. H.Q. Berlin (British Sector) and it was with pride that we escorted him through the Squadron showing him our commitments and varying roles in the Brigade and in the British Sector of Berlin.

Visit of the Signal Officer in Chief

Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., paid the Squadron a visit and it was gratifying to find him talking to a visiting officer so cosy. During his stay he presented **Sergeant K. Morgan** with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, and had drinks with all in the Corporals' Club.

Visits, Inspections and Events—Future

All are now busy preparing for our roles in the Allied Forces' Day Parade, 18th May; The Queen's Birthday Parade, 8th June; visit of the Master of Signals, 10th June; and a Squadron Adventure Training Camp in the Baltic area, 14th June.

. . . AND SO TO SPORT



THE FRUITS OF SUCCESS

Corporal Harrison, Team Captain, of an outstanding cross country team receives the Berlin Brigade minor units shield from Brigadier Tabor



MEMBERS OF THE BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON HOCKEY TEAM WITH THE MINOR UNIT LEAGUE SHIELD

Top, Left to Right: W.O.II (Y. of S.) Brown (Captain), Signalman Sheehan, Corporal Slatter, Corporal Quinn, Lance-Corporal Mather, Sergeant Hall. *Front, Left to Right:* W.O.II (S.S.M.) Stephenson (Umpire), Lance-Corporal Hayward, Corporal Mulvana, Sergeant Crowhurst, Corporal Jennings, Corporal Anglesea, Captain Barrett 2 i/c. *Those absent but in mind:* Corporal Clarke, Corporal Clark, Corporal Barber, Lance-Corporal Stretton, 2nd-Lieutenant Montgomery-Swan

During this most hectic period of visits and inspections we have achieved with pride an outstanding record in the sporting field.

Cross Country

The Brigade Minor Units 1 Division Championships, and H.Q. B.A.O.R. Championships, winners of Minor Units Section. This proud record was achieved by our team of **Corporal Lunn, Corporal Middleton, Corporal Harrison, Corporal Robinson, Corporal Butler, Lance-Corporal Marsden, Lance-Corporal Hayward, Signalman Nicholls, Signalman Sheehan, Signalman Wainwright, Signalman Wood.**

Hockey

Brigade Minor Unit Knock-out, runners-up; Brigade Minor Unit League (undefeated), winners; Brigade Six-a-Side Knock-out, third place.

Sailing

Brigade Inter-Unit Competition, winners. Teams: **Lieutenant R. W. Simmons, B.E.M., Captain Barrett, Corporal Merchant, Lance-Corporal Boston.**

Badminton

B.A.O.R. Championships: **Corporal Clark,** runner-up in Singles; winner in Doubles with **Corporal Bell,** R.M.P. **Corporal Clark** also represented, with honours, Army, B.A.O.R. v. R.A.F., B.A.O.R.

Water Polo

Brigade League: Joint runners-up; Brigade Knock-out: Through to Quarter Finals. (Water results next month).

Canoeing

Corporal Lunn was selected to represent the Corps at Devizes, and will be writing a few lines for next month's issue. Training is in full swing for the Brigade—swimming, shooting, athletics, cricket and canoeing, and full reports in the future.

Finale

All in all a hectic but gratifying few months, but one cannot close without mentioning those who support our Squadron with never ceasing energy—The Wives.

We have a flourishing Wives' Club which always has something on—bowling, cake-making, make-up demonstrations, visits and we do believe they are fielding a cricket team this year. In addition they turn out for our sporting activities, giving us all that extra support we need.

Last, but certainly not least, a mention must be made of our most loyal supporter, both in the field of sport and domestic activities, our C.S.O. Berlin, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. Holifield, M.C.** Wherever we may be or whatever we may be doing he is always there to advise and encourage us all.

Headquarters, Land Forces Gulf B.F.P.O. 63

The Infant is very much alive and kicking

A YEAR ago in these hallowed columns we gave notice of the birth of C.R. Signals Branch (Gulf). Conceived jointly in the M.O.D. and Aden, the offspring was born on 1st June, 1967, in Bahrain. The first cries were heard from the temporary acommodation, kindly provided by the then newly-formed 255 Signal Squadron. The first incumbent of the C.R. Signals "chair," **Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Scott,** had to work off a "tables, office, oak" and the newly-arrived S.O.2s, **Majors Copeland** and **Atkinson,** were given hastily-erected 6ft. G.S. tables. In these surroundings, it might seem surprising that the infant has lived to celebrate his first birthday, but lived he has, and, in fact, is very much alive and kicking. Whether or not he will ever be allowed to reach maturity (that awful epidemic 'Defence Cuts' is prevalent in this part of the world and to the East) is a matter of supposition. Happily, the decision is not ours to make.

. . . Many of the old faces have now gone

In the first year of existence, the branch has undergone many changes, not least of which was our move from 255

Squadron's accommodation to our own. Many of the original faces have gone on to greener pastures, and the only one which remains at the time of writing is that of **Corporal McMahon,** who continues to haunt us all with tales of "the old days." They say all good things come to an end, and the reverse must be equally true—he is soon to leave us for the somewhat different surroundings of 4th Regiment. The present C.R. Signals, **Lieutenant-Colonel Massey,** arrived in October and has been guiding our footsteps ever since. **Major Copeland** was replaced by **Major Derek Hall** in April, and the new Gulf T.O.T. is **Major Leslie Knight,** who succeeds **Captain Jim Ireland,** who did a sterling job in his eighteen months in the Gulf. His farewell speech to a captive audience in Sharjah will long be remembered as perhaps the most eloquent since the days of Joseph Locke.

The fast pace of project work

Project work has continued at a fastish pace in all the Gulf stations—Sharjah and Muharraq being the most notable. In this respect, it is perhaps proper to mention the members of the Corps in the Gulf—even though they are not connected with the branch—namely **W.O.I (F. of S.) Johnson** and **Sergeant Askham** who, between them, have many years' service in this part of the world and continue to advise and assist those "newer" arrivals in the traditions and ways of Gulf life.

On the sporting scene, the branch is evenly divided between sailing and football (despite the lack of eleven players from within the branch, we have our own side—quite an accomplishment!).

How things will look in a year's time is anyone's guess—we can only wait and see. Whatever our future holds, it seems certain to be interesting, and if the past year is any guide, it will be eventful also!

IDD UL HAJ

During April we had the Muslim festival Idd Ul Haj. Bahrain is the only country in which this festival is permitted to be held.

This three-day festival involves the Shia sect, which is composed mainly of those of Irani and Iraqui descent, and is their formal punishment for killing Mohammed's brother-in-law and son. The festival takes the form of parades in which the Shia cut themselves five times to the ritual beat of a drum. Everyone, from the age of six months upwards, takes part, and the deeper the cut the more holy you are. In the past they have normally expected at least a dozen people to die, but the ruler, High Highness Sheikh Isa Bin Suliman, stated that "any deaths this year, and the festival would be banned."

Nowadays the ceremony is rarely witnessed by Europeans, whose presence is actively discouraged. The taking of photographs causes considerable offence and is specifically banned.

Not to be outdone, the Services in the Gulf have been indulging in their own brand of ritual, an eye witness account of which follows.

EXERCISE "GOLD LEAF"

On 8th February, Field Troop, 255 Squadron, and their equipment flew to Sharjah to take part in Exercise "Gold Leaf," the Brigadier's "farewell" exercise.

In Sharjah, we lived for four weeks (appropriately, they say) in the British Troops' Guard Room. From there we went forth daily, at the unearthly hour of 06.30 to join 222 Squadron in their P.T. We heard this unpopular idea lauded by various members of 222 Squadron—"train hard, fight easy . . ." It did not help their football team (beaten 8—3 by Field Troop), or their volley ball team (beaten two games to nil).

After ten days in Sharjah, we went with 222 Squadron on a CPX, which was a practice run for "Gold Leaf." It turned out to be much needed. During the course of this CPX we were most impressed by the skill shown by 222 Squadron in freeing bogged-in vehicles. In fact it was matched only by their skill in bogging them in the first place.

We returned to Sharjah to wait the beginning of Exercise "Gold Leaf," during which period social life thrived. **Sergeant Hird,** in a fit of generosity, donated his spectacles to an unknown recipient. The following morning the recipient was still unknown—both to himself and the good Sergeant, who had to grope his way to the optician to buy a new pair.

When the exercise actually started, Field Troop had been in location at Buraimi for about ten days, and 222 Squadron for three days, providing a system of communications from Buraimi to Wadi Jizi, H.M.S. "Intrepid," which was carrying the Royal Fusiliers to Sohar, where the exercise actually started, Bahrain, which was the rear link, Sharjah, which supplied air support, and the control stations for both enemy (22 SAS), and friendly force umpire nets.

The exercise proper lasted five days, which was long enough for the Royal Fusiliers and the Queen's Own Hussars to advance the length of the Wadi Jizi, opposed by the 22 SAS. Headquarters, Land Forces, Gulf, were the controlling and co-ordinating element for the whole exercise (not, as popular opinion would have us believe, **Yeoman Gallagher**).

On the final day, all the support arms loaded up and drove back to Sharjah—they were last heard of stuck in the area of the Abu Dhabi crossroads, while the remainder were evacuated by an aircraft back to Sharjah, with the exception of Field Troop, who were flown, with no regrets, on to Bahrain.

To those among our readers who are ignorant of our local geography, the following is a rather jaundiced explanation:

Bahrain.—An island, 30 miles x 9 miles wide, in the Gulf.

Sharjah.—250 miles away on the Arabian Peninsula.

Buraimi.—An oasis paradise.

Wadi Jizi.—A ruddy great gash in the earth's crust.

Sohar.—Has no particular claim to fame, other than being the place where the exercise started.

"Intrepid."—A luxury ship on permanent cruise.

5th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn.
Tidworth



"NOW LET'S HAVE A SITREP ON COMMUNICATIONS"
Brigadier Gray (*centre*), C.S.O. Strategic Command, questions Major MacDonald (*right*), O.C. Squadron while Captain Pickup (*left*), i/c Squadron listens

All change here

THEY'VE all changed you know! The powers-that-be in the Squadron, that is. It started in November, when **Major D. M. F. Barker** departed, on promotion, to SHAPE, and **Major I. McDonald** arrived back in the '51st State,' having spent a couple of years in Washington. Then, in December, **R.S.M. Collins** left for 'Civvy Street' and **R.S.M. Cowe** arrived from B.A.O.R., muttering something about this being his fourth successive Brigade Squadron and he'd only a couple to go to have seen the lot. Finally, in February, the Second-in-Command, **Captain S. Wood** headed for B.A.O.R. in a nice new shiny tax-free Viva, and **Captain E. Pickup** arrived sporting a Bahrein suntan. (We believe he only just got past the Immigration Control at Heathrow).

Anyway, with these changes, and an annual turnover of 70 per cent of the Squadron members, THE WIRE notes had to take a back seat for a while.

Deep in the Salisbury Plain jungle

Still, what better way to make a comeback than with a brief report on Exercise "Hobson's Choice" (aptly named, as our only overseas deployment exercise for 1968 was cancalled). Scarcity of training areas in England caused there to be some doubt over the actual venue of the battle. However, five recces and two exercise instructions later, we headed for Salisbury Plain and JFHQ made their way to Farnborough. Communications to JFHQ were somewhat stretched, but worked well on the whole. Contact with 19 Brigade was rather easier, a loud hailer would have sufficed for part of the exercise as we shared the same training area.

The high-spot of the exercise for many members of the H.Q. and the Squadron was a night move into the only piece of secondary jungle on Salisbury Plain. Vehicles vanished into the midst of the jungle, and there were touching farewell scenes as linemen said goodbye to their friends before going out into the night! When dawn came the next morning, there were many "Stanley meets Livingstone" greetings taking place in the area. (I even managed to find the Officers' Mess, after a fruitless, and dry, search the night before).

Don't take us literally

Finally, let me just ask you not to be deceived by these notes. We take our work very seriously, as those who came into contact with 5 Brigade know, but we can also see the funny side of life.

19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (209)
Colchester

SINCE our last entry in THE WIRE we have had the usual run of exercises and our Annual Administrative Inspection. We have had time, however, to get quite a number from the Squadron away on some adventure training, and here are some impressions from one of the parties.

Tough going in the Lake District

By Corporal M. E. Walton, Intelligence Platoon.

At 08.30 on 2nd April our party of eleven, leader **Sergeant Shaw,** set out for the Lake District. The day opened dull and ended sparkling white. Snow! Our rock climbing and high walking week had started off in good Alpine fashion.

We based ourselves in Dubb's Hut, belonging to the Keswick Mountaineering Club, about a mile from the road, hidden away amongst the hills of Cumberland. (So well hidden, in fact, that on arrival, it took us an hour-and-a-half in the dark to find it).

On 3rd April we carried our rations and equipment up to the hut and settled in. Have you ever climbed a mountain carrying a ten-man compo-ration pack in a foot of snow? It's tiring work.

The next morning we set off for Great Gable The week's adventure training had started for real. We didn't make Great Gable, however, due to bad weather, and spent the day under **Sergeant Shaw's** instruction, learning and practising the basics of rock climbing, finishing with a practice stretcher lower with **Signalman Jock Parker** as patient. (I think he finished up in need of medical attention, having been in the beginning quite healthy).

The 4th April—weather begins to brighten—changes mind—then snow, and a party sets off to climb Great Gable. It was on this trip that one of the highlights of the week occurred, when **Private "Taff" Protheroe,** from the depths of his heart, informed an interested civilian adventure training instructor, that the boots he was climbing in (Tricounies) were called Karabiners (metal alloy rings used as aids for various methods of belaying).

Saturday we spent rock climbing, abseiling and stretcher lowering. We carried out quite a number of stretcher lowers with volunteer patients and barrow-boys (the person who guides the stretcher down the rock face) and became fairly efficient at this one aspect of mountain rescue.



TRICKY GOING
Signalman Parker lowered by stretcher in Green Gable area of Lake District. Corporal Walton—barrow boy—below

Sunday we went for a walk, and what a walk! We climbed five major peaks in all and walked about ten miles, which, in that kind of terrain, is quite a long distance for one day. It was a magnificent day, so fine that from the summit of High Stile we could see the sea some fifteen miles away. We had obviously come a week too early weather wise. There was still some snow around though, and on the descent from Chapel Crags the going was quite treacherous in places. At the end of the day we approached the hut from the west and in my experience, after what we'd just done, the climb to the hut was the worst I have ever come across (some two-and-a-half miles going from 350ft. above sea level to 1,950ft.). We slept really well that night.

Monday, 8th April, was our last day and, because of the amount of gear we had, we devoted it to carrying all the kit down to the Land Rovers; and got an early night, prior to an early start next morning to return to Colchester.

A very satisfying week. Lessons learnt? Pomme fills gaps in drystone walls very well! Seriously, however, much was learnt about rock climbing and mountain rescue.

Sport

In sport we unfortunately lost the final of the 3 Division Minor Units Championship Hockey, but in the Eastern District Minor Units League Soccer Final we beat the Military Corrective Training Centre for 4 goals to nil. (See photo overleaf).

The Squadron produced some boxers for the 3 Division Open Individual Championships and we congratulated **Signalman James** on reaching the final and **Lance-Corporal Park** on training them all.

Arrivals and Departures

We have recently said goodbye to **Major** and **Mrs. Pat Arcdeckne-Butler** and their family. We wish them all well as they launch out into civilian life. We welcome in their places **Major** and **Mrs. Jack Westlake** and their family This is their second tour with the Squadron so they are not strangers to the rigours of a Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. We welcome also **Captain** and **Mrs. Bill Nicol** and **Captain** and **Mrs. John Heason,** who have recently arrived in the Squadron from Singapore and Malaysia respectively. **Captain Nicol** has taken over the Radio Troop and **Captain Heason** is now our Administrative Officer.



209 SQUADRON FOOTBALL TEAM—WINNERS OF EASTERN DISTRICT MINOR LEAGUE versus M.C.T.C. Won 4—0

Left to Right: Back Row: Corporal Fytche, Corporal Nicolls, Corporal Scott, Corporal Lyon, Signalman Anderson, Corporal Woodcock, Colour-Sergeant Leach (Trainer). *Front Row:* Signalman Smith, Sapper Muir, Signalman Cormack, Corporal Lee, Craftsman Thomas, Corporal Johnston

24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (210) Plymouth

New Junior Ranks' Club opens with a swing

SINCE our last notes were written we have been busy both in and out of barracks. A series of Brigade C.P.X's. has now ended and we know Dartmoor pretty well, especially those ex-Junior Leaders who are doing a second Dartmoor tour! We have had visits in the field from the Divisional Commander (also representative Colonel Commandant), **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond,** and from C.S.O. 3 Division, **Colonel J. R. Piddington.** We have learnt a lot, and dearly wish the weather had been better.

Apart from Exercises, which have taken up much of our time, we have found time to compete in the Brigade Rifle Meeting, where the weather was kind for once. We managed to acquit ourselves well without taking all the awards. Our best individual shot was **Corporal Frank King,** who took the Pistol Pool Bull.



SHOOTING SUCCESS

The Brigade Commander presents Corporal King with the Pool Bull prize

Our new Junior Ranks' Club, the Phoenix Club, was formally opened on 1st May by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier H. D. G. Butler.** After meeting the NAAFI staff the Brigadier pulled the first pint which was downed with expertise by our Q.M., **Captain S. G. Pavey.** Thereafter, first drinks were "on the house." We are very pleased with the facilities in the new club and these attracted favourable publicity in the local Press.

A very successful Squadron newsletter is being run by **Corporal Tony Cleary:** it comes out weekly on Fridays, and any "embarrassing moment" is unlikely to escape comment in the newsletter. Our M.T.O. even verified a picture when he was picked up by the civil police for speeding! The Brigade Commander has offered to write the racing column; those who followed his tip for the 2,000 Guineas have suggested that the Editor should politely decline the offer.

We look forward to our next All Ranks' Dance on 15th June, when we hope to repeat the success of the last venture.

Sergeants' Mess

A Sergeants' Mess dinner, held on Friday, 29th March, and if one can judge from the following morning, a thumping success. Official guests included the senior member from the Petty Officers' Mess, Royal Naval Engineering College, Mannadon, **John Rowe,** and **R.S.M. George Fordham,** 45 Commandoes, Royal Marines. It is intended to hold a further dinner and social early in June, at which our ladies will be guests.

Coming and Going

We congratulate **Corporal Harry Creedy** on his promotion to Sergeant, and look forward to seeing him in a kilt now that he is with the Argylls' rear link. Farewell to **Sergeant Frank McGuirk,** who has left us after 18 months on posting to the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment at Troon. Welcome to **Sergeant Ken Purnell, Sergeant Thomas,** R.R.F., and **Sergeant Jackson,** R.E.M.E.

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (212) B.F.P.O. 36

A fine effort

THE main theme running through the Unit during April was C.C.R. Signals 1 (B.R.) Corps annual exercise, this year appropriately called "Brown Bear." Readers will, without doubt, be able to read about the communications achievements of other Units somewhere else in this edition, but a lot of the credit for our continued communications must go to the staff of our L.A.D., who, under the able leadership of **W.O.I (A.S.M.) Dave Thomas,** who has just arrived from a Royal Artillery Unit, removed a faulty power pack (engine, to the uninitiated) from one of our FV 432's no less than three times during the exercise. Furthermore, we continued operating our radios within the vehicle while this was going on without interruption.

12 Infantry Brigade Provost Unit, our own "coppers," must not go unmentioned, and our thanks go to them for moving us so successfully from location to location.

And so to Sport

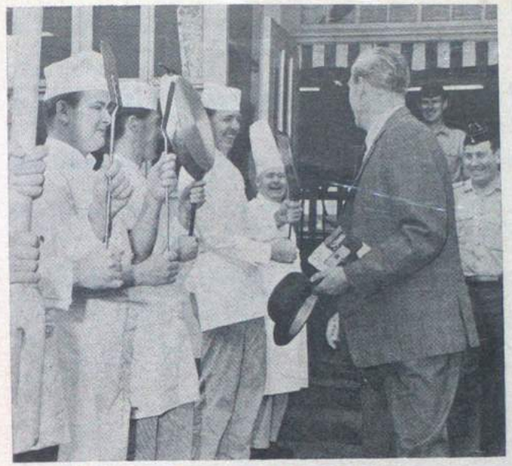
The sporting side of Army life had not been forgotten during all the exercise preparation and our seven-a-side rugby team gallantly led by **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston,** romped away to win the Divisional Signal Regiments Sevens.

Five table tennis fans made their way to Lyon, in France, to support the British Table Tennis Team in the European Championships. A more detailed account of this trip appears elsewhere in this issue. (*See page* 224).

Watch out all you marksmen, we are aiming for Bisley this year. Our Unit shooting team, under the guidance of our new Adjutant, **Major Roy Dobin,** Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, now suitably integrated and wearing a blue pullover, is practising hard and hopes to show the Corps how to shoot, firstly at the B.A.O.R. meeting, and later at Bisley.

Popular Q.M. leaves

Before leaving B.A.O.R., our outgoing Quartermaster, **Major Bob Thomson, M.B.E., D.C.M.,** Scots Guards, was inveigled into attending a Unit exercise briefing which turned out to be a



SLIGHTLY INFORMAL SEND-OFF

Major Bob Thomson inspects an unusual Guard of Honour

Members of the Guard, *Left to Right:* Lance-Corporals Paddy Power and Dave Johnson, Private Jock Crichton and W.O.I Jack Stagg!

Looking on: Captain Paul Webb, Major Alan Yeoman

presentation of a Royal Signals plaque to him by our youngest soldier, **Signalman Gene Moy.** This was not all though, for before he finally left he inspected a guard of honour mounted by **W.O.II Jack Stagg** and his cooks.

260 Signal Squadron, Shoeburyness

Six weeks old—and going fine

IT was certainly no idle threat, but a sincere promise when we said in our last issue: "Watch this space." We are now six weeks old, and what a six weeks it has been, taken up with two 10-day Exercises, plus the usual problems associated with integrating and moulding of two hitherto independent Troops, into the fine combination it is turning out to be.

During the Exercises, which were held in the Stanford Training Area, we practised numerous night moves, from which experience we have, have greatly benefited, if only in learning the traditional training drills of the Royal Artillery. Driving in complete darkness to line up one's vehicles accurately within inches of a line of masking tape, which mark our allotted spots in the B.C.P. areas, is no easy task, let us assure you.

B.A.O.R., here we come

At the time of writing, we are busily preparing our "rolling stock" for the short road journey to Tilbury Docks, where we embark for B.A.O.R. and Dortmund, which is to be our base for the next two-and-a-half months, whilst we exercise in the British Zone. During this time the balance of the Squadron left behind will be deployed during the month of June in our U.K. training areas. It is hoped to include news of our B.A.O.R. activities in our next issue.

Married soldiers well catered for

Perhaps the following will be of interest to other members of the Corps who, like us, have recently returned to the U.K. as part of an organised move to do with the defence cuts. All our married soldiers who were occupying quarters in B.A.O.R. have now been re-housed in the Southend and Shoeburyness area, mostly in brand-new detached and semi-detached houses with central heating and garages. These houses have been newly acquired on civilian housing estates. It can be said, in fact, that Shoeburyness, with all its facilities, is an ideal posting for the soldier and his family. The single soldier, whilst perhaps not so well provided for, is well recompensed by the numerous social activities to be found in the town of Southend, and the five-day week.

Private beach and sailing

As previously mentioned in our last notes, an additional asset that we boast of here is our very own private beach and sailing club located within the boundaries of the perimeter fence, and at this time of the year the sailing fraternity can be seen almost daily exercising their dinghies and cavorting up and down the Thames estuary. Among our qualified helmsmen in the Squadron are **Lieutenant Roger Barry, Corporal Tony Holmes** and **Corporal Scott,** whose enthusiasm for the sport is helping to attract other keen volunteers to have a go. **Corporal Scott** is a product of 4th Regiment's Sailing Club.

Athletics

Our Squadron team was entered for the Regimental Inter Sub-Unit Competition on Friday, 10th May, and came third, putting up a fine performance. Outstanding athletes for the Squadron, who won their individual events, were **Corporal Bassie** (he runs also for Southend Athletic Club), **Corporal Hedges,** and our very recent arrival of a few days, **Corporal Sogo,** late of 1st Regiment. Our tug-'o-war team easily won the 110-stone competition and were selected to represent 36th Regiment Royal Artillery in the District Sports Meeting in a few days time. (Could it be a coincidence that our Administrative Officer is also the Regimental Athletics Officer.

Hatches, catches and despatches

Our congratulations go out to **Sergeant** and **Mrs. G. R. Thomas** on the birth of a son, at Eastwood, on 3rd May.

We have said farewell during the month to **Sergeant Stevens,** who becomes a A.D. policeman here in this camp, and **Corporal Matthews,** who has gone to 16th Regiment. On the credit side, we welcome **Corporal Sogo** and **Lance-Corporal Trayford,** from 1st Regiment, **Lance-Corporal J. Smith,** from 2nd Regiment, and **Signalman Hibbert,** who has joined us from Harrogate.

Applications are invited from ex-Royal Signals staff who have held appointment as Royal School of Signals Instructor, Foreman of Signals, or Signal Centre Supervisor, for challenging civilian posts in West African Training School.

Good salary, free family passages and accommodation, eight weeks annual leave, three years contract in the first instance.

Write with personal details to C.C.L., 65-67 Stephyns Chambers, Bank Court, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

644 Signal Troop, United Nations Forces, Cyprus

● **As C.S.O. H.Q. UNFICYP, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Wythe's departure was quite an occasion albeit tinged with some sadness as he is retiring from the Corps.**

Bob Wythe will be missed by very many — a well-known " character " he was much respected by all who served with him. Our best wishes go with him in his new appointment as Director of Signals, Zambian Army.



SAYING FAREWELL TO HIS OWN STAFF
Left to Right: Commandant E. D. Doyle (Eire), Lieutenant R. C. K. Baynes, Captain A. T. Hanway (Canada), Lieutenant A. J. Davies



THE LAST PARADE
Lieutenant-Colonel Wythe is played out of U.N. Headquarters by two Irish pipers and escorted by members of 644 Troop

● **644 Troop are kept busy with a wide variety of duties in their interesting role with the United Nations. Apart from military duties, sports of all sorts figure prominently in the daily programme and when leave comes up there are opportunities to visit such interesting places as Beirut and the Lebanon.**



REMOTE SPOT
The Troodos RRB site is resupplied three times a week by helicopter: *Left to Right:* Signalmen Whittaker, Mairs and Lloyd



IN CONTROL
Signalman Payne, telegraph operator, on shift in H.Q. United Nations Radio Room

The Corps' most remote Troop?

633 Troop, B.F.P.O. 12

Report from the Faraway Caribbean

(To say nothing of the Corps' three man detachment on Beef Island, Virgin Islands)



IN GOOD HEART—633 TROOP POSE FOR THE CAMERA
Left to Right: (Standing): Signalmen Boag, Ovington, Corporal Whelan, Signalmen Wood, O'Grady, Humphries, Corporal Watt, Lance-Corporal Richardson. *(Seated):* Sergeant Dew, Captain White, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Abbiss, Sergeant Snowdon

A 1,000 Mile Spread

HAVING made no contribution to THE WIRE for several months, many readers will doubtless have forgotten that there is still a Corps " presence " in the West Indies.

It was approximately eight months ago that the decision was taken to amalgamate the old 633 Troop, based on the Central American mainland at Belize, British Honduras, with the Corps detachment manning the Joint Relay Station at Nassau, in the Bahamas.

One happy result (for your scribe, anyway) was the appointment of the first officer commanding, **Captain Don White,** to look after the newly constituted Troop. At the time of the appointment few people were very forthcoming with suggestions on how to run two halves of a Troop a thousand miles apart; nevertheless a drill has evolved which goes something like this:—

White books a flight to Nassau, stops overnight at Miami en route (£10 for a *bed*!), spends three to four days in Nassau, living in the luxurious Gleneagles Hotel, administers the Troop detachment, returns to Belize with another night "roughing it" at the Miami International Airport Hotel. On return, books next flight for four weeks hence; Tough!

And what of our activities these past months?

The Corps shows it can communicate

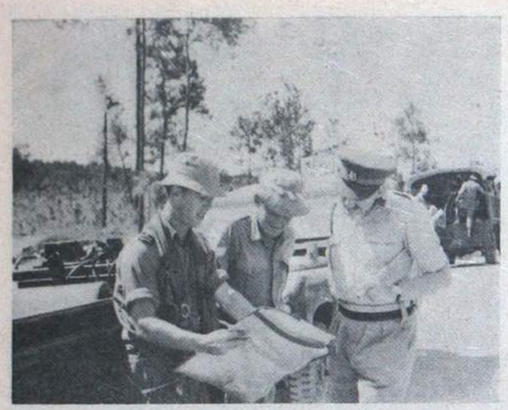
The first unusual task we undertook arose out of a conversation between the Captain of H.M.S. *Falmouth* and the O.C., when the former's ship arrived off Belize for a courtesy call recently. It appeared that a message from the vessel to the Governor of British Honduras had become delayed en route. Now, as everyone in the Corps well knows, it is absolutely no use saying " Ah, but you should have routed that message via so and so," or words to that effect. The damage had been done and a demonstration of our ability to communicate anywhere was obviously called for. By the time *Falmouth* left for U.K. the Troop Yeoman of Signals, **W.O.II Brian Abbiss,** and the ship's Chief Telegraphist had worked out a suitable schedule, to cater for a continuously varying distance and time between the two stations. Suffice to say that the ship was worked daily on the spare D11 transmitter using the station hurricane whip antenna the two thousand miles to Bermuda, and the remaining three thousand or so miles back to U.K. on the main sloping vee array. Our final schedule, with *Falmouth* at anchor off Devonport on 27th March at 16.00, closed with a suitable exchange of best wishes. The operators concerned with this reasonable effort were **Corporal Paddy Whelan, Signalman Brendan O'Grady** and **Signalman Noel Humphries.**

Also in the 'Met' report business

Our second slightly unusual job occurred during the Company changeover, at which time "B" Company, The Green Howards took over from No. 2 Company, the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. We had arranged an admin link on R/T with the two Argosy aircraft conveying the new Company on the last leg of the flight from Kingston, Jamaica. Accordingly, the D11 was opened up on S.S.B. at four in the morning to await the arrival of the first Argosy at six. The duty operator duly made contact with the aircraft whilst still some distance out and was promptly asked for a met report. It appeared that Kingston only had a sketchy plan of the prevailing weather at Belize and could not contact Belize tower at all (this we already knew—" Belize International Airport " is not exactly a Heathrow and closes in the evening until 6 a.m.). Royal Signals operators are nothing, if not adaptable, and a rapid amateur met report was prepared without the aid of instruments. Wind speed, for instance, was assessed on the rate of drift of a puff of cigarette smoke! In the event, both navigators expressed their appreciation.

C.S.O. greeted with rum and steel band

Finally, 29th March saw the arrival of the Chief Signal Officer, Strategic Command, **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray,** at Nassau, for the start of a week's visit that was to take in both detachments. The tour got off to a somewhat informal start at Windsor Airport, Nassau, where the Brigadier's arrival coincided with that of a large party of tourists from the U.S. As a result the C.S.O. was greeted simultaneously by the O.C. and a native steel band in full cry. The air of informality continued as a glass of White Bacardi and crushed ice was thrust into the Brigadier's hand by a rather pretty member of the welcoming committee! In the succeeding days, the C.S.O. was able to see the Troop at work and speak to each member. **Sergeant Patrick Grattan** was in charge of the excellent arrangements at Nassau, not the least of which was the hiring of a suitable self-



DISCOVERY

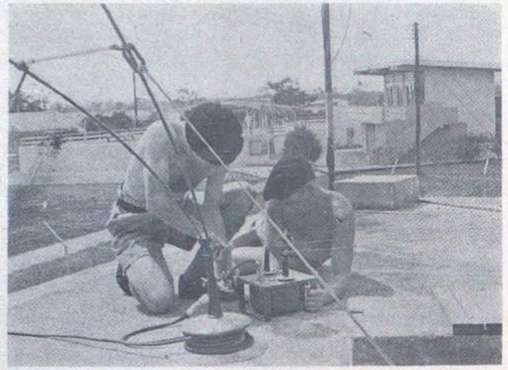
Brigadier Gray is briefed by a young officer in the Green Howards. He turns out to be Lieutenant Mike Bradley, son of Major-General Peter Bradley late S.O.-in-C.!

drive transport for the occasion. This turned out to be a fully automatic cream coloured Ford Mustang which—as American television proclaims and the C.S.O. found out—is called the "Wild One." Regrettably, as the car went into overdrive at 75 m.p.h. and appeared to be on the verge of disintregration, the full capabilities of the engine were never tested, but the O.C.'s. nerves were. . . . The Nassau detachment having set the pace for the visit, the British Honduras chaps were very much on their mettle. Again the C.S.O. had a full and varied programme including a flight up country to watch the Green Howards in training. There the C.S.O. met **Lieutenant Mike Bradley,** son of our former Signal Officer in Chief, **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O.** The day ended with a journey resembling a jungle Cook's tour, back to Augustine Airstrip, during which time it became apparent that our cipher N.C.O., **Sergeant Dave Snowdon** knew more about map reading than the Infantry N.C.O. accompanying us. However, **Sergeant Snowdon** has been in British Honduras for a long time. Finally, all too soon, the day came for the C.S.O. to return to U.K. A final glass of beer with the chaps in the airport, and we were back to normal again. This means preparing for the hurricane season, which will be upon us in June through to November. Construction of a



WELL DONE

Brigadier Gray congratulates Private Williams of the infantry on working his A41 set 52 miles back to Airport Camp



LOCAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Corporal Paddy Whelan and Signalman John Ovington carry out antenna maintenance. In foreground hurricane twin V. In background swimming pool

complete range of hurrican antennas is now complete and the communication centre is entirely self-sufficient and hurricane proof (or so they say!). Belize was destroyed in 1931, 1955 and 1961, and last year missed the most destructive hurricane of the century, code name Beulah, by only 200 miles. This one swung inland to the north into Southern Texas, where it did a reputed 40 millions of dollars damage. We will keep you posted.

Stop Press 1

In this age of records, ranging from cramming perspiring students into telephone boxes to squatting atop tall poles, can anyone beat the following.

The Troop is holding an M.P.T. III course for four men at longitude 88 degrees 18 minutes West. Anyone having held a course further west for fewer men is invited to submit proof of same to O.C. 633 Troop.

Stop Press 2

The Royal Signals three-man detachment on Beef Island, Virgin Islands, currently working daily to Nassau, are now operating their S.R. C11 daily to British Honduras, at a range of approximately 1,500 miles. Well done, 30th Regiment. *(How about this for an unusual posting.—Editor).*

Radio Hams Note

VP1DW is now active on 10 and 20 metre C.W., most days, between 19.00 and 21.00 Z. Because of severe Q.R.M. from the U.S., any station calling is advised to reply approximately 10 KHz higher. Any Corps amateur wishing to make a scheduled contact should write to the O.C. at British Honduras Garrison, B.F.P.O. 12.

H.Q. 13th Signal Group (Volunteers) Glasgow

Now over a year old

IT is now over a year since the formation of 13th Group (Volunteers) on 1st April, 1967. The activities of all Units in the Group, or Brigade, as we prefer to call it, have been related fairly regularly in both THE WIRE ond the T.A.V.R. Magazine, and last month we contributed a short article on the part played by our Headquarters in the Glasgow hurricane operation in January this year. This article, therefore, is about the Brigade as a whole, and is of a collective nature.

Well spread out

The Brigade is commanded by **Brigadier G. Hoerder,** assisted by **Major Lloyd, W.O.II Howells, Lance-Corporal Evans** and **Signalman Barraclough.** The Deputy Commander, **Colonel H. E. Lang,** is a Volunteer Officer, who was C.S.O. 52 (L) Division, after commanding 52 (L) Division Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Units of the Brigade are spread throughout the United Kingdom as follows: 32nd Regiment in Scotland (Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen); 38th Regiment in the Midlands (Sheffield, Notts and Derby); 39th Regiment in the South East (London and Tunbridge Wells; 55th (Independent) Squadron (T. & A.V.R. I) split for recruiting purposes between Liverpool, Cardiff and London.

Although this is quite a geographical spread, the civil airline service from Glasgow is one of the best in the country, and we can reach any Unit or sub-Unit of the Brigade within 3½ hours. The H.Q. is situated in Glasgow, as the Commander has a dual role. In addition to commanding the Brigade, he undertakes, on behalf of the G.O.C., Scotland, a large number of command and liaison functions in the City of Glasgow and in the West of Scotland.

Off to a good start

We have had a busy and successful year and there is no doubt that the T. & A.V.R. II has definitely got off to a very good start. Apart from the Royal Signals, T. & A.V.R. Weekend, held at the School of Signals, Blandford, in January, which was much enjoyed by all those who could participate in it, our major collective functions recently have been the Brigade Commander's Study Period in Edinburgh, on 9th/10th March, and the Brigade Permanent Staff Convention at Sheffield, where 38th Regiment were hosts, on 30th April/1st May.

"Beyond the threshold of pain"

The study period, which was attended by officers from London, Sheffield, Derby, Liverpool, Cardiff, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, appears to have been a tremendous success if the letters of appreciation were anything to go by, although one officer from a very Southern Regiment, when asked by the Chief of Staff Scottish Command—one of our guests—whether she had enjoyed the pipers during dinner, replied: "It was beyond the threshold of pain!" We are very grateful to H.Q. Scottish Command for their help in loaning us both the Command Study Centre and the H.Q. Mess, and to the School of Signals for those two most interesting presentations on Satellite Communications and the Bruin Plan.

The Permanent Staff Convention included the C.O.s, Training Majors, A.O.s, Q.M.s, R.S.M.s, F. of S., Y. of S., Chief Clerks and Senior P.S.I.s from all Units in the Brigade. The main aims were to exchange ideas, discuss problems common to all, and to foster a Brigade spirit. It was a very valuable get together and a most enjoyable occasion, thanks largely to the excellent organisation and administrative arrangements by 38th Regiment (V).

Off to Cyprus

Annual Camps last year were all held in the U.K. (Scarborough and Crowborough) and concentrated mainly on individual and sub-Unit training. This year, however, 55th (Independent) Squadron (T. & A.V.R. I) is flying to Cyprus for its camp in October; 38th Regiment is carrying out a large scale Regimental Exercise from Beckenham to Central Wales, via Northampton, Oxford, Bristol and South Wales; 32nd and 39th Regiments are carrying out smaller scale Exercises based on Scarborough and, in addition, detachments from 32nd Regiment are providing communications for the Port Regiment R.C.T's three camps at Browndown, near Portsmouth.

Morale excellent—equipment up to date

It is a great privilege for the Corps to have these three new T. & A.V.R. Signal Brigades, with their excellent morale and up-to-date signal equipment, getting better trained every week; and speaking as one of the T. & A.V.R. Brigades, it is wonderful to feel so intimately part of the Royal Corps of Signals and to find at practically every major T. & A.V.R. function, assistance and participation from either the Training Brigade or the School of Signals—usually both. We, in the Reserve Army, are really very, very grateful for their tremendous help and co-operation and also for that of the Signals Directorate in the Ministry of Defence, who, we believe, are fighting hard on our behalf to overcome our main worry of insufficient Permanent Staff.

36 (Eastern) Regiment (Volunteers) Wanstead

A REGIMENTAL Cocktail Party was held on 20th April in the ancient Stationers' Hall in the City of London. The guests included the S.O.-in-C., Commander 12 Group, **Mr. Patrick Jenkin, M.P.,** and the Mayor of Wanstead. The function marked the change of command from **Lieutenant-Colonel E. O. Smith, M.B.E., D.C.M.,** to **Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. Willway.** The Honorary Colonel, **Sir Derek Greenaway,** paid a very warm tribute to the former's achievement in handling the re-organisation and moulding the new Regiment so quickly into an efficient force; a sentiment shared by the whole Regiment. The C.O. was dined out by the officers during a study weekend at Harlow, and by the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.'s during a dinner preceding the all ranks Spring Ball at R.H.Q.

The outdoor training cycle has begun with Troop and Detachment marking up Exercises held on 4th/5th May. The elements at Bedford (a Troop of 54 (East Anglian) Squadron and 40 Troop) combined the Exercise with the "adoption" of an old comrade, **Mr. Romney,** who first joined the Unit at Bedford, then a telegraph section of 1st (East Anglian) Divisional Company, R.E., in 1908. The local Press and Anglia T.V. took photographs of **Mr. Romney** comparing equipment, ancient and modern, and meeting the men and women in the Unit today.

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLF SPRING MEETING

The Royal Signals Corps Golf Spring Meeting was held at Catterick on 18th/19th April and some 39 golfers took part.

The trophies were won by:

Royal Signals Open Championship.—**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) S. Mortenson,** 40th (U) Signal Regiment (V).

Royal Signals Handicap Challenge.—**Sergeant F. Crutchley,** 8th Signal Regiment

Royal Signals Individual Challenge (Stableford).— **W.O.I D. F. Reed,** H.Q., Training Brigade.

Royal Signals Foursome Challenge (Stableford). — **Major (Retd.) J. Telfer** and **Staff Sergeant P. Barnett,** 11th Regiment.

Mrs. Clarkson, wife of Commander, Training Brigade, presented the Corps Trophies to the winners.

Stop Press

We were delighted to hear that **General Eric Cole** (late of the Corps) won the Generals' Cup at the Army Golf Meeting and that **Corporal Bill Milne** was runner-up in the Army Championship.—Editor).

Corps Sporting Personalities

19th Regiment Hockey Players—A remarkable Record

ANYONE who has been stationed in Singapore and interested in sport will know that 19th Regiment have always had a first rate hockey team. Other people's sporting records usually make dull reading, but just read about the list of successes of this remarkable team. Indians and Pakistanis are known the world over as great hockey players, and there are many Indians playing in Singapore sides today. Of the 12 men who consistently represented the Regiment nine were Malays and three were Chinese. The captain was aged 41 and played inside-right! This was their record from the period October, 1967, to February, 1968:

Won the Singapore Island Six-a-Side Competition (25th February), competing against all civilian and Service sides on the island.

Won the FARELF Cup (Singapore Zone) Army Knock-out Competition.

Won the FARELF Cup Knock-out Competition, beating both Malayasian and Hong Kong.

Won the R.A.F. Tengah Six-a-Side and Knock-out Competition.

Won both the R.A.F. Changi Knock-out and League Competitions.



19th SIGNAL REGIMENT 6-A-SIDE HOCKEY TEAM
(*Standing, Left to Right*): Commanding Officer (Umpire), Lance-Corporal Selvarajah (JC), Signalman Tam Lak (JC), Corporal Hassan (C), Captain D. E. Burt (Hockey Officer) (*Crouching, Left to Right*): Sergeant Nizar (Captain) (JC), Lance-Corporal Abdullah (SJC), Corporal How (SJC), Corporal Ashaari (JC)
S — Selected to play for State. J — Joint Service Colours. C — Corps Colours



19th SIGNAL REGIMENT HOCKEY TEAM
(*Back Row, Left to Right*): Commanding Officer (Umpire), Signalman Sharifuddin, Sergeant Jaafar (C), Signalman Tam Lak (JC), Lance-Corporal Jaabar, Sergeant Santa Maria, Captain D. E. Burt (Hockey Officer). (*Front Row, Left to Right*): Corporal Hassan (C), Corporal Ashaari (JC), Staff Sergeant Lee, Sergeant Nizar (Captain) (JC), Lance-Corporal Abdullah (SJC), Lance-Corporal Selvarajah (JC), Corporal How (SJC)
S — Selected to play for State. J — Joint Service Colours. C — Corps Colours

Two members of the team represented the Republic of Singapore.

Six members of the team were awarded Joint Services Colours.

Eight members of the team were awarded Royal Signals Singapore Corps Colours.

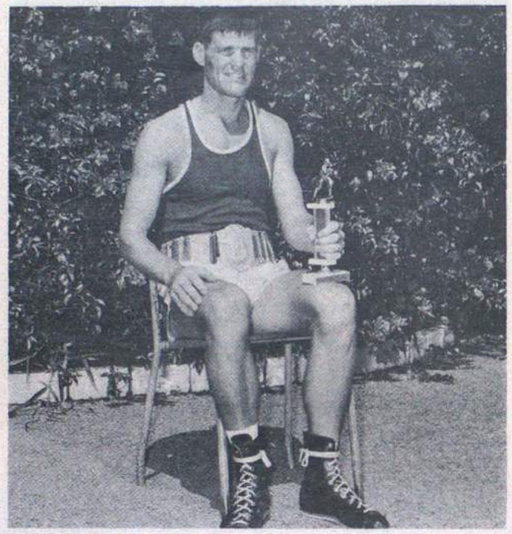
Note.—In the team photographs S=State Players, J=Joint Services Colours, C=Corps Colours.

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.

Corps Sporting Personality

Lance-Corporal 'Mick' Annis, of 19th Signal Regiment



Lance Corporal 'Mick' Annis wearing his FARELF championship belt and holding the Singapore Open Champion's Trophy

LANCE-CORPORAL 'MICK' ANNIS, of 19th Signal Regiment has had a good season's boxing! His record at the moment, out of a total of 173 bouts is WON 145; LOST 27; DRAWN 1. He holds the following titles for the middleweight division:

Singapore Island Amateur Champion (all comers); Singapore District Open Champion; FARELF Open Champion; winner of the Inter-Services Middleweight Championship.

Lance-Corporal Annis works as a 'fault-finder' on R.A.F. Station, Changi. Care to find fault with him? A 174th bout can be arranged!

Operation Ping Pong

Five table tennis fans see the European Championships and have some amusing adventures

By Craftsman John Bassett, R.E.M.E., of 12 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, L.A.D.

THIS operation was conceived in the minds of three enthusiasts who managed to secure seats at an International table tennis match in Osnabruck. Delighted at the superb display they witnessed, Corporal Vic Glasspool, Lance-Corporal John Tapscott and Craftsman John Bassett immediately decided to probe the S.H.Q. Block of 12 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, to see what could be done to organise an expedition to the European Championships in Lyons, France.

Will they—Won't they

We were not very hopeful as we went to the Training Office, but we felt that we must try. We were amazed at the reception we got. **Staff Sergeant Gordon Pickard** promised to seek out all possibilities and try his utmost to send us all to France. The Commanding Officer, **Major Alan Yeoman,** and the Second-in-Command, **Captain Paul Webb,** were, to a certain extent, for the idea. **Staff-Sergeant Pickard** devised an initiative scheme for us to carry out whilst we were in France, and then proceeded to badger **Major Yeoman** and **Captain Webb** for their approval of

(*Continued on page* 225)

(*Continued from page* 224)

the plan. We were kept on tenterhooks for days. It seemed that there was never a moment when one of us was not in the Training Office with an enquiry. **Staff-Sergeant Pickard** said that we would have a greater chance of success if we could get some more people interested. Our numbers immediately rose and **Corporal Eric Thomas** and **Signalman Roy Lyon** were selected to go with us. There was nothing to do but wait for the word of approval to come. There were mysterious rumours of conferences. However, all that was to be got from our now very worried, patient Training Staff-Sergeant was: "I'm still trying lads; nothing has come through yet." I thought I was patient, but I could not stop myself from phoning the Training Office or leaving the L.A.D. Workshops on obscure errands to find out what was happening. Then came the order, and we all had to report to the Training Office, where we heard **Staff-Sergeant Pickard** say quietly: "You can go."

Success

Pandemonium broke loose. All that week preparations were made. Post Office Savings Bank books were hastily sent away to see what capital was available. Credits were applied for from the Pay Office to swell our pockets. Then yet another stroke of luck, the Orderly Room staff lent their assistance and railway warrants were made out to Metz, in France. This meant that we only had to pay for the return journey, Metz to Lyons. This saved us a considerable amount of money, which, as will be seen later, was urgently needed.

A 'cheap' hotel

At last Friday, the second day of the Easter recess, we set forth on Operation "Ping Pong." There were only three of us as **Corporal Glasspool** and **Lance-Corporal Tapscott** were on leave, and were flying to Lyons a few days later from England. The connections were easy to Metz, but there a hitch developed. We arrived at 21.30 hours and the next train to Lyons did not leave until 08.00 hours the next morning. We set about looking for a cheap hotel for the night. This "cheap" hotel cost 35 Francs (approximately £3.10.0) for the night. If this was to be the pattern of our accommodation we would soon be in trouble financially. Next morning we caught the train to Lyons, arriving at 13.00 hours.

The first idea of mine; to go to the stadium where the games were being held and to find accommodation close by. This was a complete failure as there was nowhere suitable. So back we went to the railway station and into the first "cheap" hotel. We then sallied forth to find a Youth Hostel which we were assured was in the area. Four hours and about 10 kilometres later, we found one. After using my charm and excellent French on the caretaker, he informed me that we could not stay as we were not members. So I said: "We will join." After pondering over that single statement for an hour he admitted that it was a possibility, and that I was not to give up hope. Eventually we were let in for the next 12 days. This cost us 62 Francs (£6).

The money situation was fast becoming a major problem, so we turned to cooking our own food and were lucky, for **Craftsman John Bassett** was in our midst, being noted as a "Chef de Resistance," or something like that. We forged on through the hazards surrounding our existence in a true traditional British soldierly manner.

We make a name for ourselves

A plane from London brought the other two members of our group to Lyons and after bartering a second time with the caretaker of the Youth Hostel, the two new arrivals were shown to their suites and we all settled in amicably with the incessant stream of other hostellers who came and went. Within the first three days of the tournament we had met, and taken, an American, a Canadian and a Frenchman to the game with us. **Corporal Glasspool** was certain that the Frenchman was of Oriental stock, a Viet-Cong, who was here to terrorize the American who had become a member of our group. As the days passed by the table tennis became more and more interesting and our money got lower and lower. We were now the firm favourites of the people we met on the buses to and from the stadium. As they were more or less the same people every day, having "Les Anglais" aboard was quite a novelty to them. One exasperated ticket collector, who was trying to do his job faithfully, first could not understand why the ticket he stamped had already been stamped by himself, two passengers ago. So he gave up hope, swung his arms to heaven, and continued up the bus, shaking his head and muttering "Les Anglais, les Anglais!"

High powered finance

It was indeed an initiative test for the five of us to get to the stadium, as we had only six francs between us. Travelling on two buses at one franc per person each, made us do some quickly rigged mathematical problems (at least A.C.E. III standard!) and provoked some more head-shaking. I had sent home for some more money by telegraph and it was taking much longer than anticipated. But just as we were resigned to a strict diet, which would have made a Bhuddist Monk envious, it arrived. I kissed the clerk in the Post Office in strict De Gaulle fashion, sang a verse of the "Marseillaise" and departed hastily to order food for my fellow sufferers. This just kept us going until we left. All too quickly, the time came to return to Osnabruck.

Apart from a bit of hitch-hiking, the return trip was uneventful. We have made up our minds to see next year's championships in Munich, a little nearer home this time.

Parachuting in Cyprus — The Corps makes its mark

WE are indebted to Lieutenant (T.O.T.) John Jupe, of 261 Squadron for the following graphic account of the Cyprus Parachute Championships in which the Corps won the team event and were runners-up in the individual event.

Cyprus's first Parachute Championships were a resounding success. And that's not only the view of the competitors. Lots of people who found themselves near the Island's hot spot, Nicosia, made their way to the new Nicosia dropping zone to watch the three day event.

The weather was excellent for spectators, but the winds were sometimes marginal for the jumpers. However, only one sprained knee was sustained during the whole competition.

Here follows an on the spot, as it was happening, report from one of our own competitors.

They said Hugh had no chance

It is 10.30 hours, the competition is two hours old. We are competitors, hanging around, awaiting our turn to jump. We look at the wind, discuss the chances of our chief rivals, watch the scores going up on the board and wait.

Today, the first day, will decide the Individual Champion. There are thirty-four competitors, five are Royal Signals.

Time for us. **Captain Mike Forge,** of UNFICYP Signals, climbs into his faded flying suit and fits his gear. **Lieutenant Hugh Bennett** and **Lieutenant John Jupe,** our own competitors, do the same, and we walk clumsily across to the plane. Our plane, a Tripacer, carries three parachutists, one comfortably, two uncomfortably. We check each others gear and clamber in, the comfortable seat goes to **John,** due deference to his long service in hard stations. **Mike** and **Hugh** sit squeezed together on the floor. All in, pilot as well. Right, off we go.

Each of us wears two parachutes, the main on our backs, and the reserve across our stomach. The reserve has a normal military C9 canopy. It is unmodified, and will be used only if the main fails to open properly. The main is so modified that in still air it will carry us forward at a speed of between four and ten m.p.h., depending on the type of modification. Our rate of descent will be about 18 f.p.s. We wear crash helmets to protect our heads from the parachute harness as the 'chute deploys, and from the ground, should we make a bad landing

The plane climbs to our jumping altitude. Both the other chaps look relaxed and confident. Wonder if one day I will be like that. **Mike** might win the championships, you can never tell about him. He is a man of talents and surprises. **John** stands a chance of winning his class. They say that though his free fall technique is terrible, he handles his canopy well. **Hugh,** they say, has no chance, and has entered the contest for fun. He has no idea about how to free fall or handle his canopy, and always leaves the plane at the wrong place.

We jump, go up again, jump again. **Hugh** somehow has a very good score and leads the field. But still to complete their jumps are some tough customers. **Sergeant Jan Sparkes,** R.A.F., ex-R.A.F. Falcon, with more than 600 jumps, **Adrian Hill,** of



PRESENTATION OF TEAM PRIZE TO ROYAL SIGNALS TEAM

Left to right; Sergeant Bill Elliot 9th Signal Regiment, Lieutenant Hugh Bennett, 261 Signal Squadron, Lieutenant John Jupe, 261 Signal Squadron by, Mrs Hermione Knott, wife of Air Vice Marshal Knott, C.B., D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C. Chief of Staff, British Forces Cyprus.

the High Commission, more than 300, **Flight-Lieutenant Bruce Burman,** from Bahrain, and **Captain Ray Ryan,** R.E.M.E., from Dhekelia.

The runner-up to the Individual Champion at the end of the day, goodness knows how, is Hugh.

Nine Teams and the Competition is hot

The second day, a strong breeze and the Team Competition. Nine teams are competing, one from the Corps. Each team has three members. All members must leave the plane on the same "run in" across the target. Favourites? R.A.F. Akrotiri, Nicosia and Royal Signals in that order.

Nearly eleven o'clock, four teams have jumped. Nicosia, in whose team is **Captain Mike Forge,** Royal Signals, leads. I haven't had breakfast yet and its our go.

In the plane, **Hugh,** then **Sergeant Bill Elliot,** of 9th Regiment, and then **John.** The honour of the Corps rests in their hands. Hell. Cleared for take-off and up we go. How this plane manages to fly with four people in it always surprises me. There's R.A.F. Nicosia swimming pool, lovely, cool and blue down there. Wish I was in it instead of up here. Now we've reached our jumping height, the Control Towers clears us to jump, wind speed, 12 to 15 knots. We start to run in.

John is the "Spotter." His is the responsibility for deciding where in relation to the target we shall have to leave the plane. He sits by the open door watching the dropping zone pass beneath us. At this wind speed his "spotting" must be good, and so must our canopy handling. So far today no team has landed all its members inside the target.

John taps the shoulder of the pilot for a small change of direction. We are over the target, 100 yards past it, 200 yards, 300 yards, 800 yards. **John** calls "cut," swings his legs over the side as the pilot cuts the engine, grabs a wing strut, pulls himself under the wing and he's gone. In free fall he is joined first by **Bill,** and then by **Hugh.** Time to open. Where's the rip cord handle? There it is. Hands in, sharp tug, hands out, bit unstable, taking a long time. There it is, legs all over the place and the canopy is open. Where's the target gone? There it is. Now concentrate on one thing only, landing on a four-inch diameter red disc, the bull's eye of a target 2,000 feet below us, half-a-mile and 100 seconds away.

Bill lands first. He is a few yards from the disc and then is dragged stumbling away by his parachute and the wind. Almost exactly in the same place lands **John,** who follows **Bill,** and his parachute across the field. Then **Hugh,** with a thud, scratching his helmet.

We have all landed near the "bull." We don't know it yet, but the team prize is our.

At the end of daylight we are presented with our cups and tankards. All are filled and emptied many times at the kebab and dance party later.

But two other members of the Squadron are even happier than we are. They have made their first jump. For Signalman James Bartley and Signalman George Mortimer, there will never be a day quite like this again.

Summary of major sporting achievements 1967/68

Tennis

THE season started well, but the team was later weakened due to postings and unavoidable absence of some of the stronger players. However, results were better than in 1966. Six matches were won, five lost and one drawn.

Corps Championships, 1967, were held at the Salisbury Lawn Tennis Club, between 31st July and 2nd August. The arrangements made with the club were most satisfactory.

Winners were as follows: Singles Championship, **Major G. R. Oehlers** (School of Signals). Open Doubles Championship: **Major G. R. Oehlers** and **Major D. A. C. Randel** (School of Signals). Inter-Unit Doubles Championship: School of Signals. Plate Competition: **Sergeant G. A. Adlington** (13th Signal Regiment).

Cricket

A fairly successful season, but results were down on 1966, three matches being won, three drawn, two lost and one against R.C.T. tied.

All games were interesting and those against R.C.T. and R.A.C. particularly exciting. It is of interest to note that regularly half the side was drawn from other ranks.

Major S. G. de Clive-Lowe (55 Signal Squadron (V)), and **Lance-Corporal Kilvington** (School of Signals) were awarded Army Caps for 1967. **Lance-Corporal R. Mayes** (School of Signals) also represented the Army in four matches. **Major de Clive-Lowe** has been asked to Captain the Army side in 1968.

In B.A.O.R., 2nd Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment won the Inter-Unit Cricket Championship, beating 22nd Signal Regiment by eight runs in a match, the result of which was in the balance until the last two balls.

In FARELF, the Corps team played seven matches, three of which were won, two lost and two drawn.

Golf

It was not a good season for Corps golf. The team had to rely to a great extent on players who have represented the Corps for several years, with comparatively few younger members of Corps standard coming to the fore. Of the nine matches played, only one was won, one drawn and seven lost.

Corps Autumn Golf Meeting was held at the Worplesdon Golf Club on 19th/20th September, 1967. Thirty-eight members of the Corps, past and present, entered.

Winners were as follows: Open Championship Trophy, **Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E.** Serving Officers' Challenge Cup, **Lieutenant-Colonel K. M. Evans** (Ministry of Defence). Foursome Challenge Cup, **Major D. Hall** (3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment) and **Lieutenant M. J. Lamb** (36th Regiment (V). Veterans' Trophy, **Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E.,** and **Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O.**

In FARELF the Corps team played two matches, of which one was won and one drawn.

Sailing

The Royal Signals Yacht Club had a very successful season and were unlucky not to win the Triangular v. R.E. and R.A. at Seaview. The Gunners had no wins; the Corps and the Sappers three each, but the rules gave the victory to the Sappers.

Colonels D. T. W. Gibson and **A. J. Burrows, Lieutenant-Colonel F. Ramsbottom, Major P. J. Garratt** and **Lance-Corporal W. L. Parker** helmed in the Army Trials. **Colonel Burrows** was selected as one of the four Army helms for the Inter-Services (Cunningham Cup) match, with **Colonel R. S. Holbrook** as his crew.

The main results during the season were: Inter-Unit Championship, 14th Regiment. R.A./R.E./Royal Signals Triangular, 1st, R.E.; 2nd, Royal Signals; 3rd, R.A. Inter-Services Club Match, Royal Signals were 5th out of 26 entries. Royal Signals v. R.E.M.E., Royal Signals won by 29½ to 41½ points. Royal Signals Dinghy Championships, **Corporal W. L. Parker** (224 Squadron); 2nd, **Major N. D. Shaw** (H.Q., Comcan).

Hockey

The response for the Corps Trials in September was the best for a long time, some 30 players of Corps standard attending. To strengthen the team, for the first time, players were brought over from B.A.O.R., but this is a heavy drain on funds. During the season fourteen representative games were played, of which six were won, seven lost and one drawn. A further four games were played during the Bournemouth Easter Festival, of which three were won, and one lost. This was the Corps first appearance at Bournemouth, and the debut was most successful, particularly as the standard of hockey played was high.

During the season, the following played for representative teams within the U.K.: **Captain N. Moss** (Staff College, Camberley), The Army and Combined Services; **Captain S. R. Carr Smith** (H.Q., Training Brigade), The Army; **Sergeant A. Coldwell** (7th Regiment), The Army; **Captain A. M. Boyle** (School of Signals), Dorset; **Major P. Wetherill** (School of Signals), Dorset 'A.'

In FARELF, two Inter-Corps games were played: v. R.E., which was won, and v. R.E.M.E., which was lost.

In Cyprus, **Captain R. Hutley** was selected to represent the Army in Cyprus during the season.

Rugby Football

The Corps played five matches, winning two (v. R.A. and R.E.) and losing three (to R.E.M.E., R.M.A. Sandhurst and R.A.F. Signals Command). Although the team played hard, open rugby and showed excellent spirit throughout, during the second half of the season the absence of a number of the regular, experienced players was greatly felt.

Captin Thompson (School of Signals) and **Corporal Cairns** (7th Regiment) had Army Rugby Trials during the season.

In FARELF, the Corps played two representative games, against R.E., which was lost, and against R.C.T., which was drawn.

In B.A.O.R., 7th Regiment reached the B.A.O.R. final, where they were beaten by The Dukes, 12—3 after a very hard-fought game.

Squash

This is the first season in which squash has featured as a team game. Out of 11 matches played, three were won and eight lost. Whilst results do not look too good many games were hard fought and lost by narrow margins and the true standard is not reflected. Much credit for getting Corps team squash under way must go to **Major D. A. C. Randel,** the Secretary, and **Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. Furlonge,** the President. One of the man difficulties in team squash is that of distance. To assemble a full team for an isolated match, players may be asked to make a return journey of 200 miles or more. In the future, thought should be given to "tours" as in hockey and rugger.

In, the first-ever Soldiers' Open Squash Championships **Corporal F. Smith** (8th Regiment) won the Open Title. He was also selected to represent Northern Command in the U.K. Inter-Command Championships. **Corporal Newman** (216 Paracute Squadron) represented the Corps, the only O.R. to do so.

Corps representative colours have been awarded to the following players: **Lieutenant G. W. Howard, Major P. Wetherill, Captain A. R. Seward, Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. Furlonge, Major J. K. Heyes, Major D. A. C. Randel** and **Captain M. A. Cornforth.**

Badminton

Major G. R. Oehlers (School of Signals) won the Army Single Championship and was runner-up in the doubles. He was awarded Army Colours for 1967-68.

Ski-ing

In the B.A.O.R. Ski Championships, the Corps had notable success, as follows: Biathlon Relay 'A,' winners, 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment. Veteran (British Army) Swedish Trophy, 1st, **W.O.II Marshall,** 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment. Veteran (British and Commonwealth Army), 2nd, **W.O.II Marshall,** 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

Fencing

In the B.A.O.R. Fencing Championships 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment won both the 4th Divisional and B.A.O.R. titles. They now go on to the Army Finals to be held in Aldershot in May.

Shooting

1967 was another exceptionally good year for the Corps, and on the total of cups won, the number of individuals who shot in Army teams and the number who shot in the final stage of the Army Championship (thirteen), it was the best year ever. For the fourth year in succession, the Corps beat R.A. and R.E. to win the Woolwich Trophy; came third in the Methuen, and won the Mappin Cup. **Captain D. C. N. Genders** (19th Regiment) was third in the Army Championship and won the A.R.A. Bronze Jewel. He was closely followed by **Captain D. M. Insall** (30th Regiment) who was fourth for the second time in three years.

30th Regiment was the Corps most sucessful unit and practically cleared the board in the Aldershot District Meeting, getting six firsts, five seconds and two thirds against strong opposition, including The Greenjackets and R.E.M.E. At Bisley they won three team prizes, and in the Dorset County Meeting they again swept the board.

Corps representation in Army teams was a record, having the Team Captain and two shooting members in the Rifle Eight, S.M.G. Eight and the Pistol Eight; five shooting members in the Short Range Twelve, four in the Long Range Twelve, and five in the Small Bore Team.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Captain of Corps Shooting, also captained the Army Eight, and the Ireland Team in all its international matches, and represented Great Britain in Canada for the Centennial Year Meeting. In the latter he was most successful, being the highest British scorer and second in the Governor-General's Prize after a shoot-off .

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Gilbertson also gained International honours and was a member of the National Rifle Association Team which toured the Channel Islands.

In FARELF, the Corps also had outstanding success in the Inter-Services, Singapore District, R.E.M.E. and R.A.O.C. Meetings, 19th Regiment winning the Major Units Championship in the former, together with many individual as well as team successes.

In B.A.O.R., after a lapse of some years, two Corps Meetings were held, and 28 members shot in the Army Central Meeting in the U.K., **Signalman M. Corcoran** (7th Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron) winning the Rifle Brigade Cup for the best young soldier.

Swimming

Only one Corps Match was held in 1967, against R.A.F. Signals Command. After a very close struggle, the R.A.F. won by the narrow margin of four points.

Apprentice Tradesman J. M. Nevill (Army Apprentice College, Harrogate) was selected to represent the Army on a number of occasions in the 200 and 400 metres freestyle.

IN FARELF, **Lance-Corporal Chani** and **Signalman Chong** (both of 19th Regiment) were selected to represent the Republic of Singapore at the SEAP Games in Bangkok. **Lance-Corporal Chani** won the Silver Medal in the high dive and **Signalman Chong** was fifth in the 100 metres freestyle.

Water Polo

Two Corps matches only were played, against R.E.M.E., which was lost 7—18, and against R.A.F. Signals Command, which was won 7—1.

Captain (T.O.T.) P. W. Foakes (Army Apprentice College, Harrogate) captain of the Corps team, was selected to represent the Army during the 1967 season.

Athletics

In the pole vault, **Lance-Corporal Fenge** (31st Signal Regi-

ment (V)) has again been to the fore, setting a new Army record of 14 feet when he represented the British Army against the German Army. He was also Army and Inter-Services Champion.

Signalman L. A. Wells (14th Regiment) won the triple jump in the Army Championships and was selected as a member of the Army Team for 1967.

Cross-Country

Corporal W. Venus (3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment) was the winner in the Army cross-country and second in the Inter-Services Championships. He represented the Army v. T.A., Universities Athletic Association and Civil Service Athletic Association.

Lance-Corporal M. Gue won the Army (Cyprus) Cross-Country Championships and represented the Army in Cyprus.

Canoeing

Keen interest has been shown in this popular and developing sport. During 1967 Corps Canoeing has been most successful, culminating in the award of Army Colours to four members of the Corps for the first time ever. They were **Captain J. M. Gray** (24th Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron), **Lance-Corporal B. J. Davis** (2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal C. Cook (224 Squadron),** and **Lance-Corporal S. Sherman** (3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment).

Principal successes were: Inter Service and Army Canoe Union Championships: Senior and Junior Team Championships, A.A.C., Harrogate. Novices Touring Class Sprint Championship, **Lance-Corporal R. Bonner** and **Lance-Corporal R. Bottoms** (both of 10th Regiment). Longe Distance Championship, 2nd, **A/T S.S.M. C. Cook** (A.A.C., Harrogate) and **Lance-Corporal S. Sherman** (3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment); 3rd, **Captain J. M. Gray** and **Lance-Corporal B. J. Davis** (both of 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment).

B.A.O.R. Championships: Individual Racing Class, **Signalman T. W. Rowley** and **Signalman T. Wilkinson** (both of 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment). Team Touring Class, 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.



Courage

is the Word for Beer

Gliding

In the Army Gliding Championships, **Lieutenant L. S. Hood** (School of Signals) won the Centenary Trophy.

Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., was placed overall 11th in the Open Class and third in the Standard Class.

In the British Forces (Germany) Gliding Championship, **Captain J. H. Wheeler** (attached Army Air Corps Centre) was the winner.

Association Football

The Corps played ten representative games, only two of which were won, six lost and two drawn. Whilst not a good season from the point of view of results, a lot has been achieved for next season, as a number of new players have come to light. It is of interest that no fewer than 37 players represented the Corps during the season. The trying-out of so many players resulted in the team never really settling down and producing the results of which it is capable. The benefit should be felt next year. It is of interest than an Apprentice Tradesman, **A/T Harkin** has already established himself as a regular member of the Corps Team.

During the season, **Corporal Forrester** and **Lance-Corporal Neilson** (both of 8th Regiment) were selected to represent the Army.

In FARELF, the Corps Team won the Parker Cup and only lost in the final of the Inter-Corps Championship.

In Cyprus, **Staff Sergeant Angell** and **Corporal Green** were selected to represent the Army in Cyprus and awarded their Army Colours.

Boxing

Corps Boxers are again coming into the limelight, starting with three members of the Corps being graded 1st Class in the A.B.A. Grading List for 1968. They were: Flyweight, **Lance-Corporal I. Connarty** (216 Squadron); welterweight, **Lance-Corporal G. Cutts** (30th Regiment); heavyweight, **Signalman D. Pellegrinetti** (2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment).

In the Army Individual Championships, at bantamweight, winner, **Signalman F. Carr** (2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment); welterweight, winner, **Lance-Corporal G. Cutts** (30th Regiment); heavyweight, runner-up, **Signalman D. Pellegrinetti** (2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment).

In the Combined Services Championships, at welterweight, winner, **Lance-Corporal G. Cutts** (30th Regiment); bantamweight, runner-up, **Signalman F. Carr** (2 H.Q. and Signal Regiment).

In the Junior Army Championships, in Class C (over 17½ years at 9 stones), winner, **A/T Dargan** (A.A.C., Harrogate); Class B (16½-17½ year at 8 stones), runner-up, **A/T R. Walker** (A.A.C., Harrogate).

In the B.A.O.R. Championships, at bantamweight, winner, **Signalman F. Carr** (2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment); light-middleweight, winner, **Signalman D. Wink** (2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment); featherweight, runner-up, **Signalman J. Thompson** (2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment); bantamweight, runner-up, **Corporal Jones** (28th Regiment); heavyweight, runner-up, **Signalman D. Pellegrinetti** (2nd H.Q. and Signal Regiment).

MARESFIELD MEMORIAL DEDICATED

The following account was inadvertently omitted from an earlier edition of THE WIRE.

After many delays the memorial plaque presented by the Corps was dedicated in the parish church at Maresfield, Sussex, on Sunday, 10th December, 1967. This plaque honours the memory of the men of Maresfield who gave their lives in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars and records the fact that it was "given by the Royal Corps of Signals to commemorate their stay in Maresfield from 1920 to 1925." The memorial is sited in the south-west corner of the church.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., represented the Corps in the dedication ceremony, supported by **Brigadier J. N. Barker, O.B.E.** The act of dedication was performed by the **Rev. L. D. M. Patterson,** a retired officer of the Corps. He subsequently preached, using the theme of 'Through' as his text, with a reproduction of the Corps picture hanging from the pulpit.

About 30 members of the Corps, some of whom had served at Maresfield, and their wives, were in the congregation. Unfortunately the weather prevented several others from attending.



THE CORPS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL TEAM v. R.A.P.C., CATTERICK 12th APRIL, 1968

Corporal Pritchard (24th Signal Regiment), Corporal Smurthwaite (647 Troop), Corporal Nelson (8th Signal Regiment), Corporal Brown (24th Signal Regiment), Lance-Corporal Large (8th Signal Regiment), Corporal Allison (8th Signal Regiment), Lance-Corporal Nielsen (8th Signal Regiment), Lance-Corporal Preston (8th Signal Regiment)

(*Kneeling*) Lance-Corporal Halford (8th Signal Regiment), Corporal Harvey (8th Signal Regiment), Corporal Clark (24th Signal Regiment), Corporal Forrester (8th Signal Regiment), Signalman Boot (24th Signal Regiment)

The season's record was: Played 10, Won 2, Lost 6, Drawn 2

Obituary

S.S.M. C. L. LOATES

Len, as he was always known, died on 8th May in a London Hospital.

He served in the Corps from 1938 to 1965. In those 27 years he saw service in Middle and Near East, N.W.E., but will be especially remembered in the School during mid-fifties.

He spent the last years of his service at Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate, where hundreds now making their way in the Corps, will be reminded of this helpful patient man.

Those at all levels of Corps cricket and hockey remember him as an efficient unobtrusive umpire.

He left the Army in 1965 to become a Yeoman Warder at H.M. Tower of London, a post he guarded with great pride. He returned to Harrogate in August, 1965, and before the assembled school, in the Tudor dress of a warder, received a well earned M.S.M.

To his widow Alfreda, three sons (eldest serving in Corps), and his daughter, our deep sympathy is extended. W.J.R.

SERGEANT A. K. BOOTHROYD

36 (Eastern) Regiment (V), Wanstead, writes:

It is with deepest regret that we must announce the death at the age of 37, of **Sergeant Alan Boothroyd.**

Sergeant Boothroyd died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Gillingham, Kent, on Good Friday, 12th April. At the time of his death he was serving as a P.S.I. with 44 (Cinque Ports) Squadron of this Regiment.

Sergeant Boothroyd joined the Corps in August, 1945, at the age of 14. Among other postings, he served in Cyprus from 1953 to 1956, and in B.A.O.R. from 1960 until 1965, when he returned to U.K. to his last posting with the T.A. During his service he was awarded the L.S. and G.C. Medal and the General Service (Cyprus) Medal.

The funeral took place at Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, on Monday, 22nd April, and was attended by the Commanding Officer and some 25 officers, seniors and other ranks (both regular soldiers and volunteers) from **Sergeant Boothroyd's** many friends within the Regiment.

We all express our deepest sympathy to his widow **Millie** and their four children in their sad bereavement.

SIGNALMAN ROBERT JAMES HUGHES

216 Parachute Signal Squadron writes:

IT is with great regret that we have to report the tragic death of **Signalman Robert (Taff) Hughes,** who was killed in an air crash in North Africa on 7th May.

"Taff" Hughes joined the Army in November, 1964, and was posted to the Cadre of the R.M.A., Sandhurst, on 5th August, 1965. He volunteered to be a parachutist, and in September, 1966, he successfully completed his course.

A great character, who took great delight in all that he did, both on and off duty. He was a keen parachutist, and last year he volunteered for and took part in, the parachute trials from the American C130 (Hercules) aircraft, when it was first taken into use by the R.A.F.

He had recently been to Denmark with the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, and was returning from military training in North Africa with the 3rd Battalion when he was unfortunately killed.

He was very well-known throughout the Parachute Brigade and will be sadly missed, particularly by members of 216 Parachute Squadron, both past and present.

EX-LANCE-SERGEANT G. STRANKS

Lance-Sergeant George Stranks, on 3rd April. Sergeant Stranks served in the Corps from 1934 to 1945; he was a member of the Catterick and District Branch of the Association.

CYPHER VACANCIES

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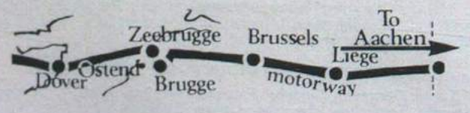
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Association News

CARDIFF BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. M. H. Jones, 43, Cartwright Lane, Fairwater, Cardiff CF5 3DB.

OUR activities ended last year with a New Year dance on 30th December, followed by a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Ball, given by our hosts of the 53rd Signal Squadron (V) on 31st December, to which our members were invited. Both events proved to be successful and enjoyable.

This year commenced with an invitation to participate in an 'At Home' organised by Port Troop, and our display stand was attractive and impressive, for which full credit must be given to **Sergeant Sneddon, Ted Whitfield, Ted Bolton** and **Freddie Nippers.**

Our St. David's Day dance, on 2nd March, though not as well attended as usual, was socially successful, and though Bill Edwards suffered agonies in the early stages, he almost beamed with relief when he knew we were going to clear with a tiny margin of profit. The Royal Signals Ladies' Club organised and ran the buffet very efficiently.

. . . a 'clobbering' on the alley

On 8th March we co-operated with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants in a skittles match and social evening, our opponents being the Royal Engineers' Association, who crept quietly away after a 'clobbering' on the alley.

We have now embarked on our most ambitious venture to date—a concert kindly given by the famed Treorchy Male Choir on 7th November at Wood Street Congregational Church. We are hoping to make this a memorable occasion and have already received very encouraging replies to invitations extended to local dignitaries, officials and celebrities. We are also attempting to pull off a reunion of all previous T.A. Commanding Officers of 53rd (W) Divisional Signals since its formation in 1920 until discontinuation of T.A. Commands.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. C. W. Kirkland, 91, Ridgehill Avenue, Sheffield, SF12 2 GN.

Mr. Kirkland writes:

Our re-formed Branch now seems to be heading very nicely in the right direction, thanks very largely to **Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. D. Francis,** the C.O. of 38th Regiment (V), who has placed at our disposal the facilities at the training centre. Our fortnightly meetings are fairly well attended and we are increasing our membership as quickly as we can. On Thursday, 2nd May, we held our first social evening to enable the ladies to get to know one another and very successful it was, too.

Indeed, we are proposing to hold another evening on 13th June, and this time with possibly a more organised programme. I am busily engaged at the moment in organising a party from our Branch to attend the re-union at Catterick, in June, and present indications suggest that about 14 members will be going. **Mr. Marriott,** a sprightly 72-year-old, attends all our meetings, complete with bicycle, and is a most welcome addition to our strength.

(Mr. Marriott made history by bicycling all the way from Chesterfield to Catterick and back for the annual re-union last year. The mere 24 miles return from Chesterfield to Sheffield and back for a branch meeting, is nothing to this doughty old warrior.—Editor.)

LIFE ASSURANCE

ITS FUNCTION. The main function of Life Assurance is the protection of present or prospective dependants against hardship resulting from your premature death and provision for yourself and them in later years if you survive normally.

INVESTMENT. Life Assurance, especially Endowment Assurance, is however also the best possible long-term investment, because the money is invested wisely, and partly in "growth equities," by the Life Assurance Company *and* because it is the only form of investment subsidised by the Government. The subsidy consists of Income Tax Allowance on two-fifths of Premiums. For those liable to Tax at 8s. 3d. in the £ this means 16.5%. Thus, a net outlay of £83 10s. a year provides a premium of £100 a year, which is 19.76% increase.

SELECTION. There is a deal of difference between Companies and between various types of Policy. Therefore, do NOT deal direct with any Company or its representatives. You need the unbiased advice of a Broker specialising in Service problems. I offer this advice without fee or obligation. I am not tied to any Company, and select the most favourable for each type of risk.

INFORMATION REQUIRED. May I suggest you should let me know your date of birth, whether married or single, dates of birth and sexes of children, rates of pay and next increase, and how much you can afford in addition to any existing outlay. If you have any Policies in force, I recommend you to let me inspect them and tell you whether they are good value. In any case they may affect the type of new Policy you should consider. With this information, I can give you recommendations which you can accept or reject as you please.

RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

SURTAX and ESTATE DUTY. Suitable action can greatly reduce the burden. If these problems are at all large let me advise you how to increase your net income AND net estate.

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ALDERSHOT BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. V. Ient, 111, Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants.

Annual Dinner, 1968. The Branch held its annual dinner on Saturday, 27th April, at the Masonic Dining Rooms, Farnborough, and it was attended by 75 members and guests combined.

The dinner was presided over by the Branch President, **Brigadier F. J. Allen, O.B.E.,** and many Corps and ex-Corps members were present. The new Branch Chairman, **Mr. A. H. Green,** introduced the speakers, who included **Mr. A. V. Ient,** Branch Hon. Secretary for the Association, who was replied to by the General Secretary, **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.** The guests were welcomed by the Chairman and this was reciprocated by **R.S.M. C. Slater,** Royal Welch Fusiliers, from the Staff College, Camberley, who incidentally, has attended many of our dinners, being introduced to the Branch by **Captain W. Howley,** Royal Signals, now in Cyprus.

Names of those present are too numerous to mention, but **W.O.II Coxon,** Yeoman of Signals, represented the R.M.A., Sandhurst, with **Sergeant Connell.** The Croydon Branch, as usual, were there, **Captain John Way** and party, including **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. (Nat) Gould.** Those who travelled for the dinner were not disappointed, I am sure, for **Mr. W. M. (Joe) Cotterell** and **Mr. F. (Frank) Jones** were there to meet them, drinking up with **Major (Darkie) Penfold,** now retired.

On the top table was our President of the Royal Signals Association himself, **Brigadier W. Guise Tucker, C.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Tucker, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.,** and **Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Morrison.**

At the end of the dinner, a mug—1 pint pewter—suitably inscribed, was presented to our late Chairman, **Mr. L. V. (Vic) Goodman,** in recognition of his services of 13 years as Branch Chairman, and this was promptly filled by **Mr. G. R. Ient,** ex-Harrogate, with the necessary beverage. Good for you, **Vic,** and many thanks.

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Many stories were told that night and all members of the Branch, who were there, wish to thank all members who travelled from Units and other Branches, to make it such a memorable evening.

One sad note to add, in closing, is that our friends in the 216 Parachute Squadron were unable to be present, owing to military duties. They were, however, ably represented by **Captain R. D. Laing,** Royal Signals, their Administrative Officer.

So, next year when you see THE WIRE notes—book up!

DORSET BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Sam Henwood, "Langley," Nursery Road, Blandford Forum.

HAVING got our feet firmly established on the ground, it was decided, after a very lengthy discussion, to hold our first annual dinner on Friday, 19th April. The Commandant, School of Signals, and his Regimental Sergeant-Major had very kindly agreed that we could hold our dinner in their Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on that date. With our President, **Major-General Moberly,** between sixty and seventy members and guests sat down to dinner in superb surroundings. Among the guests present were **Brigadier and Mrs. J. D. T. Brett, Brigadier and Mrs. W. G. Tucker, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, Brigadier and Mrs. R. Chenevix-Trench, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Gilbertson** and **R.S.M. and Mrs. W. J. Harrison.**

For a first occasion, this was an excellent evening's enjoyment, and it is hoped a forerunner of many more to come. It cannot be too strongly emphasised how both the military and civilian staff of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, School of Signals, must have worked to have made our dinner such a success—we were indeed most grateful! We were grateful, too, to our own dinner committee, which worked out all the details with the Mess Steward and his staff.

Meetings are held monthly, and we try and alternate such meetings in the ratio of two at Blandford followed by one at Dorchester.

To date, our meetings have been very well attended—we only hope that now the School of Signals has become an established military organisation in this part of the country after some forty years plus in Yorkshire, our Branch will go from strength to strength.

With this aim in view, **Bob Simpson,** of 44, Coburg Street, Dorchester, (Tel. Dorchester 791) or myself, as Secretary (Blandford 2581, Ext. 323) will be only too pleased to hear from ex-Royal Signals personnel living in the Dorset area.

Indian Signals Association

THE twenty-first reunion dinner was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters Club on 6th April. **Brigadier Freddie Allen** presided and the guests of honour were **General Sir Frank** and **Lady Messervy.**

General Sir Frank, of course, was a well-known and popular figure in the Middle East and Burma campaigns, and there was ample opportunity for the exchange of mutual reminiscences between him and his O.C. Division Signals (**Brigadier Pat Hobson**) and his C.S.O. (**Brigadier Freddie Allen**) during the course of the evening.

As usual, there was a wonderful gathering of 146 old friends from the days of past service in India. Once again the North-West Frontier, the Kurram, Waziristan, Baluchistan, Punjab and the C.P. come to life and nostalgic memories of Peshawer, Pindi, Jubbulpore, Poona, Quetta, Bangalore, and a host of other places were conjured up as old comrades met round the bar after an excellent dinner.

In spite of the inevitable "Reaper's Harvest," membership is still growing, and is now well over 300. All ranks who served in India or with an Indian Signals Unit are eligible to join for the modest sum of 5s. a year. If 300 find it is well worth while to belong, and nearly 150 attend the annual dinner, there is clearly something in the Association that could appeal to you if you served in India.

A letter to the Honorary Secretary, **Lieutenant-Colonel 'Nat' Gould,** at 65, Angel Hill, Sutton, Surrey, and you, too, could join this excellent gathering of old friends.

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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JULY/AUGUST • 1968

Vol. 22 *(New Series)* **No. 7**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

17th Gurkha Signal Regiment on a Jungle Navigation Exercise.
This photograph, taken in typical jungle conditions shows a patrol from the Regiment planning their next move after a night bivouac.
On the left, **Corporal Tekbahadur Rai** reports back to base on his manpack set while **Second-Lieutenant L. R. Smith** briefs (left to right) **Lance-Corporal Dilbahadur Gurung, Signalman Sarbadhan Rai** and **Sergeant Bishnuparsad** on the details of the next move.
Soldiering with Gurkha Signals is tough, challenging and full of reward.
(See article on page 236).

IN 1967 the Royal Signals Association made a donation of £5,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund in respect of the financial year 1966. Later in 1967 the Association made a further donation for the financial year 1967—in all, £10,000 for the years 1966 and 1967. These donations were made only after the Association had taken full and proper care of all demands made on it in respect of Corps benevolence.

There will be those who will question the diversion of these large sums from our own Corps resources to a general Army fund.

Perhaps the following extracted from the Army Benevolent Fund report for 1967, may resolve these doubts:

In all, some £310,000 was spent by the Army Benevolent Fund in helping serving and retired soldiers and their close dependants.

Ex-Soldiers
26,500 cases were dealt with and grants made by Corps and Regiments, often augmented by the Army Benevolent Fund, reached a total of £360,000. The Army Benevolent Fund itself took on 419 cases requiring major rehabilitation and spent £37,000 in so doing

Serving Soldiers
Apart from the help given by Corps and Regimental Funds the Army Benevolent Fund directly aided 201 serving soldiers and their dependants either with grants (£7,500) or loans (£63,000)—the latter to help in the purchase and furnishing of homes and to ensure continuity in the education of children in the case of soldiers shortly leaving the Service. **The Army Benevolent Fund recently made a loan of £1,300 to a serving soldier of the Corps.**

Employment
£17,500 was spent in helping in the resettlement and placing of 5,921 soldiers and ex-soldiers in employment.

Homes and Centres Caring for the Disabled or the Aged
Some 21 Homes and Centres which care for aged and disabled ex-soldiers and their close dependants received £41,000 in maintenance and special grants.

Supplementary Allowances
Regular allowances of 10/- to £1 per week amounting in all to some £14,000 were made to help augment the slender incomes of ex-soldiers and their dependants finding themselves in considerable need in their declining years.

Charitable Organisations which support the Army
Grants amounting to £43,000 were made to such organisations as SSAFA and Forces Help Society whose work is specifically in aid of the families of serving and ex-serving soldiers.

These are but some examples of the sterling work now being undertaken by the Army Benevolent Fund.

From 1945 until the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund was able to stand on its own feet, the Army Benevolent Fund helped with a total over £20,000 in Royal Signals cases.

The Army Benevolent Fund must surely command our admiration and wholehearted support.

Special Mention

A MONTHLY miscellany of Corps happenings which have come to our ears or have been sent in by readers, and are deserving of SPECIAL MENTION.

—— *Lance-Corporal Joseph Spence of 229 Squadron (Berlin)*

for being awarded H.M. The Queen's Commendation. The citation reads: "Lance-Corporal Spence with complete disregard for his own safety, undoubtedly saved the life of a German youth and but for his action the life of another youth might also have been in danger."

A full account of **Lance-Corporal Spence's** brave action, with photographs, appeared in the May/June WIRE.



[*Photo: Courtesy Berliner Bild Zeitung*

LANCE-CORPORAL SPENCE
"Complete disregard for his own safety"

—— *Lance-Corporal Corcoran of 7th Armoured Brigade Squadron (207)*

for once again emphasising his potential as a marksman and a possible Corps champion by consistently obtaining high scores throughout the B.A.O.R. 'mini' Bisley. Last year at Bisley he was Army Champion Young Soldier and made quite a stir by competing against—and incidentally beating—his father in the Army Hundred match.

—— *21st Regiment*

for becoming the overall Champion Team and Champion Team Rear Zone Area in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Skill-at-Arms Meeting—a result which can only be achieved by a consistently high standard of shooting against some very keen competition.

—— *Signalman Bailey of 10th Regiment*

for achieving first place amongst the Army entry in the Inter-Services 50 miles cycling time trials with a time of 2 hours 11 minutes. Incidentally, the Signalman once overtook **R.S.M. Gibson** in his car!

—— *Corporal Milne of 13th Regiment*

for winning the B.A.O.R. Golf Championship, then coming second in the Army Championships and being selected to represent the Army in their triangular inter-service game later in the season.

—— *Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Gilbertson, O.C. 30th Regiment*

for winning the final stage of the Regular Army Individual Small-Bore Rifle Match with a score of 396 points.

—— *R.S.M. M. F. B. Garland of 31st Regiment (V)*

for showing an excellent example of *esprit de corps* by stepping in to the rescue of 260 Squadron and presenting them with a figure of Mercury—which incidentally is a fine piece of workmanship—after this new Squadron had made an appeal through the columns of THE WIRE.

—— *Captain J. H. Wheeler, Royal Signals*

for gaining fourth place in the National Gliding Championships held recently at Dunstable. There were 40 competitors representing the very best of the country's gliding exponents. The Army gained three of the first six places in the competition.

—— *Captain P. Brunton and Lieutenant G. Howard (School of Signals) and Corporal W. Venus (3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment)*

for all being selected for the Army Athletics Team to oppose the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

—— *Signalman Patrick Clohessy of 7th Regiment*

for 'inventing' the computergram. (To see what this is turn to Unit Notes on page 248).

—— *Corporal Holden and Corporal McMillian of 7th Regiment*

for winning the B.A.O.R. individual six-mile event and the B.A.O.R. individual three-mile event respectively in the championships held recently at Sennelager.

* * *

The foregoing in no way attempts to cover all items of Corps news worthy of special mention. Something of particular interest must have occurred in YOUR unit, station, or command. Write NOW and tell the Editor about it and so help keep this a live and interesting Column.

WIRE FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

These are welcomed from ANY source. Good, clear photographs of approximately the same shape and size as the space on the outer cover on glossy paper and depicting striking or original subjects are what is needed. Unit or individual contributions gratefully received. Unsuitable photographs returned with tact by kindly Editorial Staff.

From our "In" Tray

WHO WAS THE UNIDENTIFIED LINEMAN IN OUR COVER PICTURE?

The unidentified lineman featured in our cover picture for the June/July issue has brought in a number of letters to the Editor. We think the two letters published below corroborate beyond doubt that the lineman in questions was Signalman Marcroft of 259 Squadron. Any dissentions?

Sir,

Re the cover picture on your June/July edition of THE WIRE. The lineman concerned looks remarkably like a **Signalman Steve Marcroft,** who, until October last year, served with 259 Squadron, Episkopi, Cyprus. Unfortunately, I know neither his Army number or present whereabouts. My apologies for the delay in forwarding the information. However, I have only just received my copy of THE WIRE. I should like to add that, in my view, it is an excellent magazine. I especially found interest in the review of Corps affairs by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, as it is pleasant to know what is happening at the top.

Yours sincerely,
R. Hill (Corporal).
20th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron.
B.F.P.O. 41.

Sir,

The cover photo of this month's WIRE (June/July Edition) is of **Signalman Marcroft,** then of 259 Squadron. The photo was taken during the reconstruction of the receiver site aerial field in 1966, a project necessitated by the additional circuits operated by the Squadron on conversion from COMCAN to DCN. It was a joint project involving construction teams from 33 Field Squadron (R.E.), linemen from 259 Squadron, 14th Regiment and R.A.F. Henlow and, of course the Comcan Installation Troop. I was working at receivers at the time and recall both the chaotic coming and going and also the good times we had with the "workers" when they knocked off—often much later than the rest of us! They worked hard and played hard and your cover photograph brought back memories, as I am sure it did to all who were there at that time.

Yours faithfully,
Signalman C. M. Parslow.
1 Radio Relay Troop,
2 Squadron,
16th Regiment,
B.F.P.O. 35.

AN OCCASION WHEN A WONDERFUL SPIRIT SURVIVES

Sir,

I wonder whether it would be of any interest to readers of THE WIRE to learn that the small "Special" wireless sections in which I was serving during 1943 to 1947 still have their reunion and hold an evening of real fellowship and nostalgic nattering. This year's was the twenty-first of such occasions, and the extract from the Secretary's letter (see below) gives an idea of the spirit that still prevails.

It is very interesting to read and see in THE WIRE how much technical advancement is made annually, and some of us would be lost for a while should we re-join the Corps again—but as for me it would still be **The Royal Signals.**

Yours faithfully,
Ron Earle.
"Melita,"
South Ferriby,
Barton-on-Humber, Lincs.

[The Secretary writes:

"This is the 21st annual reunion. A long time has passed since April, 1948, when the first one was arranged at Reggiori's Restaurant at King's Cross—and everyone was that bit younger! At that time it would have been hard to imagine such an annual event continuing so far into the future, but, in fact, it has been maintained with surprising support and with a newcomer almost every year, including last year. Now that it has come of age, this year we are seeking your special support to celebrate the occasion on 11th May and look forward to meeting more than ever.

A suggestion that soya sausages and 'M. & V.' be included in the menu as a 'special treat' to mark the occasion, has been turned down on the grounds of their creating too much of a nostalgic upset or something like that. Fortunately, the caterers have declined help from Army cooks. Despite this, we hope you will attend for an otherwise cheery evening."]

MAJOR K. A. REGGLER

In a note to your Editor, **Major K. A. Reggler** (late of the Corps) writes from Army Headquarters, Wellington, C.I., New Zealand, to say that he has now been appointed Major in the Royal New Zealand Signals and that he hopes contact will be maintained with his old Corps friends.

Birthday Honours

All will be pleased to hear that the following received awards in the recent Birthday Honours List as shown below:

C.B.
Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O.

C.B.E.
Brigadier R. G. Miller

O.B.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. P. W. Robertson

M.B.E.
Major P. D. Alexander

B.E.M.
Staff Sergeant J. Crech
Sergeant G. T. Howse
Staff Sergeant J. Lee
Staff Sergeant (Acting) W. Smith

Our congratulations also go to Brigadier D. R. Horsefield, O.B.E., on his appointment as A.D.C. to H.M. The Queen.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in May	**50**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**46**
Amount spent in grants and loans ...	**£1093 8 3**

One of the Month's Cases

CORPORAL, serving overseas. Both he and his wife were seriously injured in a road accident. Relatives flew out from U.K. to look after the two young children, involving the Corporal in very considerable expense. The Association made him a grant of £50 towards this cost.

One of the Month's Letters

"I just don't know how to thank you for your most generous gift of £25 and the parcel of clothes. Words cannot express how my wife and I feel towards the Royal Signals Association for helping us with the misfortune I have had this last two years and having to lose my leg. We both feel that our trouble has brought us friends we never thought we had. The money will not only buy me a suit, but will enable me to get a complete wardrobe together with the clothing you have sent. You don't know how grateful we feel towards you. Is there anything I can do in any way to help you?"



HOW ARE THEY DOING?

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel A. A. Dacre eagerly watches the situation board as incoming reports are logged up. Standing with him (*left to right*) (Q.G.O.) Lieutenant Tanghum Limbu, W.O.II Sandup Tamang, Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Manbahadur Tamang and Staff-Sergeant Balhir Thapa

The Coulter Quaich Competition

A test of jungle craft, endurance and navigational map reading for the 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment

A fine silver quaich (Scottish drinking bowl) was presented to the Regiment by Major H. Mc. I. Paterson, M.B.E., late of the Corps. Major Paterson came from a small village in Lanark called Coulter, hence the name. On presenting the quaich Major Paterson requested that it be competed for with an Inter-Squadron jungle navigation exercise.

The Coulter Quaich Competition this year was the first to be held. It took place during the period 5th-7th April in a training area north of Seremban, Malaya. The terrain comprised jungle clad mountains up to 1,200ft. in height, steep terraced hills of rubber plantations, fast flowing rivers, and wide open valleys supporting the growth of thick bamboo.

The competition was based on an orienteering event. There were three start points in a circular formation with three check points inside this circle. Teams, from their start points had to visit the other two start points and the three check points, and then return to their own start point to complete the course. Teams were given 42½ hours to do this and lost points according to the extra time they took.

Each of the three Squadrons in the Regiment entered two teams of ten men Teams were commanded by either a British officer or a Queen's Gurkha officer and comprised a W.O. or sergeant, two corporals, two lance-corporals and four signalmen. The teams were fully equipped with rations and equipment for 48 hours including weapons and an A13 radio.

The night of Friday, 5th April, saw six teams camped, two at each start point. At 06.30 hrs. the next morning the first teams left their start points, followed by the second one hour later. All the control points were on a radio net and each had a board on which the progress of the teams was recorded. Throughout the competition the weather stayed fine, the temperature up in the nineties.

The first teams finished at about 15.30 hrs. on the Sunday afternoon, very tired but full of talk. All their equipment was checked, the teams losing points for any kit missing. The last teams finished about 18.00 hrs.

The competition, won by 2 Squadron, was most successful, and a great deal had been learnt by the competitors. Next year it is hoped that the out-Squadrons in Singapore and Hong Kong will also take part in the Coulter Quaich.

Taken into use in B.A.O.R.

BRUIN — the new Royal Signals Trunk Communication System



BRUIN is the name given to the new modern trunk communication facilities provided for First British Corps. The system provides the staff at Corps, Division and Brigade Headquarters with fully automatic STD-type telephone facilities, fast (75 baud) teleprinter communications including certain fixed teleprinter net facilities, and common-user facsimile. The system is flexible and fully supported by manual telephone facilities and by the current range of net radio. One particular feature is the removal of all but essential terminal equipment from headquarters free to move whenever necessary.

Designed with a Common System in Mind

All the new vehicle installations used in BRUIN were designed with one common system in mind, and have been produced to a standard worthy of the equipment and those who have to use it. The new transportable containers are reasonably spacious and allow the best possible working conditions to be provided. All the installations are heated and ventilated, and even provided with ash trays (although they are a bit small for some people!) At the "sharp end," installations are built into A.P.Cs, and while these may be a bit cramped, best use has been made of the available space.

Unique Occasion

The fielding of BRUIN is perhaps a unique occasion in that it is the first time Royal Signals have introduced a new trunk communication system as a complete entity. Furthermore, as the roots of BRUIN lie in the ideas evolved during the "Fresh View" Trials in 2nd Division in 1961-62, it has been designed and produced in the record time of 6-7 years. This success has been due in some measure to a system of project management whereby all those concerned in design, development, production and manufacture, whether civilian or military, in the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Technology or in Industry, have been brought together whenever necessary to resolve difficulties. Success has also been due to the system of user and automotive trials, which were conducted in step with actual production in such a way that modifications required as a result of trials could be incorporated in production with least delay. Some idea of what has been achieved in indicated by the fact that a total of 233 vehicles, made up of 32 types of installations, have been produced for operating "Bruin."

Celebration Dinner held

As is the fashion these days, those concerned with management of the BRUIN project provided a BRUIN Club Tie, whose motif is a bear, reduced from the original, which appears at the head of this article. This tie is now worn by a (comparatively) select band of those who have made significant contributions to the design and production of BRUIN. By way of celebrating the fielding of the system, a dinner was held by the BRUIN Club in the Criterion Restaurant, London, on 22nd May.

Present at the dinner were:—**Mr. T. M. Tyack,** Signals 35 M.O.D.; **Mr. W. O. Cook,** S.T. & C.; **Major P. F. W. Gahan,** Signals 35, M.O.D.; **Major H. E. Sherridan,** Royal Canadian Signals: **Major D. J. D. McKail,** Signals 36, M.O.D. (late A.C.E.P., M.O.D.); **Mr. R. A. Ginn,** E.I.D.; **Captain D. G. Mitchell,** A.D.P. Course (late Signals 35, M.O.D.); **Major H. L. H. Tayler,** Signals 35, M.O.D.; **Mr. S. Collett,** Park Royal Vehicles Ltd.; **Major D. J. S. Harland,** Elliott Automation (late S.R.D.E.); **Major N. A. C. Clubb,** TL8, Min. Tech.; **Major M. G. Adams,** A.C.E,P. M.O.D.; **Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow,** H.Q., B.A.O.R.; **Mr. C. Risbridger,** Park Royal Vehicles Ltd.; **Mr. R. W. Moore,** S.R.D.E.; **Colonel H. E. Roper,** Colonel G.S., Army Signal Regiment, M.O.D.; **Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Maxfield,** R.M.C.S. (late 30th Regiment); **Colonel D. D. Fairman,** Creed & Co. Ltd. (late S.R.D.E.); **Mr. J. Dukes,** Q(AE)1 M.O.D.; **Mr. O. Grimley,** C.O.D., Donnington; **Mr. E. D. Partington,** LP(T)1, Min. Tech.; **Major J. E. Denton,** Signals 4, M.O.D.; **Major P. D. Warren,** Signals 35, M.O.D. (relieving **Major Tayler**); **Major A. W. McL. McKinnon,** J.S.S.C. (late Signals 3 and S.R.D.E); **Major T. P. F. Unwin** (late Signals 3); **Brigadier A. D. Brindley,** D. Tels., Army; **Major D. W. W. Cooper,** 1 (BR) Corps; **Major M. S. Jarrett,** 3 Division (late T.L. 10, Min. Tech.); **Major M. Hales,** S.R.D.E. (late BRUIN Trials Squadron); **Mr. J. W. Moloney,** LP(T)2, Min Tech.; **Mr. G. Hayes,** C.E.S. Secretariat; **Mr. W. Kiryluk,** Industrial Instruments Ltd.; **Major S. P. Morrison,** T.L. 10, Min. Tech.



INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS PRESENTATION

On Tuesday 21st May, Lieutenant-General I. D. Verma, Signal Officer-in-Chief Indian Army, visited the School of Signals. During a tour of the School he presented Brigadier J. D. T. Brett, Vice Chairman of the Royal Signals Institution with an Indian Signal Corps plaque and two pictures which will be displayed in the Corps Museum



RECOMMISIONING CEREMONY—H.M.S. HERMES

Representing the Corps on this occasion was Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson, C.B.E., E.R.D., accompanied by Mrs. Robinson

Successful Conference



"Where have all the soldiers gone? Gone, gone—conferring"
(with apologies to a recent American folksong)

A successful S.O.-in-C's Conference was held at Blandford from the 27th to the 29th May. Whilst we cannot publish the subjects which were discussed, one event, at least, is worthy of report. During the conference it was arranged, with the British Aircraft Corporation, that a Harrier aircraft should give a short demonstration over the School of Signals. Though timed for lunchtime on 28th May, B.A.C. had to change plans and at short notice (6 minutes to be exact) a Harrier arrived. In spite of this short notice things worked surprisingly well. **R.S.M. Harrison,** of the School of Signals, operated the blue smoke grenade which was used as a wind indicator and, at the Harrier's first pass, the conference broke up hurriedly to watch. A five minute demonstration then ensued during which the Harrier made a number of passes, several at speed but one at a pace very much slower than conventional flying speed. The Harrier's final pass was made toward the south during which it performed a barrel roll. It was as it was righting itself that a piece fell off and landed on the local golf course. The loss of this piece did not affect the safety of the aircraft though the matter was reported to Dunsfold, Harrier's home airfield. It was noticed that, on the following day, a piece of aircraft was to be found on the S.O.-in-C's conference table: found, it is said, by a "Flying Officer Clinch." **(Colonel Johnny Clinch,** C.A.F.S.O., R.A.F. Germany, was responsible for laying on the display).

Movements

Officers

Major J. E. L. Adams	To	No. 1 Signal Group
Major J. L. Akass	,,	8th Regiment as C.O.
Lieutenant R. Boden	,,	Malaysia (Secondment)
Lieutenant W. I. Buxton	,,	9th Regiment
Lieutenant R. F. Brooks	,,	3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment
Major N. A. Butler	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major R. Benbow	,,	R.M.A.S.
Captain K. P. Burke	,,	646 Troop
Captain A. H. Boyle	,,	22nd Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel E. M. T. Crump	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain S. W. P. Cox	,,	16th Regiment
Major (T.O.T.) D. Crookes	,,	227 Squadron
Captain P. H. Dale	,,	H.Q. No. 1 Signal Group
Second-Lieutenant K. G. Danby ...	,,	3rd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Lieutenant M. S. Davies	,,	259 Squadron
Lieutenant S. J. R. Dunlop	,,	2nd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Captain A. P. De Bretton-Gordon ...	,,	262 Squadron
Major L. D. Edinger	,,	18th Regiment
Lieutenant L. G. Fraser	,,	261 Squadron
Lieutenant S. C. L. Gadd	,,	18th Regiment
Lieutenant R. M. Goymour	,,	14th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. G. Hencher, M.B.E.	,,	SHAPE (S.O.I. Signals)
Lieutenant J. D. M. Ingram	,,	8th Regiment
Lieutenant N. A. Horler	,,	249 Squadron
Captain D. R. Hodges	,,	19th Regiment
Major A. J. Jackson (505)	,,	4 Gds. Bde. H. Q. and Signal Squadron (204)
Captain (Q.M.) C. W. Jackson ...	,,	33rd Regiment (V)
Lieutenant S. Law	,,	253 Squadron
Captain F. R. Maynard	,,	R.M.A.S.
Second-Lieutenant J. K. C. McLean	,,	A.Y.T.
Major A. W. McL. McKinnon	,,	1st Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Major C. McDevitt	,,	A.L.L.A. (U.K. Member)
Litutenant P. A. Neale	,,	249 Squadron
Lieutenant P. J. Pritchard	,,	3rd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Lieutenant M. D. Paterson	,,	18th Regiment
Captain R. C. Roberts	,,	30th Regiment
Captain S. W. Read	,,	School of Artillery
Lieutenant I. C. Shuker	,,	83 A.Y.T.
Major F. B. Saul	,,	M.O.D. (Signals 36A)
Lieutenant P. Stanley	,,	24 Bde. H.Q. and Signal Squadron (210)
Captain W. H. Turney	,,	H.Q. Comd. and Sup. Staff (B.E.) SHAPE
Captain R. D. K. Thompson	,,	7th Regiment
Lieutenant M. J. Vest	,,	4 Gds. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (204)
Lieutenant P. A. Wright	,,	30th Regiment

Warrant Officers and N.C.O's

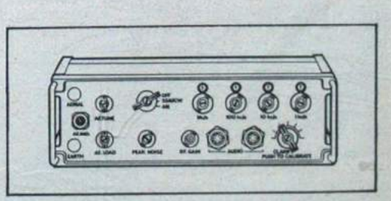
JULY

W.O.II T. D. Hammill	,,	9th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. P. Loats ...	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II A. J. Simpson	,,	R.M.A. Sandhurst
W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. A. Dodman ...	,,	5 Inf. Bde. H.Q. and Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II J. T. Wood	,,	32nd Regiment (V)
W.O.II P. R. Foster	,,	260 Squadron
W.O.II A. E. Pugh	,,	30th Regiment
W.O.II G. A. Christie	,,	252 Squadron
W.O.II (Y. of S.) K. Palmer	,,	Fed. Armed Forces Malaysia
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. Chidley	,,	14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. P. Underwood ...	,,	33rd Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant J. G. Mays	,,	7 Armd.Bde.H.Q. and Sig.Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. A. Cook	,,	225 Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. A. Rodgers ...	,,	249 Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. Sim	,,	16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. E. Cooley	,,	20 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant J. Morrison	,,	13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. Gallacher	,,	16 Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Montgomery ...	,,	11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
Sergeant W. E. Metters	,,	S. of Sig. Y. of S. Course No. 16
Sergeant J. E. Walker	,,	S. of Sig. Y. of S. Course No. 16
Sergeant J. K. Hurn	,,	S. of Sig. Y. of S. Course No. 16
Sergeant A. T. Jackson	,,	S. of Sig. Y. of S. Course No. 16
Sergeant D. J. Tunmore	,,	S. of Sig. Y. of S. Course No. 16
A/Sergeant A. Young	,,	S. of Sig. Y. of S. Course No. 16
A/Sergeant G. F. Devine	,,	S. of Sig. Y. of S. Course No. 16
A/Sergeant P. J. A. Beer	,,	S. of Sig. Y. of S. Course No. 16
Sergeant J. Wilson	,,	28th Regiment
Sergeant G. Bullen	,,	9th Regiment
Sergeant K. A. Childs	,,	246 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. D. Rayment	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant J. Boyle	,,	229 Squadron
Sergeant T. J. Lynn	,,	223 Squadron
Sergeant D. A. F. Adam	,,	103 Lt. A.D. Regt. R.A. Tp. (V)
Sergeant T. M. Chadwick	,,	H.Q. Trg. Bde. R. Signals
A/Sergeant J. Roberts	,,	9th Regiment
A/Sergeant E. Butterworth	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant D. L. McIntosh	,,	H.Q. Land Forces Hong Kong
Sergeant M. Crabtree	,,	38th Regiment (V)
Sergeant W. G. Feltham	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant J. Woolgar	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant R. Johnson	,,	249 Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Marsden	,,	224 Squadron
Sergeant S. Braithwaite	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant J. A. Shield	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant R. W. Townsend	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant A. King	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant D. R. Daniels	,,	4 Gds. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant K. Cooper	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant J. D. Evans	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant K. Zoing	,,	19th Regiment
Sergeant L. L. Adams	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant J. Melneday	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant M. A. C. Casey	,,	19th Regiment
Sergeant M. W. Rippon	,,	19th Regiment
Sergeant B. R. Caple	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant D. Lightfoot	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant W. J. Summers	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant H. C. Stickley	,,	Sudanese Armd Forces
Sergeant R. N. W. Milne	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant M. M. Frid	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant M. J. Croadbrangwyn ...	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant A. H. Hutchinson	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant S. J. Esdale	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant P. J. Hodgson	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant D. Macphail	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant K. E. Bradbury	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant R. J. Hill	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant B. J. Gallagher	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant P. J. B. Maiden	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant P. Smith	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant R. S. Kidd	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant J. D. Pyke	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant A. King	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant F. Godman	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant N. C. Cowell	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48
Sergeant R. Ferrier	,,	S. of Sig. F. of S. Course No. 48



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UPGRADING/CONVERSION COURSES TO BE HELD IN CATTERICK

Course No.	Title	Assembles	Disperses
1/46 (Hy)	Tech Radio II-I	10 Sept. '68	3 April '69
1/27 (Tg)	Tech TE II-I	15 Oct. '68	15 May '69
1/20	Tech RR II-I	24 Sept. '68	24 April '69
X/2	Conversion Tg Tech I to Tech TE I	10 Sept. '68	17 Oct. '68
2/48 (Lt)	Tech Radio III-II	1 Oct '68	20 Feb '69
2/34 (E)	Tech TE III-II	17 Sept '68	6 Feb '69
2/35 (E)	Tech TE III-II	29 Oct '68	20 Mar '69
2/24 (Lt)	Tech RR III-II	17 Sept '68	6 Feb '69
2/25 (Hy)	Tech RR III-II	15 Oct '68	6 Mar '69
43	Tg Op II-I	3 Sept '68	13 Dec '68
44	Tg Op II-I	10 Sept '68	20 Dec '68
58	R Op II-I	10 Sept '68	22 Nov '68
69	R Op II-I	8 Oct '68	20 Dec '68
33	Comcen Op II-I	3 Sept '68	29 Nov '68
34	Comcen Op II-I	24 Sept '68	20 Dec '68
1/20	RRman II-I	25 Sept '68	7 Nov '68
22	ED II-I	3 Sept '68	8 Nov '68
31	Driver R. Signals II-I ...	10 Sept '68	15 Nov '68
32	Driver R. Signals II-I ...	15 Oct '68	20 Dec '68
14	Clerk Tech II-I	22 Oct '68	19 Dec '68
1/46	Lineman II-I	1 Oct '68	13 Dec '69
51	Tg Op III-II	3 Sept '68	13 Dec '68
52	Tg Op III-II	10 Sept '68	20 Dec 68
44	ED III-II	3 Sept '68	25 Oct '68
45	ED III-II	29 Oct '68	20 Dec '68

School of Signals, Blandford Camp

The Mallard Project

FROM 6th to 9th May we were privileged to be hosts to the Mallard Project Management Board. This Board is headed by four officers (Project Managers) who are representatives of the four countries concerned in Mallard, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. They are, left to right, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Coughtry, C.D.,** R.C. Signals, **Major-General P. A. Feyereisen** (United States), **Brigadier R. G. Miller** and **Lieutenant-Colonel L. G. Moore, O.B.E.,** R. Australian Signals.

During this visit the Project Managers gave a presentation to the School on the organisation, its finances and the progress of the project so far. As the presentation did not attempt to touch on hardware or techniques used in the Mallard system, it was the first time that the majority of the audience had heard about the management aspect of Mallard and as a result a significant gap in our knowledge was filled.

Gift to the Museum

On Thursday, 23rd May, an event occurred which took us back to the days when Army communications were the responsibility of the Sappers. In 1962, **Sergeant Palmer,** late R.E. Signals died. On this day his widow came to present his medals to the Museum. **Brigadier Brett** received them on behalf of the Corps, and our picture shows **Mrs. Palmer, Brigadier Brett** and the medals held by the Museum curator, **Mr. Bailey. R.S.M.** and **Mrs. Harrison** gave **Mrs. Palmer** tea in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess afterwards, and so taken was **Mrs. Palmer** with the chocolate cake that the P.M.C. made a present of the remainder to her.

Portman Hounds at H.Q. Mess

The Portman Hunt was invited to H.Q. Mess, Blandford Camp, on Wednesday, 3rd April. Considering the weather on the previous day and on the morning of the 3rd, the meet was well attended by a dozen to 20 followers in addition to the Master—**Mr. Stewart Tory,** the Secretary—**Mrs. John Woodhouse,** and the Field Master—**Brigadier John Hanmer.**

Fortunately, the north wind which had brought an appreciable amount of snow had dropped and the sun had come out in time for the meet at midday.

The hunt found three foxes and had a good day's sport.

"I think we are laying the foundations, Sir"

On 17th May, **Major-General Anderson** visited the School. Besides the instructional area, he saw administrative accommodation (still in the old Drake Lines). He also stopped for a drink in the new W.O's and Sergeants' Mess before having lunch in the H.Q. Mess. He spoke to anyone he saw and it was during his tour of Tactics Group that the subject of No. 23 "Q" Course, W.R.A.C. arose. The General asked of one instructor how the W.R.A.C. were getting on. The instructor, so addressed, was seen to grope for words for a few moments and then was heard to say: "I think we're laying the foundations, Sir."



THANK YOU MRS. PALMER

Mrs. Palmer, wife of the late Sergeant Palmer of R.E. Signals, makes a gift of her husband's medals to the School of Signals Museum. In the photo, Mr. Bailey, holding the medals, Mrs. Palmer and the Commandant, Brigadier Brett



MEETING THE S.O.-in-C.

Two members of the Overseas Q Course Lieutenant Primpeh of Ghana and Lieutenant Sakala of Zambia have a few instructive minutes with the S.O.-in-C. when he visited the School of Signals. Also in the picture: Brigadier Brett and Lieutenant-Colonel Lamb

THE STUDENT'S QUEST

A riddle haunts my hours of rest,
Destroying sleep with endless quest.
Till sanity and sense rebel:
'Tis this, "What is a Decibel?"

Is it poison, food or drug,
Mammal, reptile, fish or bug?
Something to purchase or to sell
This thing they call a Decibel?

Is it a coin, a gem of price,
A virtue, or a secret vice?
Or were those wild Red Indians Yells
The origin of Decibel?

I've asked of Hindus, Moslems,, priests,
(I've even questioned Methodists)
Nor Christian, Jew nor Infidel,
Could say what was a Decibel.

In Europe, Asia, Africa,
From North to South America
From Kimberley to Camberwell,
They know not of the Decibel.

I sought a Scientist of note,
Frantic, I seized him by the throat—
"A corpse you'll be, if you can't tell
At once, What is a Decibel?"

"Be easy, sir," the sage replied,
And laid my angry hands aside,
"Daily the word is used by me
Abbreviated to dB."

"Take logarithms to base of ten,
And multiply by ten again,
The product gives (if all goes well),
The Old Familiar Decibel."

I rent my clothes, I tore my hair,
Can no one tell me, anywhere?
Is it of Heaven, is it of Hell
This damned elusive Decibel?

(Anonymous)

H.Q. Training Brigade, Catterick Camp

Exercise "March Hare"

Exercise "March Hare" was the sixth of a series of annual escape and evasion exercises sponsored by Headquarters 44th Paratroop Brigade (V) and held on 29th-31st March over 300 square miles of Yorkshire moors, west of Scarborough.

Each Regiment in the Training Brigade put in six 'runners' for the exercise, running in sticks of three, and hoping to evade the 'Hunter Force.' In addition, 8th Regiment provided 60 men for the 'Cage and Guard Force,' commanded by **Lieutenant Gordon Issom,** and 24th Regiment provided 2 Squadrons for the 'Hunter Force.'

At midnight on the 29th/30th March, some 350 men were released at intervals at various points along the start line, with the object of eventually reaching the final rendezvous, some 20 miles to the east.

Thick fog during the night assisted the escapers, and the planned capture of a dozen or so, in order to get the cage, guard force and intelligence organisation working, just did not materialise. However, prisoners were soon forthcoming.

Only about 30 'runners' successfully completed the exercise and reached the final RV. Great credit was due to 8th Regiment, who provided the first two men home—**Signalman Glynn Grace** and **Lance-Corporal Richard Johns.** That they finished more than six hours ahead of anyone else confirms the determination and effort that they put in. We suggest that they were spurred on to their incredible time by the knowledge that their O.C., **"Killer Issom,"** and the rest of their so-called "muckers" were desperately anxious to offer them the hospitality of the cage and the other delights that would have been prepared for them!

Brigade Six-a-Side Hockey

Would the much-fancied Brigade Headquarters team do it again? That was the question everyone was asking on 24th April at the Brigade Six-a-Side Hockey Competition. With an Army player, a Corps player, and the rest no mean performers, they were certainly a formidable team. When it was learnt that the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** was to play in goal for them it looked a foregone conclusion.

How the mighty are fallen! In the first match, 24th Regiment R.H.Q. team, drawn against the "favourites," soon showed everyone that reputations counted for nothing in this competition, and sound performances by **R.S.M. Pearce** and **Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Hellier, M.B.E.,** ensured success for them. They went on to win their league and surprisingly found that they were playing 3 Squadron, 24th Regiment, in the final.

Again the form book was upset, and the 3 Squadron team came through as winners by 2—0 after a stirling display in goal by **Major Bill Simpson,** ably supported by **Sergeant Brian Ellis** and **Corporals Eric Jones, Peter Mills, Michael Seery** and **James Taylor.**

It was a great day's hockey with everyone thorougly enjoying themselves in this, the second of these now annual competitions.

Brigade Rifle Meeting

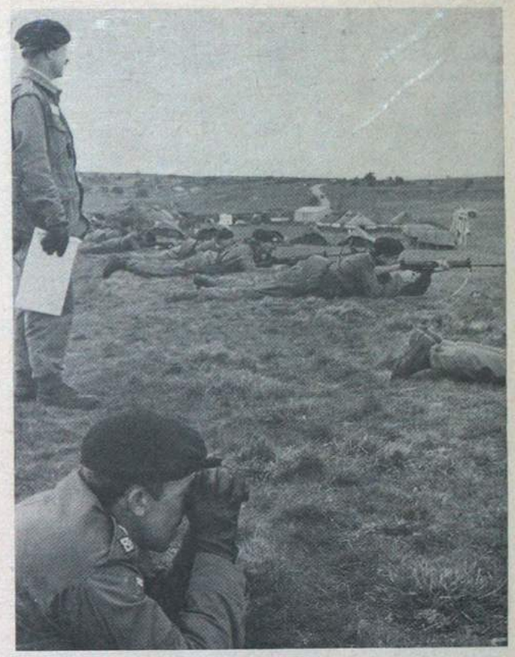


Sergeant Kidd being presented with his prize for winning the Individual Rifle Match by Brigadier Clarkson

11th Regiment once again efficiently organised the Brigade Rifle Meeting, held on 10th May, and, strangely enough, won the Brigade trophy again.

At one stage it looked as if it might have been possible to organise a duck shoot on the ranges, complete with swampy marshes, but, on the actual day, rain only threatened and made but a brief appearance in the morning.

Although 11th Regiment won the competition, each



THE SPOTTER

Captain Peter Bullard "spotting" during the Open Range Team Match. Major Charles Lewis is the chief Firing Point Officer

Regiment genuinely reckoned that they had the winning team, and the competition was tight to the end.

11th Regiment went into an early lead by winning the LMG match and with each Regiment scoring the same number of points for the rifle match, the position was unchanged. 8th Regiment were very unfortunate as, although their "A" team came first in the rifle match, their "B" team came last. 24th Regiment then won the SMG match and the gap at the top was narrowed. However, 11th Regiment made sure of clinching the competition by winning the pistol match, and ended up three points clear of 24th Regiment.

Although 8th Regiment were last in the Brigade Competition, they did win the open rifle match, which included units from outside the Training Brigade. They also produced **Sergeant Kidd,** the winner of the individual rifle match.

Visit to the Training Brigade

On 23rd April, **General Anderson** began his second visit to the Training Brigade in seven months by inspecting "Trail Blazer," the tree he planted last August outside the guardroom of 11th Regiment. He noted with pleasure that it was making good progress and was in a thriving condition.

The biggest change that the S.O.-in-C. noticed was, of course, the new location of the main body of 24th Regiment. With 2 and 3 Squadrons still remaining at Aisne and Ypres Lines, **General Anderson** saw the excellent shuttle service in operation.

The elegant white buses taking trainees backwards and forwards has worked well and without a thought of a strike amongst the drivers.

In the evening the S.O.-in-C. attended a guest night, also attended by **Major-General R. H. Whitworth, C.B.E.,** paying his final visit to the Mess as G.O.C., Northumbrian District.

On 7th May, we welcomed the new G.O.C., **Major-General J. M. D. Ward-Harrison, O.B.E., M.C.,** on his first visit to the Training Brigade. We hope to receive a lengthier visit from him in the near future.

A visit was made by No. 1 Overseas Officers' 'Q' Course from 26th-28th May. They came here to familiarise themselves with the training that their soldiers would undergo when on courses here. Apart from visiting the various training departments in the Brigade, they all met the soldiers from their own countries in 8th Regiment's NAAFI on the Monday evening and swapped news from home. We hope to welcome many more overseas courses on visits in the future.

H.Q. 1st Signal Group, Salisbury

About us

IN case there is anyone not fully aware of our existence by now, we make this unashamed attempt at publicity by offering some information about ourselves.

The Headquarters, formed on 1st April, at Wilton, as part of Army Strategic Command, with the task of providing Signal support for certain contingencies and exercises. The new Army Strategic Command structure includes 5th Division, which has no organic signal support, and other Arms Groups similarly placed. This situation keeps us fully employed.

Under Command, and meeting most of our numerous and varied commitments are 14th and 30th Regiments. We also have special responsibilities for 213, 223, 260 Signal Squadrons and 602 Signal Troop.

The Group Commander is **Colonel E. J. Winn; Major John Taylor** is the G.S.O.2, and **Lieutenant-Colonel John Congdon** is the D.A.A. & Q.M.G. The arrival of **Major John Adams** from B.A.O.R. and **Captain Peter Dale** from the School of Signals, who complete the staff, is eagerly awaited.

An air of respectability and normality within the Headquarters is provided by the Orderly Room Staff, namely **Sergeant Jim Husband, Corporal Mike Blackett** and **Lance-Corporal Tom Pengelley.** Our typist is very nice, too!

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate



Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major Jeffrey Callaway

BORN in July, 1949, **Apprentice Regimental Sergeant - Major Jeffrey Callaway** came to the College in September, 1965, joining Scott Squadron in his second term. A former pupil of Barford Grammar School, near Witney in Oxfordshire, **R.S.M. Callaway** arrived with a General Certificate of Education in English, Literature, Mathematics and Geography. While training as a Technical Technician, he has added to these qualifications a City and Guilds of London Institute Group "A" Certificate and Mathematics "B."

He gained his college colours at rugger, and, when duties permit, is a keen member of the college judo club.

For the future, **R.S.M. Gallaway's** immediate objective is to qualify as Foreman of Signals: this ambition achieved, he will take what opportunity offers.

His home is in Stadhampton, Oxfordshire, and it is perhaps not surprising that, after a three-year stay in Harrogate, he hopes for a posting to Cyprus, Singapore or Hong Kong—in short, he says, "Somewhere warm."

Fencing

On 25th May, at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, a team of five young Apprentices from Harrogate, all under the age of 18, competed against a team from the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl, the Junior Leaders' Regiment, R.E., Dover, the Army Apprentices' College, Carlisle, the Army Apprentices' College, Arborfield and the Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow.

The first bout started at 09.00 hours, and with every boy having to fence 25 bouts each, a "hard day's fight" was assured.

The fact that Harrogate came last in the event was disappointing but unimportant: the team had a very enjoyable day's sport and gained valuable experience.

Congratulations must go a **A/T Graham,** of Recruit Squadron; he proved his experience by winning 24 of his 25 bouts. He is a valuable addition to our team and should make a name for himself in the world of Corps fencing. The other members of the team were **A/T's Ball, Chandler, Hayes** and **Wheatley.**

C.S.M. KEATING



C.S.M. E. Keating, Irish Guards

The end of May saw the departure of one of the College stalwarts—in the fullest sense of the word—in the shape of **C.S.M. Eamonn Keating,** of the Irish Guards. He had been C.S.M. of Phillip Squadron since his arrival in Harrogate on 6th September 1965, and left to become R.Q.M.S. of his own Battalion. He started his Army life in the Royal Fusiliers in October, 1947, transferring to the Irish Guards in January, 1948. Since then he has had a varied and interesting career, serving in Palestine, Tripoli, Germany, Egypt and Cyprus, and at home—inevitably—in Chelsea, Pirbright, Windsor and Caterham.

Perhaps he had an extra affinity with the College in particular and Royal Signals in general, having twice held the appointment of Signals Sergeant—once in his own Battalion and once in the

(Continued on page 243)

(Continued from page 242)

Guards' Training Battalion. But his experience was wide in other spheres, too: apart from a fair share of public duties, he has been an M.T. Sergeant, and a Recruiter in Birmingham; he even had a tour of "duty" with the Household Brigade Polo Club.

All this experience made him an expert "handler" of apprentices, many of whom have more than a little cause to be grateful to him. Essentially a kindly man, though always fair and if need be firm, he was highly respected and well liked by all ranks. "Good bloke" is the apprentices' verdict—and that is high praise indeed.

C.S.M. Keating, believed, sincerely, that "There are no finer boys than those now serving at Harrogate. It is my dearest wish that I may meet them again in the future, especially those of Phillips."

A College farewell to you, Company Sergeant-Major, and thank you.

Cricket

In spite of the climate rigours of May, the College cricket teams have fared considerably better, in terms of matches played, than have this year's tourist from Australia; at least we have had no play in only two games.

To date three matches have been finished: against 24 Regiment (in the first round of the Army Cup) which we won; against Kirk Hammerton C.C. which we lost; and a 20-overs evening game against H.M.S. *Forest Moor* which we won, despite an epidemic of the highly infectious disease called "being run out."

Leading the field of those who have "come good" early is **W.O.II Drake,** R.A.P.C., but several apprentices have also achieved some promising performances in readiness for the first round of the Army Junior Cup versus the Junior Tradesmens' Regiment at Troon, on 1st June.

Stop Press

A.C.C., Harrogate: 125 in 35 overs. (**A/T Naylor** 50, **A/T Hughes** 29). J.T.R., Troon: 102 (**A/T McCarthy** 6 for 55).

Exercise "Sabre"—May, 1968

Exercise "Sabre" is an H.F. Radio Exercise during which 8th and 9th Term Apprentice Telegraph Operators practice skywave communication over a distance of some 230 miles. Two locations are involved, each containing six radio detachments composed of C11/R210 and D11/R230 vehicle stations.

"Sabre" for the summer term began 130830A May with two convoys leaving the College in Harrogate, one proceeding north to Otterburn, in the wild border country of Northumberland, and the other to Ollerton, in rural Nottinghamshire. After an uneventful journey, the Otterburn detachment settled into bivouac accommodation in a disused quarry and the radio sets were soon on the air.

In the administrative area, the usual holes had to be dug. A surprise volunteer for the job was **A/T Lance-Corporal Adkins,** who, with unwanted alacrity, proceeded to produce holes of uniform size wherever required. Later, over a mug of tea, he remarked happily that his labours reminded him of how he used to help his father to dig graves. On closer inspection, the yawning pits he had created suggested ominous preparation for an outbreak of the "Black Death." **Adkins** was immediately asked to alter their dimensions.

At Ollerton, consternation. The main petrol cooker had quietly expired. Before the first tears had dried on the leathery cheeks of the directing staff, **Signalman Taylor,** electrician driver of some repute, confirmed his Class I rating by blandly producing a domestic electric cooker complete with oven. This he calmly installed, produced the requisite power, and went his inscrutable way.

Signalmen Platt and **Symonds,** having explored the possible connotations of the word Tumulus, seized shovels G.S. and, muttering, "Roman Doubloons," vanished over a craggy hilltop. Several hours later they returned, grubby, weary, and markedly unwilling to discuss the finer points of archaeological field study.

Corporal Georgeson deserves special mention: his gentle chiding of a radio crew who insisted on trying to work on dummy load sounded like an artillery barrage and caused the premature start of an infantry exercise some 10 miles away. His baser alter ego was revealed by a chance remark concerning young lambs gambolling in the warm May sunshine: "I'd rather have 'em curried anytime than roast with mint sauce."



USER TRIALS ON A NEW LONG RANGE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM!

Captain Ian Perry and Lieutenant Mike Cartwright seem very confident that their system is just as good as modern communication techniques—a photo taken on Exercise Sabre

Generally, everything went satisfactorily. The technicians who went along proved invaluable and, it is hoped, gained worthwhile experience under the vigilant eyes of the two veterans, **Sergeants Arthur Potts** and **Jock Fraser.** As ever, in the field, the drivers and E.D's proved to be the backbone of their respective detachments. The operators returned—we hope wiser, and certainly more experienced. The D.S.? Well, a few more grey hairs, a freshly honed sense of humour, and . . . on with the next exercise. Are you sitting comfortably?

The College Pipes and Drums

It was recently announced that the Pipes and Drums had succeeded in winning the Pipe Band section of the Army Junior Drama and Music Festival. This was their second success: they won the competition in 1965 also.

Congratulations, too, to **Apprentice Tradesman Ian Urquhart,** a third-term technician from Glasgow, on winning the Individual Solo Bagpipe Competition.

The Band was founded in the spring of 1961, under the enthusiastic command of **Major Don Sutherland,** Royal Signals, himself a talented piper, and **Pipe-Major A. Yule,** of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who left the College only at Easter this year.

In the autumn of 1961, the Pipes and Drums carried out their first public engagement when they headed the Remembrance Day Parade in Harrogate. Since then they have gone from strength to strength, and are now established favourites at important events not only throughout the county and the land, but even on the Continent. One of their most notable engagements was on being invited, in 1966, to represent not only the College, but also the Borough of Harrogate at the Festival of Flowers in Luchon—Harrogate's "twin" town in the foothills of the Pyrenees.

This term the Pipes and Drums, together with the College Brass Band and Corps of Drums, have been invited to play on such occasions as the Royal Tournament, and the Royal Signals "At Home" at Catterick; they will also play, with the Royal Signals Staff Band, for 3rd Division at Bulford. A "private" affair is their forthcoming visit to our colleges of the United States Army at Menwith Hill, on Independence Day. It is the Band's proud boast that they have no weekend free of engagements for the rest of term.

The Pipes and Drums are presently in the capable hands of **Pipe-Major A. A. Venters,** Q.C.H., and **Drum-Major B. H. Dilcock, P.W.O.;** the Apprentice Pipe-Major and Drum-Major are **Apprentice Tradesman Lance-Corporal Michael Brady** and **Apprentice Tradesman Sergeant John Mackay.**

1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 32

The word is mightier than the pen

YES . . . we have been 'out of print' for a while. The reason is that we have been 'on the air' almost continuously. As this is our job in life, we shall say no more about it.

Is this a record ?

Major Bill Cunningham has completed three separate tours in the Regiment, as a Subaltern, as Adjutant and as the Training Major. Will he break his own record and return here as . . . . . ' Verden waits. Meanwhile we wish him luck with the TOS, camels, sand and signalling.

" Good Old Charlie "

Those over 21 may remember the broadcast in which the team at " Much Binding in the Marsh " shouted these words to the royal parents in their audience, who had just announced that their new-born son would be known as Prince Charles. We might have shouted the same to **Brigadier Charles Page,** when he paid us a last informal visit before relinquishing the appointment of Commander, Corps Royal Signals. No one has done more than he has to raise the standard of communicating, and with it the good name of Royal Signals in 1 (BR) Corps. We are proud that he was nurtured in this Regiment, which he commanded for two years.

Running around in ovals, getting somewhere

The Inter-Squadron Athletics Competition was won narrowly by 1 Squadron, whose battle cry " Won Squadron is Onederful " is a tribute to their self-esteem, if not to their etymology.

From the talent displayed on this occasion was selected the Regimental team that took second place at the 11th Infantry Brigade Meeting, held a few weeks later, thereby earning the right to compete in the Divisional finals on 19th June. Much of the credit for this success must go to the field athletes, who won the javelin (**Corporals Boundy** and **Taylor**), the hammer (**Sergeant Percival** and **Signalman McKeetch**) and the long jump (**Captain Garton** and **Lance-Corporal Carse**).

Go East, young man

Orienteering is a fast-growing sport in B.A.O.R. The first-ever 1st Division championship was held in March at Fallingbostel. Our six-man team took sixth place, out of thirteen entries, on its first appearance. Although most of our team are cross-country runners, our first pair home was led by **Lieutenant 'Nick' Mayne,** who is not. **Corporal Gentles,** our unarmed combat expert, took first place amongst the individual entries.

Kitchen sink drama ?

Not quite! However, the newly-formed Regimental Theatre Club, " The Verden Strollers," has taken as its home the "Theatre in the Cookhouse," where, for three nights, they played their first production. This was an American comedy, " Mrs. Gibbons' Boys." A cast of eight, all required to speak American, is a difficult enough assignment for any club, but the result was most satisfying and augurs well for their next production in September. By tradition, amateur dramatics is so much a team effort that individual praise is discouraged. However, mention must be made of the talented performance of **Mrs. Joan Percival,** in the name part, whose pure Brooklyn accent never faltered, although she was scarcely ever off stage.

Dinner is served

Sergeant Riccy Barnes, A.C.C., scored personal success with his four-course meal, for five people, in the Catering Competitions. He took first place in both the 1st Division and 1 (BR) Corps stages and was only pipped by a peppercorn (one fiftieth of a point) in the B.A.O.R. final stage, where he was runner-up to the man he beat in the Corps stage.



'PRESENT LAUGHTER'
Captain Garton carries the can as Mrs. Macfarlane presents the Athletics Cup to Lieutenant Fisher, on behalf of 1 Squadron

Captain Custard

Comcen Delta was set up in the field. The cook had miscalculated the quantities. The surplus custard was consigned to a convenient depression in the ground. Its eye-catching yellowness was hidden by handfuls of leaves. The trap was set.

The Comcen Commander, **Captain John Leech,** of the Royal Canadian Signals, was taking his final stomp round the area before pulling out. The camouflage was not just good, it was perfect. All too perfect. The solid earth melted under the Captain's weight; the warm yellow sauce seeped up the sides of his polished boot. Arrrh! the birds had got him.

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Bulford Camp

Halcyon Days

THESE notes come to you from Penhale, in Cornwall, where we have come for Exercise " Short Tack III." If only all exercise locations were like this! Perched on Penhale Point, overlooking the Atlantic, the weather well-nigh perfect, things going very smoothly, it all seems too easy. **Captain J. P. Goldney,** our Adjutant, is quite broken-hearted that this will be his last outing with us. He joins the bowler-hatted, rolled-umbrella brigade that inhabit that building in Whitehall where it all happens.

He consoles himself with the thought that our next major exercise is in the autumn and in Wales, and that it will probably be cold, wet and windy. However, sufficient, unto the day thereof and at the moment we are all lapping up the sunshine and sea-air holiday provided by a generous Army Strategic Command and wondering what the catch is. **Captain Finister,** our new Traffic Officer, thinks he has found out. He went fishing, but it just wasn't his day. He got cut off by the tide, tumbled down a cliff, got chased by a dog and caught no fish. But as all this jollification was going on some hard graft was being done. **Sergeant Potter,** with his 2 Squadron crew, erected the Comcen in record time. **Sergeant Potter's** technique is simple but effective. Being no respecter of persons, if you happen to be standing near where the Comcen is being worked on, a rich Glasgow voice tells you to " Grab a haud of that rope and heave," which you do before you realise that you just happened to be passing by.

Dog Days

Earlier on in the month we had completed Exercise " May Fly " by giving a demonstration to the R.M.A., Sandhurst. This

created considerable interest in the Corps amongst the cadets and a large group came back in the afternoon, in their own time, to see a bit more of our set-up.

On our return to Bulford, " C " Troop prepared to move off to Dunstable Downs, where they were providing communications for the National Gliding Championships, " B " Troop went off on an A.M.A.-type exercise, and " A " Troop did some V.H.F. trials. A goodly part of 1 Squadron went off to Wales on adventure training under the eye of **Major Hassell,** O.C. 3 Squadron, who has inherited the mantle of **Major Jones.** It is no longer " Jones' Jaunts," but " Hassells' Happy Holidays." With any luck there should be a report on this last one from **Lieutenant Dickinson,** whom we have conned into thinking that an article for THE WIRE will do in place of his Summer Essay. *(Lieutenant Dickinson denies this in the lively article on page 273.)*

Sports and Pastimes

Sergeant Springer, of " E " Troop, did very well with foil, epee and sabre at the Southern Command Championships and at the Wiltshire Master-at-Arms Meeting. He has qualified himself for a place in the Army Championships.

The soccer team won the East Wilts Services League Championship and can look back on another pretty good season.

The cricket team got off to a good start by beating 15/19 Hussars and 10th Regiment. Let's hope they can maintain their impetus.

A party of 12 went down to Droitwich to take part in 14th Signals Inter-Unit Sailing Regatta. This year the weather was much kinder, but we were not in the money. The C.O., **Corporal Waterworth** and **Corporal Coulson** all showed the right competitive spirit but the R.S.M. was idle and just gently sailed round acquiring a lovely tan, but no points.

Our next major function will be the Southern Command and Corps Rifle Meetings in Bulford.

4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

The Chief of General Staff Visits

THE Chief of the General Staff, **General Sir Geoffrey Baker, G.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C.,** visited 4th Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment in the field on 22nd May. Thus the one officer above all others, who to many of us is normally only a name, came to life! Because one rarely sees such distinguished, elevated visitors, there is a feeling at times that them up there are a bit out of touch with us on the ground. This visit proved that this feeling could not be further from the truth.

The C.G.S. having been briefed by the G.O.C., was shown around the Tactical Headquarter's unique assembly or armoured command vehicles during which he chatted to the Second-in-Command, **Major D. H. Briggs,** and the S.O.2, **Major K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E.,** before going on to Comcen Hotel. There, **Captain J. McD. Edgar** explained to the General just what Divisional Comcentre is all about. On his walk round the General talked at length with **Staff Sergeant F. of S. Dave Kirkham, Corporals Hugh Hasledon** and **Pete Spencer** and **Lance-Corporal Keith Hind,** who told him in no uncertain terms how much better the new kit is from the old. The C.G.S. who remembered the Corps' less happy position ten years ago, agreed. **Lance-Corporal Reg Paine** and **Signalman Paul Titman** were also delighted by the interest shown by the C.G.S. in their equipment and the new methods of deployment. For us, and we hope for **General Baker,** it was an illuminating and an inspiring visit.

Golf

The 4th Division Spring Meeting was held at Hanover on 13th May. A large contingent from the Regiment took part, and although conditions were difficult, with a high wind on this tight course, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. **Captain Field was runner-up** in the 18 holes Handicap Medal, and **Signalman Wilkinson** won the prize for the best nine holes. **Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson** and **Captain Field** were runners-up in the 18 hole Stableford Foursomes.



HOW INTERESTING !
Lance-Corporal Payne seems to have got the Chief of General Staff, General Sir Geoffrey Baker, deep in thought about some point

Regimental Athletics Meeting

A bitingly cold day with threatening clouds, took some of the fun out of the Regimental Athletics Meeting on 17th May. Even so, the Herford Garrison Sports Ground was lively with the competitors, spectators and onlookers, who combined to produce a cheerful atmosphere in which the competition was keen, but good humoured. **Captain J. McD. Edgar,** the Athletics Officer, and **C.S.M.I. Johnson,** of the A.P.T.C. with their officials kept a tight programme of events moving at a brisk pace. The weeks preceding this competition had been crowded



WELL, WELL, WELL—LOOK WHAT WE'VE WON!
Members of Headquarter Squadron with the Inter-Squadron Athletics Trophy. *From Left to Right:* W.O.II (S.S.M.) E. R. Kelly, Lance-Corporal K. A. Jones, Lance-Bombardier W. Bannerman, Corporal K. H. Kent (kneeling), Lance-Bombardier J. D. Flood, Lance-Corporal C. D. Marsh, Gunner E. J. Smith, Major M. R. Ellis, Signalman D. G. Marr (kneeling)



"WE SHALL BE GETTING MOVED SHORTLY"
W.O.II C. H. Williams of 2 Squadron, 4th Regiment prepares to cure an exercise ailment

with visits and exercises and the lack of opportunity for training was perhaps reflected in a lack of real gladiatorial performance. However, the P.R.I., **Captain J. B. Walsh,** produced some splendid, useful prizes which were presented with charm by **Mrs. A. J. Jackson,** wife of the Commanding Officer. **Major M. R. Ellis,** of the Worcestershire Regiment, who commands H.Q. Squadron, had his reward for squeezing out training time and pushing his team hard when the Squadron carried off the Inter-Squadron Trophy. 2 and 3 Squadrons pressed the victors closely, leaving 4 and 1 Squadrons to prop up the order of merit table. As usual, the most rousing event of the day was the chain of command race in which Squadron Commanders, S.S.M's and two junior N.C.O's of each Squadron competed against each other in what might be termed a "beery" relay race. **Majors Ellis, Hartnett, Edwards** and **Gregory** were each well supported by **S.S.M's Kelly, Ladds, Williams** and **Staff Sergeant Driver,** with **S.S.M. Salter** trying to prop up his acting O.C., **Captain Edgar.** The junior N.C.O's played their part extremely well and in the overall confusion no one noticed who won. A special mention for outstanding effort in other events goes to **Lance-Corporal "Scouse" Archer** in the mile, **Lance-Bombardier Lalabaluva** in discus, long jump, hammer and javelin, **Sergeant Armstrong** in the hurdles, and **Corporal Tait** in the hammer.

Cricket

The Regimental team has the Divisional staff to call upon and is therefore considerably strengthened to take on an attractive fixture list. Captained by **Major Owen,** of H.Q. R.A.O.C., with strong support from **Corporal W. Monkman,** R.E.M.E., **Corporal Chapman,** R.M.P., **Second-Lieutenant John Speakes,** and **Major C. M. C. Dewar** (G2 Int.) the team had a clear cut victory over 3 R.H.A. in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Knock-out Competition.

Skill-at-Arms Meeting

The Regiment sent an under-practiced team to the Royal Signals meeting at Sennelager at the end of May, under the captaincy of **Major Andrews,** a well-known exponent on the open ranges. The team shot steadily through most of the matches with **Corporal Viney** standing out in winning the Class "B" S.M.G. individual prize. The team's results were around halfway in the overall entry of nine until right at the end of the whole competition, in front of the assembled spectators, when it outshone itself and outshot 28th Regiment, 1 Division Regiment, and no less than 21st Regiment to win the Falling Plates competition.

The W.O's and Sergeants' Mess At Home

On Friday, 24th May, the Mess staged its official re-opening with a buffet lunch party to which the G.O.C., **Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C.,** and all the officers of the Regiment and the Headquarters were invited.

In the bright, modern atmosphere of the refurnished Mess the lively party was interrupted by presentations to mark the auspicious occasion.

W.O.I Alan Graham, on behalf of all the R.A.O.C. members, presented a large oil painting: **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Brian Overland,** on behalf of all Royal Signals members, gave a fine barometer, which was promptly hung in its carefully selected site by **R.S.M. W.O.I R. G. Aitken:** and then, unexpectedly, **Major B. M. Edwards,** Royal Australian Signals, presented an oil painting of a typical outback scene in his native country.

Mess members who have recently departed include, **W.O.II George Brooker** and **Staff Sergeants Shaun Leonard, "Chalkie" White and Bob Elliott,** all of whom have our best wishes for the future.

Fencing

Major R. A. King, the captain of fencing, promised faithfully to produce an illustrated article for THE WIRE, telling how the Regimental team won the B.A.O.R. Inter Unit Cup. However, the team then went off to Aldershot at the end of May, and to our delight, proceeded to win the Army Inter-Unit Team Championship with its splendid silver trophy. In so doing, the original copy became out of date. Now the team is preparing for its final trial which is the Inter-Serivces competition, to be held during the Royal Tournament at Earls Court on 3rd and 4th July. Irrespective of the outcome the whole course of this triumphant procession of competitions is to be reviewed by the proud team captain in our next notes.

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7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

Budding Inventor—a remarkable story

YOU might well believe that the Electronics Workshop in the Regimental Hobbies Centre would be full each evening of keen young technicians busy building advanced electronic devices incorporating the very latest technical developments. Not a bit of it. It seems that the young technicians have had enough of electronics after a hard day in the field or at the workshop benches, and leave the Hobbies Centre for those whom they might condescendingly call 'amateurs.' Amateurs . . . I wonder!

Do not be put off as you go through the door by the assorted TV sets, radios, tape recorders, record players, washing machines, clocks, watches and bicycles which immediately catch the eye. These are only the 'bread-and-butter' repair jobs to raise a few shillings for the real project in the far corner of the room. This glories in the name of a 'computergram,' which is an invention to bring the tape recorder, with its advantage of simplicity, greater capacity and yet smaller physical size, into the juke box world.

The 'computergram' works by a photocell which recognises and counts through a 'window' the start of each three minutes recording as it passes in either direction. Having been given its instruction as to which tune to play next, it 'counts' the necessary number of starts to the selected tune and then plays it. To begin with, the machine will be fitted with a four-track tape recorder with a capacity for 400 tunes. Eventually, a 16-track recorder will be fitted, giving a selection of 1,600 recordings. The 'computergram' will then be able to accept instructions giving the order in which to play all 1,600 recordings.

The inspiration for the 'computergram' came to the inventor while sitting in Sandy's Soldiers' Home in Catterick during his recruit training. The first design utilised records and then came the idea to adapt a tape recorder for the purpose. The design stage for this second idea lasted four years and work started around Christmas, 1966.

The inventor and builder of this remarkable machine is **Signalman Patrick Clohessy,** a field signalman employed with the Quartermaster (Accommodation). He is entirely self-taught as a technician, graduating from mending his first clock at the age of four. He now has an apprentice in **Signalman Bob Kenyon,** a driver by trade, but employed on general duties because of a wrist injury. He, too, is teaching himself electronics under Signalman Clohessy's guidance.

Why is **Signalman Clohessy** not a technician? Unfortunately he is colour-blind. The doctors and other experts who lay down the rules for personnel selection would presumably like to believe that the machine works, because **Clohessy** has got his resistor colour codes all wrong, and the whole thing works by mistake. There must be a moral here somewhere.

Anyway, good luck to **Signalmen Clohessy** and **Kenyon.** We all hope that they eventually get their invention on the market and make a fortune.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

Sapper/Signals' Dinner Night.—On Friday, 10th May, a party of officers, led by the Commanding Officer, joined C.C.R. Signals as guests at a dinner night held at the Officers' Mess of 25 Corps Engineer Regiment, Osnabruck, for the annual celebration of the close association of our two Corps. The hosts were hospitable indeed, and a good time was had by all.

Bielefeld Police Cross-Country Meeting.—On a blustery, showery Sunday, 19th May, the Bielefeld Police held their annual cross-country running and walking meeting. In the morning some 500 athletes from all over Northern Germany, including seven from this Regiment, competed in the 10 km. run over an arduous course through the Teutoberger Wald. At the finish, **Corporal Holden** was 15th, **Corporal MacMillan** was 16th, and **Lance-Corporals Atkins, Baron** and **Moynihan, Sergeant Lingard** and **Captain Burns** were all in the first 60 places. In the afternoon, a team of nine men from R Troop, lead by **Staff Sergeant Stanger,** completed the walk over the same cross-country course in 1hr. 15mins., being the only team to complete it together as a team.

Visits.—This month we have been visited by the Quartermaster General, **General Sir Alan Jolly, K.C.B., D.S.O.,** and by the Chaplain-General, **The Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens, O.B.E., M.C., Q.H.C.**

Anglo-German Service.—On Sunday, 26th May, many members of the Regiment joined with the congregation of the Evangelical Church, Bad Salzuflen, in a combined morning service conducted both in English and German by our Padre, **Douglas Marshall** and **Pastor Schendel** of the Evangelical Church.

Massed Bands Display, Bielefeld.—The third annual massed bands display took place at Bielefeld on the 28th and 29th May. As in previous years, the Regiment undertook the P.A. and local line commitment for this highly-popular event, which is put on each year as free entertainment for the people of Bielefeld. **Captain (T.O.T.) Jim Nixon** was in charge of our side of the enterprise, with a technician from each Squadron and a line party from 5 Squadron. Their efforts included the provision of the sound effects of bells and horses at appropriate moments during the grand finalé.

B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Skill at Arms Meeting.—This event took place from the 28th to 30th May at Sennelager. Due to heavy exercise commitments prior to this, no training or selection was possible for the team. The Regiment was accordingly represented by a team of 'old sweats' from the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, with **Corporal Giles, Corporal Durrant** and **Corporal Dando** filling the remaining places. For many in the team this was their first experience of the electric target range. Their achievement, therefore, in rising from ninth place in the Roupell Cup on the first day to second place in the second round of the Roberts Cup on the last day is most creditable. **W.O.I (F. of S.) Smith** won first place in the individual pistol competition.

Regimental Athletics

This year we held our annual Regimental Athletics meeting on Frday, 10th May, just two days after our return from C.C.R. Signals' exercise of the year, Exercise "Brown Bear," and one weekend before joining the Corps Staff on Exercise "Spring Sales." All day on 9th May frustrated junior officers were running around their Squadrons trying to get volunteers to run one mile or three miles, or even to try their hand at pole vaulting.

The day turned out to be quite a light-hearted occasion, with everyone determined to enjoy themselves in the open air (for once not on exercise). The meeting was a success, thanks to the excellent administrative arrangements made by our Q.M. (Accommodation) **Captain T. A. Swales** and R.Q.M.S., **W.O.II B. Cleaver.** During the lunch break the bar tent was very well patronised, somewhat to the detriment of the prowess of some of the athletes in the afternoon events. As the Messing Officer was heard to say: "What is the point of serving them a light salad lunch if they go off and fill up with beer?" However, the more dedicated ones did extremely well and provided excellent material for the Athletics Officer to build up the Regimental team. 1 Squadron thoroughly deserved to win the Regimental Athletics Cup, even though the result was in question right up to the last event. The catchweight tug-of war was won by H.Q. Squadron. Some people were unkind enough to say that they did it by having a team weight of at least 200 stone and as such constituted an "immovable object." However, the "irresistible force" of 2 Squadron very nearly carried the day by winning the first of the three pulls against them in the final. **Sergeant Spiers,** the H.Q. Squadron coach, claims that is was training, not weight, that won the day for his team!

As a footnote to athletics, as we post this month's WIRE notes, **Corporal Holden** won the B.A.O.R. individual six-mile event and **Corporal McMillian** the B.A.O.R. individual three-mile event in the championships at Sennelager on the 5th and 6th June.

Farewells

In a Regiment approaching 950 strong, it would obviously be wrong to attempt a monthly catalogue of departing members of the Regiment. This month, however, two exceptionally long-serving, hardworking and well-known members leave us.

Major Jack Seymour, R.C.T., has been O.C. H.Q. Squadron for three years. During this period—his last tour in nearly 30 years of service, he wore a Royal Signals cap badge and



LIFTING A BRUIN TRANSPORTABLE CONTAINER
Men of the LAD of 7th Regiment demonstrate to the Q.M.G. how to tackle an unusual job

stable belt. He has a great interest in most forms of art and in photography, and gave good advice to any who sought his help. We shall miss him throughout the Regiment, and wish him well in his retirement.

Captain Alan deBretton Gordon leaves the Regiment after 2½ years, the last eighteen months of which he has spent as Adjutant. Somehow, at the end of this traumatic experience, he still maintained a sense of humour. He has earned a couple of years of sunshine in Cyprus.

Death of Signalman Wright

We were all saddened by the news of the death of **Signalman David Wright** in the Stadt Krankenhaus, Bielefeld, on Sunday, 9th June. He never recovered consciousness after a car accident in Bielefeld on 4th June. Our deepest sympathies go to his mother and father, **Mr. and Mrs. R. Wright,** from Saltburn, Yorkshire, who stayed with the Regiment from shortly after the accident until the cremation service in the Brackwede Crematorium.

Photograph

We show a photograph of a demonstration given by our L.A.D. during the visit of the Q.M.G., of the lifting of a BRUIN Transportable Container off its flat platform on to the Regimental square. (It's easier to get in during the hours of darkness).

10th Regiment Hounslow

Believe it or not . . .

SOME vital statistics about the Regiment and its role follow below. They are not as well known perhaps as they should be. So let them speak:

How much territory does the Regiment cover?
26,500 square miles.

(On this real estate count the Commanding Officer was labelled at the recent Corps Dinner as the Charles Clore of Southern England).

What is the number of telephone exchanges we operate?
Forty-two telephone exchanges in 1967, but this is rising up to 85 exchanges by next year.

How many telegraph terminals?
Nineteen telegraph terminals in 1967, but going up to 35 by next year.

Comcens?
The answer is nine.

Other commitments?

Live Communication Tasks.—These included seven state ceremonial occasions and another seven various tasks (asistance to NATO Symposium, T. & A.V.R. etc.).

Regular Army Assistance Tasks.—These included the classification testing of 242 Regimental signallers in 1967, running training courses for two Battalion Signal Platoons and the provision of technicians support for five Infantry Battalions.

T. & A.V.R. Assistance.—Tasks included the support of one T. & A.V.R. Camp and two training weekends.

C.C.F./A.C.F. Assistance.—Assistance was given to 26 Schools with C.C.F. Signal Platoons or A.C.F. Contingents, including the testing of 338 cadets and help on six Field Days.

Unit Training Measures?
A total of 237 students, military and civilian, attended trade training courses, military training courses and civilian operators' courses in 1967.

Vehicle commitments?
Last year the unit transport covered 680,000 miles.

Turning from statistics to flesh-and-blood events, the following merit a special mention:

The Bermuda Operation

The Comcentre at H.Q., Army Strategic Command, manned by 4 Squadron, was working at full pressure during the Bermuda emergency on 27th/28th April.

One Lance-Corporal and three Signalmen were detached to Devizes to open up and man the teleprinter circuit at the Air Transit Centre.

Lieutenant-General Sir John Mogg, C.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Army Strategic Command, personally expressed his thanks and appreciation for the good work done by 4 Squadron during the operation.

Jets keep quiet for Army Band

(Extracted from the Middlesex Chronicle)

Marching with impeccable precision, the 55-strong band of the Royal Corps of Signals, in their ceremonial scarlet tunics and flat-topped busby hats played "Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines . . . "

And the men in the flying machines—airline pilots making their final descent to Heathrow, met an Army request and steered clear of the parade ground of the Beavers Lane Army Camp in Hounslow on Wednesday evening, so that the thunder of the jets would not drown the music. "We're very grateful to Heathrow Airport," said an officer later.

For the Corps Band, paying a rare visit to the 10th Regiment H.Q. in the camp, was putting on a musical treat for the barracks, the ceremony of playing the Retreat.

The specially invited audience included the new Mayor and Mayoress of Hounslow, **Alderman** and **Mrs. V. C. Denton,** who were carrying out their first official engagement, barely 24 hours after taking office.

The Band was under its Director of Music, **Captain C. H. Pike, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.**. who was among the guests at a cocktail party held afterwards in the Regimental Club. Guests were received by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Hibberd,** who earlier took the salute at the end of the display.

Wheeler's Bailey Becomes Army '25' Champion

(Extracted from the Middlesex Chronicle)

Duncan Bailey, Hounslow Wheelers, and stationed with the Army at Hounslow Barracks, put up by far his best performance of the season on Saturday, when, despite windy conditions on a course near Northampton, he clipped about 100

seconds from his personal best for 25 miles. The event, the Inter-Services '25' Championship, saw him take fourth place overall with 1hr. 2min. 41sec., to become Army Champion at this distance.

Congratulations to **Signalman Bailey,** the unit draughtsman, who went on to achieve first place amongst the Army entry in the Inter-Services' 50-mile Cycling Time Trial, with a time of 2hr. 11min. 30sec. He also managed to overtake **R.S.M. Gibson** in his car on the A.30.

London District Minor Units Shooting Challenge Cup

Our team came second in this event. Another two points scored and it would have been the first place for **Sergeant Leggott, Corporals Garland, Boorman, Furey, Lance-Corporal Connors** and **Signalman Stevens.**

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

ON 17th May we were paid a fleeting visit by the new G.O.C. Northumbrian District, **Major-General J. M. D. Ward-Harrison, O.B.E., M.C.** The General met the Commanding Officer and promised to pay a longer visit later.

PASS OFF PARADES

Friday, 17th May



Signalman Robert Atkinson

This parade for No. 5 Troop saw 20 young men starting in their chosen careers. It was also a first for **Lieutenant Q. Vigurs,** their Troop Commander, whose first parade it was since joining the Regiment. The parade was inspected by **Lieutenant-Colonel B. H. C. Emden,** Commanding 1st Royal Anglian Regiment. The best recruit was **Signalman Robert Atkinson,** who comes from County Armagh, Northern Ireland, and joined the Army straight from school. He is the eldest of three sons, and he joined the Army in order to travel and to obtain a trade. He plays badminton and tennis.

Wednesday, 29th May

A touch of summer came to Catterick for this pass-off parade of No. 2 Troop taken by **Brigadier R. C. H. Barber, M.C.,** Deputy Commander Northumbrian District. The best recruit was **Signalman M. R. J. Smith,** who comes from Edgbaston, Birmingham, and joined the Army because of the excellent opportunities offered for a trade training in electronics.

During the parade **Brigadier Barber** presented the Long Service and Good conduct Medal to **Staff Sergeant "Tommy" Atkins.**

Regimental Athletics

The weather took a sudden turn for the worse when the Regiment turned out for the athletics meeting. **Lieutenant John Reed** did well to get things organised, and also to take part in most of the events. The Inter-Squadron competition was eventually won by H.Q. Squadron, after a thrilling finish. The final result was dependent on the outcome of the last event, the 440 yards.

The Regimental Shooting Team has also distinguished itself this month. **Captain Ken Goulding** led his team to victory in the Training Brigade Skill-at-Arms Meeting and they came fourth in the Northern Command Meeting. We now hope for success at Bulford and perhaps even Bisley.

This month we said farewell to **Major Joe Waterworth,** who is retiring. **Major Waterworth** and his family are emigrating to New Zealand. We wish them all success for the future. We also said hello and goodbye to **Major Don Humphries,** who was whisked away to the Congo to be a military attaché for six months. We should see him again in October.

Serious doubts were cast on the validity of the Second-in-Command's supposed visit to the Corps Dinner in London. The fact that it coincided with the Manchester United v. Benfica match had no significance until he was seen on King's Cross station with a red and white scarf round his neck, singing "We're the Champions!"

13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

Annual Administrative Inspection

THE Annual Administrative Inspection was carried out by the Commander, Rhine Area, **Brigadier J. B. A. Glennie, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C.,** in early April.

The Brigadier was met by a well turned-out quarter guard commanded by **Staff Sergeant** (now W.O.II) **Fred Searle.** He complimented them on their 'present arms,' which he said was one of the finest he had ever seen. This set the tone for a highly-successful inspection.

Visit of the Inspector of Intelligence

The following day we were pleased to welcome **Major-General R. E. Lloyd, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.A.,** who spent a most enjoyable day with us, renewing acquaintances with many members of 2 Squadron. He was acompanied by **Mrs. Lloyd,** who took coffee with the wives and looked in on the kindergarten and other amenities run by the Regiment.

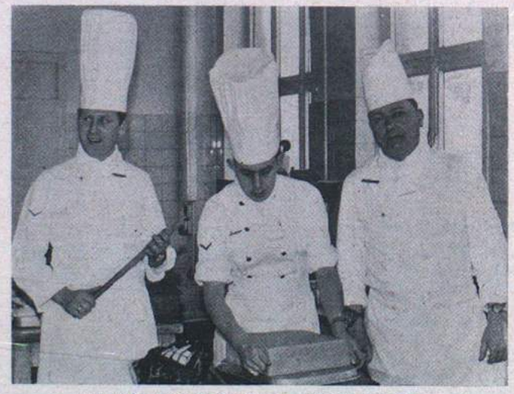
Visit of the Director of the W.R.A.C.

On 16th May we were honoured with a visit by **Brigadier The Hon. M. M. Anderson, M.B.E., Hon. A.D.C.** On arrival she was met by the Commanding Officer, with whom she had a discussion over a cup of coffee. She was then introduced to our two W.R.A.C. officers, **Captain Anne Lappin** and **Lieutenant Dinah Rumsey.**

This was followed by a tour of the W.R.A.C. accommodation and places of employment of the W.R.A.C., where she met and talked to many members of the feminine side of the Regiment.

Junior Ranks' Mess

We know how well the Regiment eats and were able to prove this to Rhine Area when **W.O.II Bill Baume,** A.C.C., and his team, consisting of **Lance-Corporal Howard** and **Lance-Corporal Clarke,** won the Rhine Area Team Cookery Competition for the second year running. With a menu guaranteed to put your appetite on edge, they produced a five-course lunch that would have graced any banqueting table; we enjoy this standard daily, of course, and to **Bill** and his boys we say "well done!"



IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN 'MUM'S' COOKING
W.O.II Bill Baume and his team consisting of Lance-Corporal Howard, Lance-Corporal Clarke, with the winning entry for the B.A.O.R. Table d'honneur competition

Another success was scored by **Lance-Corporal Clarke,** who entered a three-tier wedding cake in the B.A.O.R. Table d'honneur Competition. The cake weighed 80lb. and was magnificent in size and decoration. **Lance-Corporal Clarke** won the Young Soldiers' Award for this entry, which was certainly viewed with pleasure by all who saw it. Later we were able to taste the quality of the cake at the wedding of Sally, the daughter of **W.O.I** and **Mrs. Jack Backhouse,** our Clerk of Works, and **Fred Machin,** our AKC cinema manager, for whom the cake was made.

Dutch Liberation Day

Following tradition, on Saturday, evening of the 14th May, the Regiment sent a detachment consisting of the R.S.M., 24 Warrant Officers and Sergeants, a firing party and bugler under the command of the Adjutant, **Captain Robby Macheath,** to Neederweert to take part in the annual civic ceremony commemorating Dutch Liberation Day. The ceremony commenced with a short service in the local church, followed by a procession to the British Military Cemetery, where a further service took place. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Regiment and the townspeople, and volleys were fired, followed by the sounding of the Last Post, with two minutes' silence, broken by the strains of Reveille. The schoolchildren of the town were present and laid flowers on the graves. Unfortunately this year's ceremony was marred by a thunderstorm which broke directly overhead. This, however, made no difference to the majesty and solemnity of the occasion. The ceremony, carried out annually, is the means by which the local Dutch people remember and pay their respects to those of the British Army who paid the supreme sacrifice for victory in World War II.

SPORT

Golf—Royal Signals' Spring Meeting

The Royal Signals' Spring Meeting was held on Thursday and Friday, 4th/5th April, at the R.A.F., Germany, Golf Course at Bruggen. It proved to be very enjoyable, and the standard of golf, certainly amongst the winners, was high. **Corporal Milne** and **Lieutenant-Colonel Palmer** retained the Regimental Foursomes Cup in a very exciting finish, which involved the Commanding Officer in sinking a very long putt on the 18th green, for an eagle 3, to return a card of a net 71 (the par for the course) and beating 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment by one stroke.

B.A.O.R. Spring Meeting



Corporal Milne, winner of the BAOR Golf Championship receiving his trophy from Mrs. Cox wife of Brigadier A. C. Cox

This meeting was held from 29th April to 3rd May, also at the R.A.F. course. The unit succeeded in getting three of our five entrants into the last 16 of the B.A.O.R. Championship, two into the last eight, and the eventual winner of the championship, in the form of **Corporal Milne.**

Immediately after the meeting was over **Corporal Milne** left for the Army Championships in England, where he did extremely well to finish second. He has now been selected to represent the Army in their triangular Inter-Services game later in the season.

Hockey

The Regimental hockey team, winners of last year's Rhine Area League, found stiffer opposition this season. In spite of an excellent standard of play throughout the season, the team finished fourth. However, this has only made us more determined to do better next season.

Football

The Regimental team obtained a final placing of third in Division I of the Rhine Area Inter-Services League. The team proved they had maintained their high standard of football, as there are four divisions in this league, including several large R.A.F. stations.

In the Rhine Area finals of the Army Challenge Cup, the Regiment fought a hard battle against H.Q. Rheindahlen Garrison, and with a score of 3—2 became runners-up.

In addition to our Regimental team, we have had a flourishing Inter-Troop League, including a team from the Sergeants' Mess, which came second to "B" Troop, or 'Easy B,' as they like to be called.

The Regimental second team enjoyed a busy season playing friendly matches against all and sundry, including local German and Dutch teams.

Representative Honours—Football

The following personnel of the Regiment were selected to play, as follows: Army (U.K.), **Lance-Corporal Neilson;** Army (B.A.O.R.), **Lance-Corporals Neilson, Oxley** and **Burr;** Rhine Area, **Lieutenant Cowan, Lance-Corporals Neilson, Oxley, Burr** and **Signalman Duff.**

All in all, a busy and successful season, which was well enjoyed.

Comings and Goings

It is with regret that we have to bid farewell to **Major "Mike" Wilton-Steer,** who has deserted us for the more musical atmosphere of Liverpool, and **Captain (T.O.T.) Dc Hazel,** bound for Hong Kong. **Lance-Corporal Dave Hopkins, Signalmen Mervyn Hughes, Mike Payne, Dick Griffin** and **Corporal Dick Salmon** have also left us for adventures further afield, and to them go our best wishes for the future.

To offset our losses we are pleased to welcome amongst us **Major (T.O.T.) Don Chetwynd, Major Ben Bolt,** and **Captain John Alexander.** Also to arrive was **Corporal Syd Goddard, Signalmen Derek Waterman, Ian Coward, Martin Rudd, Graham Lawrence,** and **Sergeants Dusty Miller** and **Spud Taylor.** May your stay with us be happy and enjoyable.

Blessings from the Stork

Our congratulations on the increases to the families of **W.O.II Barlow** (a daughter), **Liese Michelle; Lance-Corporal Barron** (a son), **Robert John; Corporal Conway** (a son), **Christopher George; Lance-Corporal Hern** (a daughter), **Nicola Julie; Corporal Bullard** (a son), **Jonathan James,** and **Corporal Kelly** (a daughter), **Kim.** After all this, the stork was seen to be flying on one wing, but from latest reports is in full flight again!

Bereavement

It is with deep regret that we report the passing away, on 27th February, in Wegberg R.A.F. Hospital, of Jenny, wife of **W.O.II George Jackson.** To him and his family we offer our sincere condolences.

REGULATION PATTERN

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

Home —12/6 each plus 1/3 post
Abroad—11/3 each plus 1/3 post

Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals	35/-
Pace Sticks	150/-
Sergeants Walking Canes, Ball, Pear or Thimble Cap, Crested. Home	61/-
Abroad	48/-

ERNEST GOODRICH

Specialist in the supply of Military Requisites

44, WESTON AVENUE,
WEST MOLESEY, SURREY



(Photo: Courtesy Gloucester Citizen & Journal)

The Mayor of Gloucester, supported by the Signal Officer in-Chief, taking the salute on the occasion of the second anniversary of receiving the Freedom of Gloucester

14th Signal Regiment, Gloucester

Freedom Weekend

THE second weekend in May saw our second anniversary celebrations of receiving the Freedom of Gloucester, and the third of what we hope will become regular visits of the Corps Band. On the Saturday they played Retreat to a large number of visitors, both military and civil. Some of these, remembering last year's torrential rain, showed their apprehension of the overcast skies and slight drizzle by coming well prepared. At one stage the umbrellas were going up and down in time with the music. Our R.A.F. guests afterwards mentioned their warm appreciation of **Captain Pike's** choice of "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines" as a 50th birthday present for them.

Cathedral Service

On the Sunday, as many of the Regiment who could be spared from duty at our three locations attended evensong at Gloucester Cathedral, where they were joined by the Mayor and Corporation. The civic party was greeted with Bullock's 'Homeage' Fanfare and the Lessons were read by the Mayor, and the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who was our senior military and Corps guest for the week-end. The sermon was given by the Chaplain-General, who had just returned from Bahrain and was suffering from laryngitis. Fortunately the amplifying system worked well and most of the large congregation found much food for thought in his excellent address.

Freedom Rights

After the service, the Regiment, headed by the Corps Band, exercised its right and privilege to marching through the City with "swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing." To the instant delight of the younger element of the spectators, they led off with "Congratulations"—probably the first public performance of this excellent marching tune in that form. This was a fortnight before the Royal Marines used it to restore sanity to the Cup Final.

The Corps Band is rapidly making a name for itself in what is for it a new area. Their performances over this week-end and at a public concert at Cheltenham have led to two serious enquiries about future engagements, not to mention the sale of five copies of their L.P.

Holidays Abroad

645 Troop have returned from an exercise with elements of the Parachute Brigade in Libya, covered with dust and disappointingly untanned. Apparently their air-conditioned cabins provide a high standard of operator comfort. On the way home they stopped over (at least that is what a commercial airline would call it) in Malta. Unfortunately they are equally reticent about that, and the unit note writer barely had time to scrounge a king-size duty-free cigarette before they were off again to Cornwall with 3rd Division.

Departure of Old Soldiers

Two old soldiers leave the Regiment, the Corps and the Army this month: **Major E. Cooper,** who has been with the

Regiment for nearly five years, with a good deal of this time spent as Operations Officer at the Relay Centre, and **W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. Jagger,** who has been with us for just over a year. Fortunately, both are continuing to live in the area and we hope to continue to see them.

Sport

For **Major Cooper,** the soccer season finished as an unfortunate disappointment. Wanting two points for a win in our final match against Cheltenham Police in the Cheltenham District League (which we had headed for most of the season), the game finished as a goal-less draw, and we had to settle for being runners-up to the police. Next season promises well, however, and with the additon of two Corps players, **Corporal P. Smurthwaite** and **Signalman A. M. Fyvie,** together with our old stagers, **Corporals T. G. Barwick, G. E. Belmont** and **Lance-Corporal J. G. Parkhill,** we hope to be able to bring home the bacon.

A rose is a rose is a . . .

As most people now know, Annual Inspections are intended to be helpful, as well as inquisitive. Shortly before ours, it was noticed that on the shelves of our ration store were some boxes marked "French Cheddar Cheese." Now, for a unit only fifty miles from Cheddar, this really was a bit too much, and we said so. We are delighted to report that some action has been taken. The latest consignment is marked "Dutch Cheddar Cheese."

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Experience !

The Regimental Rugby Club finished a season older and wiser. Their club room carried trophies from far and wide, a prized possession being the refrigerator, bought from an R.A.F. team for a crate of beer. Even that has gone now, taken away by the S.I.B., who had been called in by N.A.A.F.I.

T. & A.V.R. Visit

Gone, too, are the soft Ulster voices of 85 Squadron, our guests for two weeks. Preparations for the visit by 85 Squadron ranged from N.A.A.F.I. topping up their Guinness stocks to the W.R.A.C. preparing last-ditch defences in the attic of Block 6. In the event, they were the nicest bunch of chaps we have met for a long time.

The first week was spent in barracks, the second in "the bush." Communication was the major theme, but concealment and camouflage were not neglected. An impressive demonstration of the latter was **Corporal Hebden's** hiding an Austin K9; a local lady, responding to the call of nature, didn't notice the truck 20 yards away.

85 Squadron were joined by the rest of 40th Regiment for the Sergeant's Mess guest night in 16th Regiment's Mess. **Brigadier Vaigncourt-Strallen** and the officer guests left around midnight so could claim no knowledge of subsequent developments which produced a predawn sick parade for the M.O. On parade were **Staff Sergeant Hassett,** ankle badly sprained, **Staff Sergeant Whalley,** 12 stitches where he had sat upon a broken whiskey glass, and **R.S.M. Armstrong,** fractured arm — all the consequences of Mess rugby. However, let it not be thought that we are callous; our photographs shows **R.S.M. Dathan** and **S.S.M. Higgs,** smiling sympathetically as they help **R.S.M. Armstrong** in to a car. **Staff Sergeant Whalley** declined to be photographed.

It was a pleasure to have **Major-General Anderson** visit us for a few hours to see for himself how 40th Regiment were faring. Also with the same aim, **Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Harris** flew over from Northern Ireland and went back, we understand, well satisfied.

W.R.A.C. V.I.P.s

Our possession of a sizeable slice of the W.R.A.C. in B.A.O.R. entitles us to special visitors and we were happy to welcome **Brigadier Anderson, Director W.R.A.C.,** to the Regiment. Later in the year we are promised a visit by **H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent,** Controller-Commandant of the W.R.A.C. All very good for our girls' morale.

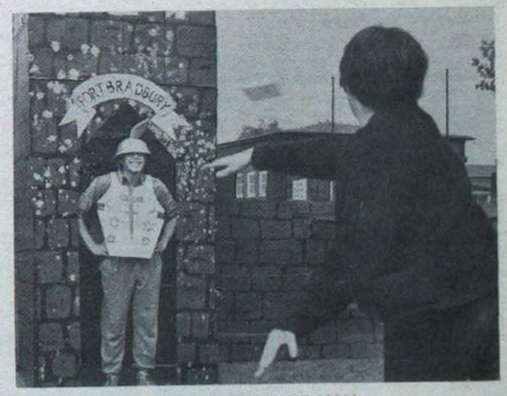
The Competitive Spirit

Life in Rhine Area gets a little cut-throat at this time of year. Some clever co-ordination produced the Rhine Area Shoot and the First Aid Competition side-by-side in time and space. The overall standard of shooting was high, 21st Regiment particularly distinguished themselves, but we were well pleased with ourselves, too. Surprised recipient of a tankard was **Captain Read,** our Technical Adjutant, who, as Butts Officer, expected nothing more than a nasty flesh wound. He fired in the Workman's Cup at the end of the day and now claims a place at Bisley.

The Regimental First Aid Team did well to gain second place in a field of 12 teams. The members, **Yeoman Leitch, Staff Sergeant Keany, Corporal Elgood** and **Corporal Edwards** (L.A.D.), all expect to collect E.D. pay at future Sergeants' Mess festivities. Good weather helped the Regimental Sports in which 2 Squadron hopefully took on the rest of the Regiment, less the W.R.A.C. On the final scoring 2 Squadron only just



GUEST NIGHT CASUALTY!
R.S.M. Armstrong being helped by R.S.M. Dathan and S.S.M. Higgs; Staff Sergeant Dean in the background



THE CUSTARD PIE MAN
Captain Carling, O.C. Radio Relay Troop makes a smiling target for custard pies during the Regimental Fete

failed, a shattering 400 metres by **Corporal Turvey** of 1 Squadron, snatched victory in the last inches of the final event. A really exciting finish to a very satisfying afternoon.

The Fete . . . its mention makes hard men flinch

A lot of work goes into the Regiment Fete and hard men flinch when it is mentioned in March. Come the day and one is committed, for better or for worse, and it's quite a thing. Much depends on the weather and, once again, we were very lucky; sunny and warm. The Regiment, men, women and families, puts on the Fete mainly for itself, but we welcome guests from 28th Regiment and other units in our area. The mixture is amusement, enjoyment, pleasure and fund-raising and, on all scores, it was a great success. This is the third and last fete organised by our P.R.I., **Major John Harry;** our thanks to him.

REPORT FROM AN OUTPOST

The Regiment has Troops and detachments spread wide over Germany and one smallish Troop in Belgium. They, quite rightly, consider that Krefeld hogs THE WIRE. We are always glad when they offer up their own contribution; here is one from the Advanced Base Troop.

The Troop is located at Grobbendonk, close to Antwerp, and pleasantly separated by 100 miles of atrocious road from R.H.Q. at Krefeld. The task is provision of static communications for the Advanced Base and calls for a few soldiers but mostly locally engaged civilians. For five years until April last, first as a Squadron but more recently as a Troop, we have been commanded by **Major Steve Hodgson,** now retired and living not far from us in Antwerp. We hope and expect to continue to see much of him and **Renee, Mrs. Hodgson.** Newly arrived is **Captain George London.**

Notable amongst our civilian staff is **Mr. Jim Hutchins,** who joined Royal Signals in 1931 and left in 1953, having reached the rank of W.O.I. He saw service in India, with the B.E.F. in France, Dunkirk, North Africa, Italy, the Adriatic, and N.W. Europe. Now, after 15 years in his present job, files and reference books are unnecessary in the Troop. Like **Major Hodgson, Jim Hutchins** found the Belgian girls irresistible

Another key-man in the organisation is **Sergeant Colin Smith,** primary trade unknown, but a multi-purpose Troop Sergeant here; a keen believer in " the ends justify the means."

We hear that the H.Q. B.A.O.R. Troop have just marched from Rheindahlen to Krefeld. Keen types. We are thinking of doing the same thing from Grobbendonk, thinking hard.

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Singaporean happenings

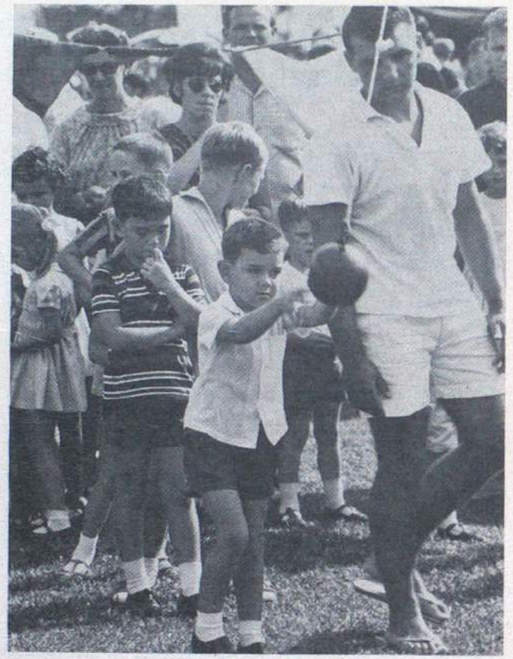
THE writer had the misfortune (?) to be sent off, on medical grounds, to the Cameron Highlands for the first two weeks of the month. His homework for this magnificent trip appears elsewhere as a separate article, but fortunately the Regiment managed to survive his absence, and found plenty to accomplish during May.

W.R.A.C. Officer has ants in her PABX

Lieutenant 'Sandy' Boyack, W.R.A.C., the O.C. of the Exchange Troop found herself in distress due to an invasion of tiny, black, vicious and voracious ants. Her domain—the new auto exchange at Tanglin is a big affair and is one of our showpieces, in addition, of course, to the W.R.A.C. of the Troop who operate it. The ants were attracted to both the wax in the cables and to the girls. Once an ant has made up its mind—that's it! Not only were the cables being eaten, but also our girls. The fumigation people had a field day, or to be more accurate, an asphyxiatory quarter-of-an-hour one lunch time, and now the service is as smooth, slick and comfortable as ever.

The Regimental Fun-Fair and Carnival

This year's Regimental Fun-Fair and Carnival was held on Saturday, 25th May. **Mrs. D. E. Warren** opened the fair at



IT WAS A GREAT DAY

For this youngster at the Regimental Fun Fair and Carnival. Much hard work—and much ingenuity—had gone into the affair. No wonder it was such an outstanding success

14.15 hours and the last customer left the fairground well after 18.30 hours. Over $4,500 profit was made and is being donated to various military local charities, including the Corps Benevolent Fund and S.S.A.F.A.

237 and 249 Squadron joined forces with the Regiment to provide over 40 sideshows, which included a jeep train and pony rides. The wives—as always—made a large percentage of the profit with their five stalls and nearly cleared $1,600 on their own. Much of this was due to the handicrafts stall which sold a very wide range of toys, clothes and other articles made over the last five months. The jumble stall was swamped and was sold out within 20 minutes of the official opening.

Mrs. D. E. Warren awarded the prize for the best decorated sideshow to **W.O.II (F. of S.) Harvey,** of 3 Squadron, for the highly-decorated air-conditioned cinema he and his henchmen had produced from an issue marquee. The competition was fierce and it was difficult to decide which of the many excellent stalls was best.

Ceremonial

W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Abdul Khalid Bin Kamaruddin and **Staff Sergeant Baba Bin Ismail** were both presented with their L.S. and G.C. medals by **Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson** on the C.O's parade held on the 18th May. **Corporal Haji Amran,** who has featured in recent WIRE notes and in the " Soldier " magazine, was presented with a distinctive songkok on the same occasion, to mark the fact that he is the first haji in the Regiment.

Investiture by the British High Commissioner to Singapore

On the evening of Thursday, 16th May, the British High Commissioner to Singapore, **His Excellency, Mr. J. A. de la Mare, C.M.G.,** presented the M.B.E. to **Captain C. W. Palmer,**



The British High Commissioner to Singapore, Mr. A. J. de la Mare C.M.G., presenting the M.B.E. to Captain C. W. Palmer of 18th Regiment (left) and the B.E.M. to Sergeant Scrutton of 249 Signal Squadron (FARELF)

our M.T.O., and the B.E.M. to **Sergeant P. A. Scrutton,** of 249 Squadron (FARELF). The ceremony took place at Eden Hall, the High Commissioner's residence.

Captain " Clem " Palmer won his decoration whilst R.S.M. of the 13th Regiment in B.A.O.R., and **Sergeant Scrutton** earned his award whilst serving in Northern Ireland.

The Adjutant, **Captain J. J. Cullen,** had the privilege of acting as Aide-de-Camp for the investiture. Our photographs show, to use his own words, how well he discharged " the onerous task of holding the velvet cushion."

Honour at Mons Officer Cadet School

Officer Cadet Rejab Ismail, late of H.Q. Squadron, is at present training at Mons O.C.S. He is doing well and justifying our high hopes for him. He finds the cold a bit much, but this has not prevented him from winning the Nuffield Trophy. This award is for the best shot, using all types of small arms. We understand that he is the first overseas Cadet to earn the honour and is likely to be selected for the Mons Bisley team. We offer him our congratulations, and look forward to his return.

Signal Training Centre FARELF

3 Squadron returned from their annual block leave on 3rd May, and cracked off full of vim and vigour on a fresh training cycle.

Apart from running courses, a great deal of action is taking place based on Meiktila Barracks. A new site had to be found for the Military Wing's jungle training. An island off Changi called Pulau Tekong, has been selected. It is an old Coast Artillery site, and must have been a splendid command before the war. The barracks and range are good, the terrain and jungle excellent. On the reconnaisance the O.C., **Major D. Lycett-Gregson** was impressed by the sharks close in to the island, a crocodile disturbed in the mangrove and the local tales about " the python!" But so far, so good—no trainees have been lost and all have declared their few days at the camp a high spot in their course.

The Squadron is reorganising yet again and welcome back the Monitoring Troop from their two-year holiday (?) in 1 Squadron. They will join I.S. Troop to form Radio Troop, and can look forward to a busy and interesting time.

We are especially sad to lose, on the day of writing, **Sergeant F. Jepson** to T & AVR in Glasgow. He has been a bulwark of the military proficiency maniacs, and as Senior Instructor of Military Wing has had a big part in moulding and influencing the many students who have passed through his hands on M.P.C. courses. He is an urbane character, fit, hard working and competent. Our loss is Scotland's gain, and we wish him well.

* * * *

CYPHER VACANCIES

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Vacancies exist for Men and Women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work in Cheltenham and London. Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting duties is desirable.

Appointments in London are paid on a scale rising to £1,127, whilst those in Cheltenham rise to £1,002. Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays for which additional allowances are payable. Opportunities exist for Overseas Service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions). There are also good prospects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British Subjects since birth.

Application forms and fuller information obtainable from :

The Recruitment Officer (CY. OP./6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Priors Road, Oakley, Cheltenham, Glos.

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

THIS month more than earned the title of "Mad May." We had 287 T. & A.V.R. "drop in" for a fortnight's camp, this attracted every known V.I.P. from near and far (one day we were playing six off against each other!) We ran two Athletics Meetings, coped with Mineval headmasters, council dignitaries from Kleve, two Skill-at-Arms Meetings, judging the R.A.F. Germany Dining Hall Competition (the Second-in-Command has had to go on a diet), N.A.T.O. Acceptance Boards, our Inter-Troop Soccer Final and still found time to run a Driver's and Lineman's upgrading course! Thank goodness for Whitsun break at the end of it!

40th (Ulster) Regiment (V.) R. Signals Drop In

Don't look now but there's a Red Hand on your shoulder!
They dropped in, dug in, dipped in and dashed off!

The Regiment was host to the Hibernians of 40th (U) Regiment (V) for their annual camp from 4th to 17th May. After many alterations of times and dates they actually arrived direct from Northern Ireland by air and were duly split up to the various airfields. Digging then started. They dug in firmly in all messes, clubs, homes, and also of course, some ground. The first week passed like a flash with trips to Amsterdam, Dusseldorf, etc., taking the pressure off us temporarily. We had been told that they expected to work hard for 10 hours daily, play hard for 10 hours and sleep for 4 hours. We hope they got enough sleep! The second week was taken up by Exercise "Temple Monk," when we were shown how the real professionals (G.P.O.?) did their stuff. They certainly worked their full 10 hours daily and more most effectively.

During their visit they were under constant "view" from many senior and important visitors who were all most impressed by their cheerfulness and enthusiasm.

The most impressive statistic was that during the whole period they did not have a single "incident" with authority of any kind. This included drawing up and using 17 vehicles for the course of their stay without so much as a scratch when they were returned.

The second impressive statistic is that they completed 14 projects, trenching, laying and terminating 5, 620 yards of cable from 2 to 104 pairs in a most expert manner.

The relationship with the local population, especially the Dutch, was excellent, despite, after a hard day's sightseeing in Amsterdam's canal area, one officer complaining bitterly that in a pub he had some difficulty in persuading a reluctant Dutchman to sing "Land of Hope and Glory" with him.

We saw them off hoping that they had enjoyed their stay and now know a little more about their Sister Regiment, at work and play.

Corporal Oyedepo Ties the Knot

Corporal Oyedepo, who, in addition to being an Electrician Driver Class II, is a steady member of both the Regimental Cross Country and Athletics Teams, recently applied for six week's leave, drew out his savings and, on 19th May, boarded a 'plane at Dusseldorf. He touched down briefly at Frankfurt before flying on to Lagos, where one of his relations met him at the airport with his car. Together they motored some 200 miles up country to the town of Owu, in Northern Nigeria, and there, on 18th May, he married **Oladji Felicia Omowumi.**

After the wedding **Corporal Oyedepo** and his bride moved into the house built for them by his brother and completed just in time for the wedding.

His leave completed, **Corporal** and **Mrs. Oyedepo** made the long return journey to the Regiment and moved into accommodation in Kevelaer, pending the allocation of a married quarter.

Corporal Oyedepo met his bride-to-be, who was a teacher, 5½ years ago and they have kept steady contact by letter during his Army career.

Visit of Chief of Staff

On Tuesday, 28th May, the Regiment was honoured by a visit from the Chief of Staff, B.A.O.R., **Major-General H. C. Tuzo, O.B.E., M.C., B.A.** Arriving at R.A.F. Laarbruch, shortly before lunch, he was met by the Station Commander and our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Neilson.** He then very quickly toured all departments and spoke to a large number of all ranks. After meeting some of our R.A.F. colleagues in the bar he lunched with officers of the Regiment, before returning to his H.Q.



THOSE WILD IRISHMEN

Major Ian Robinson of the 21st Regiment meets up with four compatriots from Ulster when the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) visited his unit *Left to Right:* Captain Ron McCarthy, Lieutenant Harry Squance, Lieutenant Tom Adams, Captain Jim Brown, Major Ian Robinson



CORPS NUPTIALS IN DISTANT NIGERIA

Corporal Oyedepo, well known sportsman of the 21st Regiment, recently returned to Nigeria to marry Miss Omowumi. Both are now happily settled back in B.A.O.R.

Shooting

From the 18th to the 30th May, our Shooting Teams weapons hardly had time to cool down!

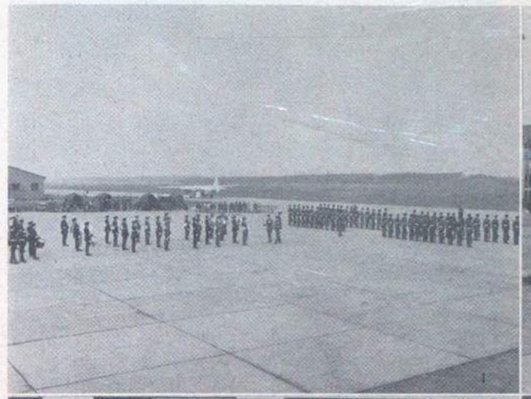
The team started with the Rhine Area Skill-at-Arms Meeting held at Arsbeck, where they won:—

The Rifle Team Trophy (for the second year).

The Young Soldiers' Rifle Team (for the second year).

(Continued on page 258)

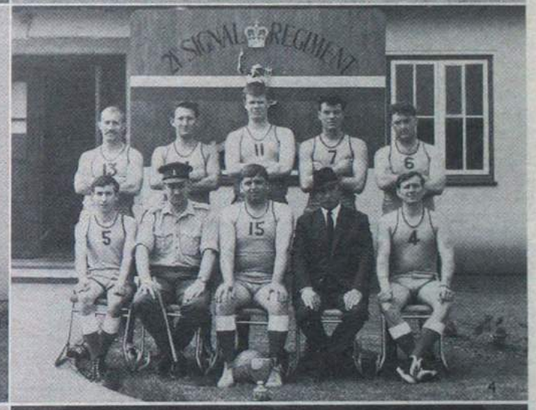
Plenty of action in 21st Regiment


1


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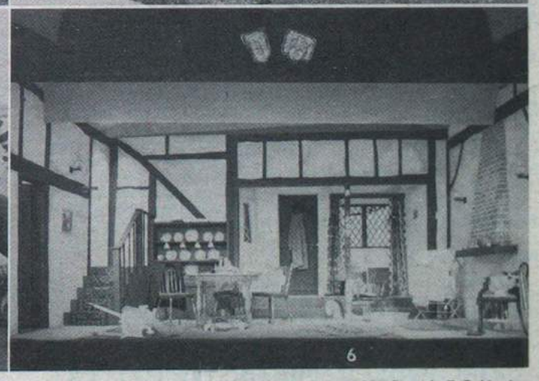


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6

1. **REGIMENT DOES THE HONOURS AT R.A.F. STATION.** The Guard of Honour and Station Volunteer Band commanded by Captain E. P. Hughes being inspected by the Deputy Commander R.A.F. Germany on the A.O.C-in-Cs inspection of R.A.F. Laarbruch.
2. **STATION VOLUNTEER BAND IS A THRIVING REGIMENTAL VENTURE.** The Station Volunteer Band playing for the Pass Off parade of an M.P.C. Course.
3. **REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM ARE IN TOP FORM.** The regimental shooting team with this season's trophies collected from non central and B.A.O.R. matches. Left to Right, Back Row: Signalman Harris, Lance-Corporal Brooks, Signalman Briggs, Corporal Hudson, R.A.P.C., Corporal Jaques, Lance-Corporal Flynn. Front Row: Sergeant Ridgway, Lieutenant Bulloch, Lieutenant-Colonel Neilson, Staff-Sergeant Smith, Corporal Purkiss.
4. **THE BASKETBALL TEAM ARE GOING PLACES TOO.** The regimental Basketball team won the Rhine Area League for the second year in succession. Left to Right, Back Row: Sergeant Goss, Corporal Lock, Craftsman Johnson, Corporal Whelan, Lance-Corporal Harber. Front Row: Sergeant Scrivens, Lieutenant-Colonel Neilson, Corporal Hornsby, Lieutenant Timson, Corporal Dore, Not shown, Corporal Jaques.
5. **"L" TROOP IN GREAT HEART.** The triumphant "L" Troop, having just won the regimental athletics meeting for the second year running.
6. **PLENTY OF SUPPORT FOR CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AS WELL.** The setting built, painted and decorated by members of the regiment for the play "The Secret Tent" in the Phoenix Theatre, also largely built by members of the regiment.

(Continued from page 256)

The Young Soldiers' S.M.G. Team.
The Young Soldiers' Rifle Individual (**Corporal Jaques, Lance-Corporal Flynn,** first and second places).
The Young Soldiers' S.M.G. Individual (**Lance-Corporal Flynn, Corporal Purkiss,** first and second places).
Next they moved on to Bruggen, where they represented R.A.F. Laarbruch in the R.A.F.G. Small Arms Championship and here they won:—
The S.L.R. (a) Team Trophy.
The Visitors' Trophy (an individual cup won by **Signalman Harris**).
Then on again to the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Sennelager, where they won:—
Champion Team, Royal Signals, B.A.O.R.
Champion Team, R.C.Z.
A very promising start to the season and we wish them good shooting at Bulford and Bisley.

Gilbert and Sullivan

The Phoenix Theatre was put into good use again this month with the Laarbruch Singers staging the "Mikado." Many members of the Regiment were once more involved, **Foreman of Signals Johnson** tended the switchboard, whilst **Mrs. Johnson** played the part of one of the "three little maids from school." **Lance-Corporal Hutchinson,** in addition to building the scenery, sang Pish Tush with his usual skill.
The "Mikado" ran for four nights and provided a most colourful, entertaining evening's enjoyment for the station.

"L" Troop the Greatest

"L" Airfield Troop with limited assistance from 3 S.H.Q., again romped home comfortable winners in the Inter-Squadron Athletics. This makes our collection of cups a nice round half-dozen within the last two months.
The Troop social evening was held was held the same evening in the Station Golf Club. After our guests, the R.S.M. and his wife had started the dancing with the usual snowball, the merrymaking and festivities were well underway.
Signalman Brunton provided some amusing Russian Cossack dancing (he's not really a Red). **Lance-Corporal Brooks** could not wait to get hold of the cup after **Signalman Pauley** had finished sampling its contents.
Signalman Palmer organised the Pie Eating contest in which **Lance-Corporal Brooks** emerged the winner (the hog). A splendid buffet was provided by the wives (yet again) and living-in members, to which the latter did justice.
Conclusion. A very enjoyable evening had by all, and many thanks to all concerned for making it the success it was.

Soccer

The annual Inter-Troop Football Final was played at Laarbruch on 3rd May. The finalists were "L" and "D" Troops.
The atmosphere was reminiscent of Wembley, complete with banners and gas rattles, with, for a change, the Met Man's prediction that the weather would be ideal. It was. Surprise! Surprise!
"L" Troop started as firm favourites and indeed finished up worthy winners by 4 goals to 1. The game will be remembered more for its entertainment value than football skill. Well done, "L" Troop. To "D" Troop better luck next year.
The trophies and medals were very kindly presented by **Mrs. Ann Neilson,** the wife of the Commanding Officer.

Departures

Captain T. G. Licence and his wife left us this month and we thank him for running such a good Troop at Geilenkirchen, and wish them happiness and success in their new appointment.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

A rest is certainly not the order of the day

A STUDY of the scheduled exercises and events on the unit calendar led many to believe that after Exercise "Brown Bear," we could rest awhile on our laurels. As those who have served recently in B.A.O.R., will know the non-scheduled exercises and events probably outnumber those that have been planned and forecast. Such has been the case for May.



"THE SORT OF CHAP WHO THINKS COPPER NITRATE IS THE OVERTIME RATE OF PAY FOR POLICEMEN" (*see Unit Notes*) The Chaplain General to the Army who admits his "non-alignment with modern signalling techniques" seems a little bewildered by a technical explanation by Captain (T.O.T.) Nigel Ribchester. In the photo also F. of S. Murray

Visit

It was with a sigh of relief, however, that we welcomed the visit of the **Venerable Archdeacon John Youens, M.C., O.B.E., Q.C.H.,** Chaplain-General to the Army, on 21st May. It is a most refreshing experience, on all too rare occasions, to entertain a visitor who clearly admits to his "non-alignment" with the modern techniques of signalling. Following a most enjoyable lunch, with the officers and their wives, the Chaplain-General was invited to tour the Regiment. His first port of call was the "M" Troop workshop. It was here that our T.O.T. **Captain Nigel Ribchester,** must have caused bewilderment with his explanation of specification testing. To save getting into deep technical water the Chaplain-General related the experience of a fellow clergyman called upon to address a scientific convention at Cambridge University. Completely non-technical by nature, his opening remark was: "I cannot for the life of me understand why I have been invited to address such an erudite gathering; I am the sort of chap who thinks that copper nitrate is the overtime pay rate for policemen.

An exercise—not to mention the motor cavalcade par excellence

The Regiment celebrated May Day in various field locations while taking part in C.C.R. Signals 1 (B.R.) Corps annual Exercise "Brown Bear." Probably 1 Squadron and Regimental Headquarters had the more fortunate location on this day. They were entertained by the local village band as dawn crept over the horizon. Probably our Second-in-Command, **Major D. J. MacIntyre,** would not use the adjective fortunate—his sleeping quarter was at the band assembly point and he caught the initial "blast" at 06.00 hours—05.00 (exercise time). He was first into breakfast!

Without doubt the Regiment can claim some measure of success on Exercise ''Brown Bear," and in particular, the achievements of our non-Bruin Communication Centre — Comcen Uniform (**Major J. R. Gibson**) and Comcen Sierra (**Major D. P. Watson**) are worthy of mention.

During the exercise we received a welcome visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.** At the time of their visit our regular Public Relations photographer, **Major "Binks" Williams** could not be with us and the camera was thrust into the hands of our Padre, the **Rev. Peter Clemett.** Unfortunately, the film, when developed, displayed a distinct "ghosting" effect and cannot be reproduced. Many blame the camera, but maybe on this occasion the man behind the camera had a decided effect!

For H.Q. Squadron and 1 Squadron personnel the closing stage of the exercise will probably be long remembered. A magnificent motor cavalcade of some 50 vehicles ranging from



THE . . . VERY . . . LAST . . . OUNCE!
Corporal Young scrapes the bottom of his energy at the Regimental Athletic Meeting

Land Rovers to Scammells pounded through the streets of Hamelin with a military and civil police escort. The inhabitants of Hamelin will probably long remember the episode as well!

An athletic meeting

It was 1 Squadron to the front on the occasion of the Regimental Athletic Meeting. Following the preliminary heats 1 Squadron held a commanding points lead, and not only maintained it, but also increased it to give a well-deserved victory.
Well satisfied with victory on the track 1 Squadron allowed 2 and 3 Squadrons to pull-off in the tug-of-war final. 3 Squadron were the victors.

A Wives Club Meeting

"Any Questions" visited the Regimental Wives Club and from all accounts the team produced some amazing answers to some amazing questions.
The questions had all been submitted by members of the Wives Club and ranged from heart transplants to mini-skirts and see-through blouses. The panel dealt with all the questions competently and amusingly, and this latest Wives Club venture proved to be a most enjoyable and successful evening. Of course, this is all hearsay—the writer was baby-sitting.

A Skill-at-Arms Meeting

There were some sharp shooting practices going on in the Regiment on the 29th/30th May. The chief culprit was **Lance-Corporal Edwards,** of 3 Squadron, who gained 23rd place in the overall classification in the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms Meeting. **Sergeant Robertshaw** (31st place), and **Second-Lieutenant Paul** (32nd place), gave valuable support. We wish the team luck in the forthcoming meetings at Bulford and Bisley.

Wedding

The 1st June saw the officers of the Regiment deployed on exercise once more. For one officer in particular it was an exercise he will never forget. Exercise "Wedding Bells" was the nickname given to the marriage of **Lieutenant Lee Tilson** to **Miss Gail Park.** The ceremony, held in the Garrison Church of St. Barbara and St. George, was followed by a reception in the Officers' Mess.
The Regiment extends congratulations and best wishes for every future happiness to **Lieutenant Tilson** and his wife.



UNDER THE ARCHWAY OF SWORDS . . .
Officers of 22nd Regiment provide the Guard of Honour for Lieutenant Lee Tilson and his bride Miss Gail Park on Exercise 'Wedding Bells' when they were married at the Garrison Church of Saint Barbara and Saint George.

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

"NO greater love hath man." The phrase came readily to mind when I was asked to pen this month's contribution in place of the regular correspondent, who has taken himself off to North Wales on a canoeing course. My only terms of reference being this is the month for the sports write-up! So, what has been happening in the world of sport?

Cricket 'aint what it used to be

Our first cricket match of the season, on 8th May, was postponed because of a slight problem of three inches of SNOW covering the wicket! But, since that date, there has been a veritable flurry of activitiy. An Inter-Squadron League, played in the evenings, of 20 overs duration, has produced a lot of enthusiasm, whilst the Regimental and 2 Squadron sides fight gamely on in their respective tournaments.

The winter soccer season has now ended and, despite our failure to emulate our 1964 Army Cup winners, we have, in fact, managed to annex the Northumbrian District Cup and Junior Section of the District League, in addition to supplying three permanent members of the Corps side.

Nasty blow for the Sergeants!

Interest in soccer has never been greater than this season, and the Inter-Squadron League, indoor Five-a-Side and outdoor Six-a-Side Tournaments were fully subscribed to and aroused fiery patriotism from the Squadrons and Messes, whilst the look of incredibility on the faces of the Sergeants' Mess team had to be seen to be believed, when, in their annual match with the Officers, they were defeated 1—0.

In the James Bond world of judo, the Regimental team fulfilled all our expectations by carrying off the Northern Command Championships, as did their comrades in the fencing team.

Athletics are now under way, with the javelin and discus winging their merry way past the ears of the practising cricketers, and whilst the Regimental Athletics Meeting didn't produce any world-beaters, it is felt that a sufficiently strong team can be produced to challenge for the Brigade title. A particular word of praise must be inserted here for **R.Q.M.S. Bramhall** who, at the last moment, stripped off and ran the mile to to give his Squadron a point.

The Regimental Golf Day was held in May, and, after a storming finish, **Captain 'Mick' Giles** pipped the Paymaster for the individual title, whilst the afternoon foursomes proved a triumph for **Captain John Fry,** R.A.E.C., and **Sergeant Cheeseman.** This is a sport that is increasing in popularity



REAL CHAMPIONS . . .

24th Signal Regiment Judo team—winners of the Northern Command Championships, with Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier, M.B.E.



. . . AND WORTHY CUP WINNERS

24th Regiment's Soccer Eleven who were worthy winners of the Northumbrian District Cup

all the time; so much so that the first tee at the Catterick Golf Course on Wednesday afternoons looks like a pay parade.

Both the hockey and rugby teams had mixed fortunes early in the season, but since January there has been a veritable surge of victories which bodes well for next season.

Swimming trunks and tennis racquets are now receiving their annual airing, and tournaments are to be held in June for both sports.

It is not difficult to see, therefore, that if you are keen on sport there is ample opportunity here at 24th.

The sterner side . . .

Lest it be thought that all our time is spent on sport, a few words about our Regimental Exercise "Felcat II" completed only yesterlay. To the exercise-hardened stalwarts of B.A.O.R., a 36-hour exercise must appear very commonplace, but to a Training Regiment, geared to classrooms and set programmes, it is no mean achievement.

The aim of the exercise was to practice the junior N.C.O.s in leadership and to introduce the basic trainee to field service conditions. This aim was achieved.

Sections of men, under junior N.C.O.s, had to visit a number of checkpoints spread over a wide area and perform a task at each checkpoint.

These tasks ranged from constructing a stretcher and carrying a wounded comrade over a river, to searching a building for terrorists, points being awarded for each task.

Sections were self-contained for the whole exercise, sleeping and eating when and where they could.

After a very close finish, **Corporal Banham** and his section from 2 Squadron pipped **Corporal Brown** and his H.Q. Section by the narrow margin of four points to win a well-earned 48-hour pass from the Commanding Officer.

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Monty's A.C.V. Refurbished

IN 1966 Field Marshal Lord Montgomery's Armoured Command Vehicle was brought to Blandford Camp from Catterick for refurbishing and restoration to its wartime splendour. A combined effort of Regimental resources working in their spare time has now completed the task and this 17-ton giant has been handed over to the School of Signals awaiting a decision on its final resting place for permanent display. It is to be a part of the Corps Museum.

L.A.D. were fortunate to obtain certain engine parts from Ludgershall, thus making the vehicle movable under its own power, although the full effectiveness of the braking system is questionable. The interior work included the stripping out of certain ceiling padding and modified fittings, and installing the North African pattern canvas work, operators and clerks tables, cupboards, etc. Some of the correct seats were acquired and new canvas back and seat covers were made for them. On completion of the interior work, T.M. Troop fitted the wartime radio equipment and after external painting by M.T. Troop. The A.C.V. was delivered to the School of Signals.



Mr. 'Vic' Berry—he drove Monty's Armoured Command Vehicle throughout the N. African campaign, through Sicily, through Italy and finally to Austria. Now the vehicle is to be on permanent display in the School of Signals Museum

To assist in the authentic interior layout of the vehicle, Monty's driver (now Mr.) **"Vic" Berry,** was invited to come to the Regiment on two occasions to give expert and first-hand advice. We say expert, because he drove the vehicle throughout the North African campaign, across Sicily, through Italy and finally to Austria, where he left it in September, 1945, on demobilization.

Corporal Bell's Battle Room



[With acknowledgement to the Bournemouth Evening Echo

THE CORPORAL WITH HIS OWN PRIVATE MILITARY MUSEUM
Corporal Tony Bell, a driver with 30th Signal Regiment, re-arranging some of the 150 models of armoured vehicles which are part of his own private Military museum and housed at his home. His collection which embraces a wide variety of military items is probably unique. Corporal Bell is a son of Neville Shute the well known novelist.

Corporal Tony Bell, a Driver Royal Signals, who has been with the Regiment since January, 1966, and works in the Training Centre, has his own private Military Museum — in the garage at his home at Fleets Bridge, Poole.

He has a unique collection of modern battle uniforms, World War II posters and documents, weapons old and new, and models of armoured vehicles and planes. There are battle uniforms of a U.S. Marine, a Belgian Commando, German Paratrooper, a Congolese battle suit and an Algerian trench battle suit.

Pride of place in the collection of arms, which covers pistols and revolvers made by all leading manufacturers of the world between 1883 and 1967, is given to a 1871 German Mauser—one of the earliest successful breech-loading rifles.

Among the World War II documents are a German Army leave pass, German propaganda leaflets, British war posters and ration cards.

There is also a collection of 150 models of armoured vehicles, in adddition to many model 'planes, mainly pre-war aircraft, which he has made himself.

His interest in aircraft dates from the time when his father and novelist **Neville Shute,** ran a light aircraft assembly business before the war.

Corporal Bell has 22 years' service in the Army. During 1957-58 he was attached to the Gurkhas in Malaya, and while stationed in Germany in 1964, he became friendly with a German Paratrooper Staff Sergeant, a fellow collector, with whom he still corresponds.

His friendship with the Paratrooper led to him becoming the first non-commissioned soldier to go on a course with the German Paratroopers—four weeks with the 4th Company 2091 Fallschirnjag, 10th Panzer Grenadiers, during which time he did seven drops.

Corporal Bell's one-man museum presents him with a problem—where to keep his car. At the moment it stands in the driveway outside the garage.

SPORT

Athletics

On Wednesday, 5th June, the Regiment entered a good, but not star-studded team for the South West District Major Units Competition at Taunton, winning the high jump (**Signalman Drummond** and **Lieutenant S. Law**), and pole vault (**Signalman Drew** and **Corporal Morgan**) events, and fairing well generally all round. There were good prospects prior to the start of the last event, the 4 x 110 yards relay, of coming second overall, thus qualifying for the Southern Command Championships at Tidworth on 3rd July. Lying second in the relay, at the end of the third leg, we had the misfortune to drop the baton, coming last of the five teams competing. This resulted in the team being placed fourth.

Association Football

We congratulate our Football Team on winning the Marriott Cup Final "Away" against Royal Navy, Portland, on Thursday, 6th June. The score was 3—2 and our marksmen **Signalman W. B. Anhoury, Corporal J. Powell** and **Signalman I. H. Smith.** The Marriott Cup is the South West District Knock-out Challenge Trophy.

Shooting

Captain C. J. Rayner has taken charge of training our shooting team this season, a job done last year by team captain **Captain D. H. Insall,** who has recently left us on retirement. **Captain Rayner** says little about how his training programme for the Army and Signals Meetings, both being held within the next few weeks, is going, but he looks quietly confident of some good performances. **Signalman Whittaker,** who was a promising member of the team last year is still with us having completed a six-month tour in Cyprus, his return from leave is eagerly awaited! **Lieutenant P. G. Longman,** W.R.A.C., will be acting as Team Adjutant again in the competition and no doubt will be able to sort out squadding cards and team lists with confidence.

Ten Tors Expedition

The Regiment entered one team in the class for men aged 18-20 years and they set out from Okehampton at 07.12 hours on Saturday, 1st June, with a distance of 60 miles to cover in two days. Conditions on Dartmoor were good at the start but deteriorated during late Saturday evening and by Sunday morning rain and thick mist prevailed, making conditions impossible. The team were forced to retire fairly early on. Patrol captain, **Signalman D. A. Dodd,** and **Private Jones,** A.C.C., survived the remainder of the party, but because of the expedition rules (minimum of three) were unable to continue by themselves.

W.R.A.C. Weddings

Both our W.R.A.C. officers have been married since our last appearance in WIRE notes. **Lieutenant C. J. Booth,** W.R.A.C., to **Lieutenant C. W. Collier,** Royal Signals, and **Lieutenant P. G. Lewis,** W.R.A.C. to **Lieutenant J. L. Longman,** R.T.R. Both are continuing in the W.R.A.C for a while, and we all wish them every happiness for the future.

Thank You!

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were most gratefully received during May, 1968:

	£	s.	d.
2nd Regiment (Kohima Celebrations)	56	4	0
237 Squadron (D.C.N.)	50	0	0
Birmingham Branch	3	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Aston (Legacy from Estate)	100	0	0
H. R. W. Marsh Esq. (Deed of Covenant)	10	0	0
Various Individual Donations	6	19	0
Total receipts	£226	3	0
Expenditure during May	£1093	8	3

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

Letter from East Africa

Written by Major J. R. E. Cross

Dear Bwana,

Let's have a light-hearted letter for a change—in other words, don't take this too seriously!

It was one of those odd days when I look in at my office—I have to do this now and again, otherwise the circulation files get held up. About half-way down the accumulated bumf was one of those distributed-by-name-not-in-a-file-letters telling me that I was to be an umpire on a two-day Ground Liaison Officers' exercise in the Rift Valley—not a Signals umpire, mark you, but a full-blooded war critic—anything for a change (I might add that I insinuated **Yeoman French** in as a Signals umpire). After a rapid shuffle of my social scene, I drew Land Rover, crate of beer, bed, got into my safari rig (you really should see this—well faded, non-issue jacket and slacks, sand boots, badges of rank that can hardly be seen, bush hat, bathed on weather-beaten sun-tan, heavy automatic—the lot!), took off for the Rift (a night club on the edge of town) the night before and made the RV ten minutes before briefing the next morning. Hung over in the blazing sun of the Rift Valley, just north of Naivasha is not my idea of an ideal start to an exercise—there was a noisy aircraft, too.

* * *

Having adjusted my face to its polite, interested look, I tottered over to the briefing and latched on to the grim fact that I was to be with the simulated 5th Battalion, who were to spend the night at a remote, rock-strewn area west of Elimenteita; I hurriedly suggested a first-day debrief (one picks up such military jargon, and have only to drop them once or twice to please the DS, although I am having a rough time with the PBI out here at the moment because two years ago I wrote a piece for a concert which started "I'm only an Infantry umpire and as thick as a pair of old boots . . . ") with the Lake Hotel as the venue. What could be better than tenting it beside Lake Naivasha, with a bar on one's tent flap, so to speak? The suggestion was accepted.

So I got the 5th. All the exercise types were despatched to a start line south of the township and I ground my way to the north road to await my umpirage as it came through. The Land Rover back flap was up, because I believe in looking the part; the more murram dust that wafts in and covers me the better . . . you never know when a bunch of air-conditioned tourists may be met, and one has to maintain the tough outback Kenya image.

* * *

I was dozing off when the 5th (all one Land Rover of it) went past at a steady 60, hell bent for action. I fell in behind and after ten miles of made-up road, I realised that they were not with it. I *had* read the 'pink,' so I stopped, because the 5th, having implemented their right to mis-read a map (the officer concerned was the Battalion I.O. who doubles as G.L.O.) had belted straight past their axis turn-off. This gave me time to catch up on a spot of snooze, which was interrupted by the 5th roaring into the turn-off after having checked their topography at a police post some 15 miles north. (When I got back to umpire control, I was told that a message was received at this time saying that they had lost their umpire—cheek!).

* * *

By the time I had backed up and started hammering down the left flank track, the 5th were well away. I didn't need their dust, I had my own, so I kept well back. Now the 'pink' said that they were going to be held up at Masai Gorge (and so did their exercise instructions) —not on your life! "Catch them up and put them right," I said to my fragile self. So to the top of the range I went, and there they were, at least five miles on in a cloud of dust, going like the clappers. I thought it best to go back to umpire control and sort them out on the radio (never carry a radio when acting as an Infantry umpire, it goes against the grain), so back I went. Having charged through the aforementioned gorge, I saw a cloud of dust with an attendant Land Rover approaching at high speed, so, leaving my dust-covered contraption in the middle of the track, I sat down with a bottle on the shady side of an ant-hill and waited. A little later, polite greetings were exchanged—it was the 3rd Battalion. I was sure that there was something about them in the 'pink,' so reluctantly giving the I.O./G.L.O. one of my beers, I took a quick look—they should have been going up the east of the valley! Eventually we went back together to the main axis of advance (there I go again), pointed them in an easterly direction and gently drove myself back to control who, by this time, had set themselves up in a more realistic location—the Bell Inn. I had acquired my full coating of tourist impressing dust, but my far horizons swagger was somewhat dashed by the G1, requesting me to have a wash and not to walk around looking like Rommel. Here I learnt that I had been lost, made my report and finally got an order put through to get the 5th back to their correct location (they didn't go back, but reported that they had—we train them well). Reports from the 3rd indicated that they were well into the directed scheme of things when, in fact, they could only just have turned on to their correct track.

We were now three hours into the exercise, with the DS happily thinking that it was all going to plan. The proprietor of the inn was a little put out at this point when I produced my own bottled lunch.

* * *

The first requests for air supply were coming in and I was told to go back to the 5th with an air force umpire and 'ump' the ground at the end of a drop. The air force types had arrived in the exercise aircraft and were a joy to behold. Nice clean jackets and shorts, finely pressed, with blue peaked caps on top. So, with a fiendish grin, I invited my Pilot Officer aboard. He did not like this mode of transport at all, and was on the point of saying so when I fixed him with a steely, dust-rimmed eye and shrugged my rank at him, after which he dusted two pounds of accumulated dust off his seat and reluctantly climbed aboard. Two hours later we found the 5th (have you ever seen a reddish-black African wearing a reddish-blue hat?) just in time! There they were, in the middle of acres and acres of Lord Delamere's grass, all bone-dry, and standing three feet high, about to let off a coloured flare. We watched tomorrow's breakfast being dropped, spoke to the aircraft on the TRA 906 SSB packset and decided to return to the DS. Taking pity on the PO, I put the back flap down and proceeded to Gilgil airstrip, where, according to plan, control should have been . . . it was! Here we learnt that the exercise was now terminated, as the aircraft was required to fly to the north to evacuate some real casualties from a brush with some Shifta bandits. I was so looking forward to the next day, but was able to unwind myself on the way back to Nairobi.

* * *

So you see life is not all signals out here, and we do manage to get round a bit. The next exercise will be the Army one, way up north, when I expect to be 'umping' again for two or three weeks. It should be my chance to take a look at Lake Rudolf.

Any questions?

Kwaheri

CRO.

Some time off in Malaysia . . .

And then away to the magic of the Cameron Highlands

By Major D. Lycett-Gregson of 18th Signal Regiment

PICTURE yourself in the tropical house in Kew Gardens, 80°F. all day and night and a constant humidity of up to 97 per cent. Then stay there for eighteen months, and continue to work . . . that's a jaded view of the climate in Singapore.

Next, picture a plateau, flanked by shallow valleys and majestic green mountains. A temperate climate, log fires at night; clean, cool streams and waterfalls, and that's the Cameron Highlands, the holiday playground of Malaysia.

The object of this article is to revive pleasant memories for those who have been there, and to inspire those yet to come before December, 1971, who may be able to seize the opportunity for a visit.

The Army runs a 'Change of Air' station for those who, for medical reasons, can benefit from a return to a climate similar to an ideal English summer. We were fortunate in the sense that we had the opportuntiy to take advantage of a duty attachment to H.Q., Cameron Highlands Garrison, the official way of sending families to the hills for a change of air.

Mr. Cameron—pioneer

In the 1890s, a **Mr. W. Cameron** was engaged in survey work and followed a stream, the Sungei Raia, running from the central range of hills east of Ipoh. He came across a peaceful, cool and beautiful plateau, thirty miles into the hills, and was struck by its possibilities as a hill station. He did not, however, record its exact location, and little development was done until the 1920s. In 1926 a road was made and experimental tea plantations established. Tea planters and seed came from Assam and the produce has now become the basic industry. An advantage for the visitor is that tea bushes need to be kept low by pruning at regular intervals, revealing magnificent views down the valleys.

A climate that brings forth fascinating profusion

The climate is such that many European plants thrive, and market gardens produce strawberries, vegetables, roses and many sources of nostalgia to the overheated European. The government agricultural experimental station is a fascination. Trees that yield quinine and tung oils, eucalyptus and tobacco all grow side by side with exotic oriental flowering shrubs. They make the 'Gardeners' Weekly' look like a child's introduction! There is, of course, a snag; to preserve the scents of the mystic East, the ground is fertilised by prawn dust and fish manure. It is a fair distance from the coast, and by the time the stuff gets to the gardens, it certainly makes its presence known. The flies love it and have really become a pest; worse, I am told, than Egypt.

The only thing you cannot do . . .

The COAS, in addition to an MRS and convalescent facilities, runs two training camps, which are regularly used by units. Through its P.R.I. and welfare stores, every conceivable recreational equipment is provided, from rowing machines to the air mail edition of the Daily Telegraph. The only thing you cannot do is swim—unless you fancy a jungle pool with the odd leech or two. The golf course is excellent, and a series of graded jungle walks cater for the really active. The jungle is rather similar in nature to the sea, if you play the fool and take risks you can find yourself in trouble. With care and commonsense, however, it is an enjoyable experience, and some of the 'nursery' walks are fine for young children. Flowers, butterflies and birds, are to be seen in profusion. You avoid knocking the football-sized mud structures off the low branches, because they are apt to be full of hornets who object strongly. The appearance of large snakes and lizards remind you that all is not too civilised.



THE CAMERON HIGHLANDS

The road into the area. There are forty miles of road like this, mostly very steep

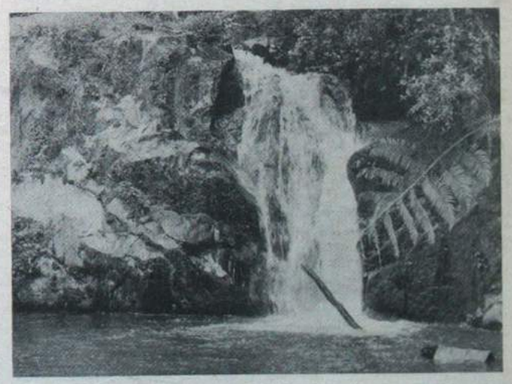
The blow-pipe men

We were lucky to spot a hunting party of Malay Aborigines. These people are not very tall, are wiry in build and move silently through the thickest jungle armed with 7ft. blow-pipes and clad in a large-sized pocket handkerchief. The ethnic term is Orang Asli—'original man': the term 'Sakai' is derogatory meaning 'savage.' The government has a department to look after these people. Those close to civilisation deteriorate very quickly. Their fondness for boiled sweets ruins their teeth, and inter-marriage has weakened the race. The tourist bureau runs trips to aboriginal villages, but it is not a very pleasant experience. One feels that they are being exploited, and the rather sad Orang Asli, far from being a noble savage, will, for a fee, take your photograph with his Kodak Instamatic!

The hunting party that we saw appeared from nowhere, looked us over, did not like what they saw and melted away. It was not comforting to think of the swift, accurate and silent facilities of their blow-pipes somewhere near us.

Beer—10s. 6d. a pint!

There is the most splendid English pub set on the edge of the golf course. It is a perfect replica of a 'Brewer's Tudor' establishment, and full of more antiques, prints, carriage lamps and hunting horns than one would see in an average day's



A jungle waterfall and pool

travel in the U.K. The beer is good and served in attractive tankards at 10s. 6d. a pint—and you don't keep the tankard. We enjoyed *the* drink we had, and would have liked to sample the cuisine. Their strawberry and cream teas were good though!

The 6666 Club is unique—it's an achievement

Above the village of Brinchang rises the mountain of Gunong Brinchang, the highest accessible peak in the Malay peninsular. The top is decorated with VHF and Telecommunications Department masts, the road up is reasonable, but steep. It is not practicable to ordinary cars and we walked the last five miles. The children loved this, of course, and I loved carrying our youngest for the last mile, but, having reached 6,666 feet, the view was literally breathtaking. We were lucky, the day was clear and the guide book's promise was fulfilled, you *can* see the east and the west coast of the Malay peninsular. Ipoh shows clearly, and the view extends as far as the Straits of Malacca. The panorama in all directions of tier after tier of blue-green mountain ranges is marvellous, and there is a feeling of being on the roof of the world. There is no official registration of the 6666 Club, it is an achievement and an experience solely between one's conscience and Gunong Brinchang.

For rosy cheeks come to the Cameron Highlands

A holiday in the Cameron Highlands, to quote the brochures again, is wonderfully invigorating. The nights are cool, dropping to 50°F. or lower. Warm clothing and open log fires are a pleasant prelude to a couple of blankets on the bed. The children regained their rosy English cheeks and we all returned to sea level feeling completely refreshed. Being of an age where I thought PE tests were childish things that I had put behind me, I now (in accord with M.O.D. policy) opt out from being an official military cripple at the age of 35, and as Gunong Brinchang is my witness, I am qualified!

Mr. Cameron may have discovered the area by accident, and he may not have known quite where he was, but it was one of the best of many good day's work that he did. Thank you, and may you rest in peace.

20th Arm'd Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (200) B.F.P.O. 41

Changing Faces

THERE seem to have been quite a few changes of personalities in the Squadron in the last few weeks, so it is worth recounting some of these. **Lieutenant Mike Patterson** has left us for Singapore. He and **Sergeant John Lee,** the latter on posting to the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment at Rhyl, were given a great send-off by "A" Troop at another of their noisy parties. **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Tom Joyce** has left us for a few months' "semi-retirement" at 4th Division Signal Regiment, and is then on full retirement and emigrating to Australia in September. **R.S.M.** and **Mrs. Joyce** were dined-out of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess on 4th May by the members and their ladies. **R.S.M. Joyce** was presented with a silver salver and candelabra and **Mrs. Joyce** was presented with a silver coffee set by the ladies of the Mess. We wish them and their family all the best of luck in the venture. He is replaced by **W.O.I (R.S.M.) George Mercer,** who we welcome from 22nd Signal Regiment on promotion. We are pleased to hear that, despite one or two slips at the R.S.M.s' Convention, he is definitely not taking part in the "most photographed R.S.M." competition.

W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Roy Hammerton has also left to become R.S.M. at 33rd Signal Regiment, which, we understand, lies on the sunnier side of Liverpool; his replacement, **W.O.II Frank Jones,** slipped quietly down the road from 7th Signal Regiment and now sits in the 'Q' seat. We also say farewell to **Corporal 'Dad' Hughes,** from the Squadron Office, again leaving on promotion. The moral of all this seems to be that it is worth doing a 'stint' here, if only to get promotion on arrival or departure.

SPORT

All-conquering soccer team

Well . . . nearly all-conquering. The team, led by **Lance-Corporal Dave Hartley,** carried off the Divisional Minor Units Cup, won the Brigade Pentahlon Soccer Competition, and has successfully seen off most local opposition. The team which won the Divisional Minor Units Competition is shown in the photograph, and also playing regularly, but absent on this occasion, were **Corporal Brittle** and **Signalman 'Gorpy' McCabe.** The captain, **Lance-Corporal Dave Hartley,** was top scorer for the season. His personal record was nine goals in one match. The Brigade soccer team has been captained by **Y. of S. Ted Noon,** and we have been represented also by **Lance-Corporal Dave Hartley** and **Signalman Swinhoe,** the latter just posted in from the Royal Dragoons.

Athletics

The Squadron team put up a convincing victory and won the Brigade Competition handsomely. We are now in the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Competition.



SOCCER 'TOP DOGS'

The soccer team of 20th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron which won the Divisional Minor Unit Competition

Standing: Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Noon, Lance-Corporal A. Andrews, Corporal M. Howard, Lieutenant M. D. Patterson, Corporal C. Derbyshire, Corporal D. Elcox, Signalman N. Dillon

Front Row: Signalman R. Perkins, Signalman D. Baldwin, Lance-Corporal D. Hartley (Captain), Signalman P. Brimble, Corporal F. Hayden

Swimming

Despite lack of training, the unit again managed to retain the Brigade Minor Units swimming and water polo trophies. A well-judged backstroke swim by **Lance-Corporal Alf Holyoake** saved one race which we looked like losing.

Exercise "Highway Patrol"

The Squadron entered two teams in this Brigade Competition, which combines driving tests, navigating, cross-country driving, and shooting. The team, consisting of **Captain Mullineaux** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Barrow** in a Land Rover, and **Corporal Pete Shotts** and **Lance-Corporal Vince Litchfield** in a 3-tonner, won the team prize. The Land Rover crew were also outright winners. The other team had somewhat mixed fortunes. **Lieutenant Lionel French** and **Signalman Garbutt** proved that two wrongs do make a right when they overturned their trailer twice in quick succession on the cross-country section without stopping ("I thought it felt funny"). They also had the misfortune to be savaged by a Stalwart in some dark wood during the night, immediately followed by two punctures, and so presented a less than immaculate picture on return. Quite a change for **Signalman Garbutt**—he normally drives the more stately Brigade Commander's caravan.

TRAINING

A Floating Commhead

The most interesting aspect of training in the last few months has been the FV432 Flotation Training, carried out by the drivers and crews of these vehicles. **Sergeant Cliff Moore** and **Sergeant Colin Story,** both doing it for the first time, give an account of their amphibious experiences.

The Theory

Like all educational experiences, it began in the classroom. Our instructors, **Captain Hollington** and **Staff Sergeant Pragnell,** endeavoured to put over some basic nautical theory to professional soldiers on how to coax blunt-fronted boats across fast-flowing rivers. 'Crabbing,' 'upstream approaches' and 'methods of exit' were all explained, and we even got some advice on navigational hazards being caused by sandbanks from **Staff Sergeant Pragnell.** It all proved to be easier said than done, we found out later. Safety measures were all explained, and it was reassuring to know that any 432 seen spiralling down mid-river towards Hamelin would be arrested by a couple of Royal Engineers' launches stationed for that purpose at the downstream end of the training stretch.

Preparation of vehicles

The weird appearance of a waterproofed FV432 is best seen from the accompanying photographs. The main points are that a flotation screen is raised around the top, and a screen and buoyancy tank erected at the front. As a precaution, the tow chain is connected beforehand and held up over the vehicle. **Lance-Corporal Monahan** was to find this precaution quite useful later on! Finally, everything greaseable is heavily greased as additional waterproofing.

Corporal Roberts nearly "has" the POL point

Once the vehicle is prepared in this manner the driver is, of course, "blinded," and when floating is beneath the water surface—so compatibility between the driver and crew commander, who guides the whole crossing, is essential. The next aspect of training was on a large M.T. square to practise the blind driving drills. This, too, was useful, particularly for **Corporal 'Piggy' Roberts** who, as commander, forgot that the driver will keep turning until he himself ordered him to stop. This placed some petrol pumps in a very vulnerable position at one point, but fortunately the driver, **Sergeant Moore,** reacted to a very loud "stop" from the instructor, **Staff Sergeant Pragnell.**

They really do float

The next stage of preparation was to take all our 432s to a specially-constructed water tank in order to check that our waterproofing efforts had been completely effective. One well-known Gunner Regiment in Detmold had been suddenly embarrassed in the middle of the River Weser by waterproofing which was less than totally effective, and as we have no spare 432s, we thought this check well worth while! Secretly, one or two of us wished to be convinced in complete safety that the 16-ton beast would float, and from this point of view, the tank was useful for giving confidence to beginners.

"The River Weser deep and wide"

The desirable stretch of the Weser used for flotation training is at Ohr Park, about 20 miles from Detmold. The river is about 150 yards wide and flows at about 3½ knots. This year the water level was very low, and the specially-constructed concrete ramps, designed to assist beginners make easy entries and exits, ended vertically about 2ft. above the water level. Entries therefore assumed the dimensions of a diving championship, and exits proved distinctly difficult.

The first crossing was done by **Corporal Atchinson** driving and **Corporal Thomas** commanding—an experienced pair, who straight away gave a demonstration of how it should be done. Then it was the beginners' turn, the new boys this year being **Sergeant Moore, Sergeant Mullord, Corporal Chandler, Corporal Shotts, Lance-Corporal Monahan** and **Signalman Baldwin** as drivers, and **Sergeant Story, Corporal Roberts, Corporal Hill, Lance-Corporal Fall, Lance-Corporal Litchfield, Signalman Brimble** and **Signalman Hughes** as commanders.

We found that there was more to crossing the river than just aiming at the exit ramp—a point emphasized every time a crew went drifting past! Direction is, of course, achieved by the motion of the tracks, and there is quite a delay between applying a change of direction on the vehicle tillers and the change actually taking effect.



THE PROBLEM: WILL SHE FLOAT?

A weird effect of a FV 423 with its flotation screen raised around the top and a screen and boyancy tank erected at the front. Once the vehicle is prepared the driver is of course blinded when floating beneath the surface. The results of these tests are described in unit notes

Recovery for Lance-Corporal Monahan and Lance-Corporal Fall

Lance-Corporal Monahan and **Lance-Corporal Fall** were the only real casualties. After several attempts to climb over the lip of the exit ramp, their vehicle eventually threw a track and they had to be ignominiously recovered by the L.A.D. Leyland recovery vehicle.

Confidence comes

At the end of our three days on the river we found that we had learned a lot and discovered we had become quite confident at cruising round the river and had much more confidence in the FV432. The best crossing was done by **Sergeant Mullord** driving and **Signalman Brimble** controlling.

4th Guards Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (204) B.F.P.O. 17

FOLLOWERS of the inimitable Jeeves will know the feeling well. Just when the young master is on top of his form and at peace with the world, contemplating the lark on the wing, the snail on the thorn and God in His heaven, fate steps in to deal with him one of its jucier blows, and life becomes a series of six to four against. So it was with us last Monday.

"That left me and the R.S.M."

The visit seemed to be going well. The Squadron Commander had glanced the more awkward question to leg and all that remained was to get the party into the Sergeants' Mess for a spot of the cheering before lunch. The outfield was already thinning in anticipation, and I was contemplating a couple of days leave when C.R. Signals said: "By the way, I haven't seen any WIRE notes from you recently. I look forward to the next issue!"

I suppose all this higher education must have something to do with it. The Squadron Commander murmured discreetly.

The Communications Captain and O.C. "Bravo" Troop were already at the bar. O.C. "Alfa" and the Yeoman spoke of tomorrow's V.H.F. Exercise with one voice. The A.S.M.

polished his R.E.M.E. cap badge with a leer. The Adjutant and the R.Q.M.S. both said "sir" as only Guardsmen can. That left me and the R.S.M. . . .

A look-back over the Squadron's shoulder

Looking back over the past six months there have been quite a few changes to record. **R.S.M. A. C. Lloyd** left the Squadron and the Army in November, exchanging the control of 250 of us for that of 600 Members of Parliament in his new role as assistant doorkeeper at the House of Commons. **R.S.M. Alfred** arrived from the School of Signals to apply his own form of sharpening to all and sundry. (There is not thought to be a direct connection between his arrival and the departure of the Brigade Commander, Brigade Major, D.A.A. and Q.M.G., and a brace of Staff Captains during the following month).

The F.F.R. over, Christmas and the move of the Brigade to Munster struggled briefly for priority of treatment, but as you might guess "Q" movements never really stood a chance. O.C. "Bravo" Troop celebrated his first promotion by returning most of the cigarettes he had borrowed over the previous year and then took a party of 17 to Oberstdorf for a fortnight's ski-ing.

The highlight of the New Year calendar was a "Farewell to Iserlohn" parade, held on 18th January, for which 2nd Scots Guards, 3rd Royal Green Jackets and the Squadron each found a guard, supported by the Pipes and Drums of 2nd Scots Guards, the Drums of 2nd Grenadier Guards and the 3rd Green Jackets Band. The Squadron took its proper place as the leading guard for the march through the town, and then helped to form a hollow square on the Schillerplatz during an exchange of presents between the Brigade and the Stadt. Afterwards a representative number of officers and senior N.C.O's were entertained in the Rathaus by the Oberbürgermeister who presented the Squadron with a beautifully bound and illustrated copy of a History of Iserlohn.



PRIDE!

The leading Guard found by 4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron marching behind the Pipes of 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards. The occasion: A Farewell to Iserlohn parade

The occasion of the farewell parade was the move of 4th Guards Brigade resulting from the redevelopment of 6 Infantry Brigade from B.A.O.R. in February, and our attention was soon centred on the myriad details associated with moving 120 families and handing over/taking over barracks, schools, quarters and the like. There was some nostalgia at seeing a Bundeswehr guard take over from British troops outside Brigade Headquarters, but spirits rose noticeably when the Corporals' Club recce party reported favourably on the price and quality of Munster beer. By early March the move was complete. The Quartermaster began to lose his harassed look, and the staff began to mutter about exercises once more. It then began to rain.

Visitors have been in plenty. G.O.C. 4th Division came on 7th March and the Corps Commander on 3rd April. **Brigadier Mansergh,** our C.S.O., said hello on 15th March, and before lunching with 10th Hussars spent half-an-hour with the Brigade Commander. The Squadron Commander's early posting was announced that afternoon! **Brigadier Page** said farewell to the officers and senior N.C.O's on 20th March, and C.R. Signals arrived last Monday. All that remained was to get everyone into the Sergeants' Mess for a spot of the cheering before lunch, when C.R. Signals said: ". . . ."

Red Faces or Moments to Forget. . .

Signals Command, who at the end of "Rob Roy" forgot to tell the Flight that the exercise was over, and left the pilots in the field (or was it a pub) for an extra 18 hours.

The officer, who when asked by the Brigade Commander from his helicopter for the locations of three battle groups gave two grid references and one date time group!

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (212) B.F.P.O. 36

"R.S.M., have you got the nominal rolls for summer camp ready yet?"

"Chief Clerk, have you got the handover/takeover file ready for the two O.C.s?"

"Where is **Lieutenant Wollaston?** Oh, athletics training, I suppose."

"**Corporal Cowling,** have you taken the shooting team photograph for THE WIRE yet?"

THE WIRE notes! I had nearly forgotten about them with the feverish activity over the last ten days.

Getting ready . . .

Wednesday, 29th May, saw us holding the Unit Athletics Meeting, in which our athletes went through their paces! Royal Signals, unfortunately, did not do very well, for the Inter-Troop Cup was won by a combined team from the L.A.D. and the Brigade Flight. Our team, captained by **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston,** is now undergoing strict training in preparation for the Morrison Cup Athletics Meeting in mid-June.

Twisting to success

Thursday, the 30th May, passed in hectic preparation for an all ranks' summer dance, to be held that evening, and we were honoured by the presence of our Brigade Commander, **Brigadier H. M. G. Bond.** Music was played by a group from The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and a most excellent buffet was produced by **W.O.II Jack Stagg,** A.C.C., and his cooks. During the evening, the Squadron Commander, **Major Alan Yeoman,** presented **W.O.II Stagg,** who left us the next morning on posting, with a shield, to which were attached all the different cap badges he had fed in the dining room. We wish him all the best in Malta and hope that he feeds The Lancashire Regiment as well as he has fed us during the last three years. During the dance we had traditional raffles and spot prizes, and in a very energetic 'Twist' competition, **Sergeant Tony** and **Mrs. Jean Lowry** swept the floor!

The Shooting Team shows some mettle

The unit entered a team for the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Skill at Arms Meeting, which took place at Sennelager from 28th to 30th May. The team, captained by **Major Roy Dobin** D.E.R.R., our Adjutant, consisted of **Sergeant Ray Norris, Corporals Mark Malpass, George Paton** and **Bill Pettie, Lance-Corporal Tom Perry** and **Signalman 'Jock' MacKinnon,** with **Lance-Corporal Keith Wells** as reserve.

Shooting conditions were good, with brilliant sunshine throughout the meeting, which was run as a 'Mini-Bisley' in preparation for the Corps Meeting at Bulford. All practices fired were governed by the Army Rifle Association Rules. Our opponents were the Signal Regiments of B.A.O.R. and one other Brigade Signal Squadron, 7th Armoured. Competition was very tough, but we managed to win the Roberts match and were placed third in the other matches (the Roupell, the Whitehead and the Parachute Regiment Cup).

Excitement rose in the area of the scoreboard as results went up and there were some very pleased looks from our team

(*Continued on page* 267)

(*Continued from page* 266)



THE TWISTERS

That "We've got it!" look. Sergeant Tony and Mrs. Jean Lowry (clutching the prize) the smiling onlookers are, *Left to Right:* Staff-Sergeant Gordon Pickard and Captain Paul Webb



THE SQUADRON SHOOTING TEAM: WITH SOME EXCELLENT RESULTS BEHIND THEM—THEY ARE AFTER MORE UNIT SILVER

Back Row: Lance-Corporal Keith Wells, Signalman 'Jock' MacKinnon, Major Roy Dobin, Corporal George Paton.

Kneeling: Sergeant Ray Norris, Lance-Corporal Tom Perry, Corporal Mark Malpass, Corporal Bill Pettie

when they found that they had won the Royal Signals Rifle Association B.A.O.R. Cup for the champion team among Signals Units in 1 (BR) Corps. Each firer received a small individual trophy for his performance in the 'Roberts.' **Sergeant Ray Norris** achieved the top individual score in the Roupell Class A and was presented with a large silver tankard, which he promptly filled with a suitable beverage and immediately emptied! For the Falling Plate, match reinforcements arrived by helicopter, in the form of the Squadron Commander and the D.A.A. & Q.M.G. of Brigade H.Q., **Major Angus Fairrie,** Q.O. Highlanders, who joined with **Sergeant Norris** and **Lance-Corporal Perry** to form the unit team. Regrettably though, we had to concede victory in the first round to 21st Signal Regiment, who were lucky enough to be up-wind and obscured our plates with dust.

The team is continuing with its training and will be taking part at the Royal Signals Meeting at Bulford and the Army Rifle Association Meeting at Bisley, in the hope that they will be able to add to the unit silver collection!

Other events within the unit during the last month include a demonstration for the Chief of the General Staff, **General Sir Geoffrey Baker, G.C.B., C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., A.D.C.;** a R.E.M.E. operators' cadre, gas training, and a small Brigade Headquarters deployment exercise.

Farewell

On 6th June, the unit said farewell to **Major Alan Yeoman,** who leaves us for a staff appointment with the Canadian Ministry of Defence in Ottawa. We wish him and his family all the best in their new posting. Our new Squadron Commander, **Major John Stevens** is not unfamiliar to us, as he has only moved a short distance from a staff appointment with our Divisional Headquarters. We hope that he and his family have a very happy and enjoyable tour with the unit.

229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) B.F.P.O. 45

"Discotheque Nights"

IT was thought that summer had come after such a splendid Easter Week, but not so, as it is with a struggle against the elements that the cricket, sailing and canoe club enthusiasts have got under way, but without a doubt as the weather improves there will be plenty of news from those quarters.

The second of our "Discotheque Nights" went down with an even bigger bang than the first and by the increase in numbers of disguises and "with it" clothes, they will continue to draw a motley crew of "Meditators" and "Shakers," all having a great time.

Inter Troop Athletics Meet

Although the weather left a lot to be desired, the Inter-Troop Athletic Meeting went down very well with some splendid performances by all competitors.

With a good turn-out by the families the afternoon was enlightened with a "mums' race," won by **Mrs. Morgan,** "kiddies' races" for all ages, the over "P.E. Test Age" race won by **R.Q.M.S. (Bunty) Baigent,** with **T.O.T. (Twinky Toes) Bayfield** a close second, and the Chain of Command race won by Radio Troop.

Mrs. Holifield (wife of our C.S.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Holifield),** presented the prizes to all and the Inter-Troop Trophy to the overall winners, COMCEN and S.H.Q. Troop, and the afternoon ended with a splendid tea for all.

Our thanks must go to the organisers and helpers for a splendid afternoon.

Other News

Water Polo.—The Squadron were alas knocked out of the water polo competition in the quarter-finals by "A" Squadron 1 R.T.R. A good show and better luck next time

Swimming.—We did very well to come second in the Brigade swimming meeting, with some fine swimming by our team. Well done!

Shooting.—Again the Squadron showed fighting spirit in coming fourth in the Brigade Skill at Arms Meeting, where the competition was very high indeed.

Wives' Club.—Seen in the cricket nets—eleven shapely wives, turning a hand at the bat and bowling—watch out for news of these enthusiasts.

Watch this space also for news of the Brigade Athletic Meeting, Squadron summer camp, cricket and canoeing.

FOR YOUR DIARY

CATTERICK REUNION WILL BE HELD on 28th/29th JUNE IN 1969



SHALL WE DANCE?

The ballet effect shown in this photograph is merely evidence once again that the camera can sometimes lie. 235 Signal Squadron are not training dancing quarter guards!

235 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 51

Visits

SINCE our last notes were published we have been visited by the Commander British Troops Malta **Brigadier R. E. C. Price, C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel A. T. Burrows,** C.S.O., D.C.N. (Army Element) and **Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell,** Royal Signals, C.S.O. (Malta). In addition, a party of Royal Army Ordnance Corps Officers and Warrant Officers from depots in Malta, who visited the unit and outstations, showed much interest in the operation of equipment which is issued by their own Corps.

Training—and we have reason to pat ourselves on the back

Our indefatiguable Training Officer, **Captain Ron Oliver, B.E.M,.** continues to push as many courses as possible, and we have many gratifying successes in qualification courses. Particularly satisfying is the fact that of the eight BII Comcen operators who sat the tests to qualify for an upgrading course, seven of them passed successfully. A pat on the back for **W.O.I Yeoman Bob Coe** for this. We thank 7th, 22nd and 30th Regiments, to whom these operators are soon to be posted, for co-operating so well in arranging early courses for them.

The obligatory re-training of technicians proceeds apace, causing a heavy burden to be placed on the resources of the Squadron. **Sergeants Steve Doyle, Mike Taylor** and **Bob MacKay** are bearing the instructing load

Unfortunately, with the run-down of L.E.P. in the Squadron and other future possible changes in personnel, it rather looks as if our heavy training programme may have to be curtailed to some extent.

Malta Forces Driving Club—And an Invitation!

The motor car has come to play a significant part in modern life and, here in Malta, interest in racing, clubs and rallies is spreading fast

The Malta Forces' Driving Club, which no doubt had been organised in the dim past with great enthusiasm, had become almost a memory until, 18 months ago, some ex-237 Squadron (COMCAN) chaps were posted into this unit from Singapore. It was at this time that military and civilian personnel of this Squadron injected new life into the club and wholly took over the running of it. At first the club competitions were dominated by these same people, but membership has grown and there is a truly inter-service committee of officials who now run this thriving activity. Two people of this Squadron whose names can be seen in the successful competition lists are **Corporal Doug Curry** with a "hot" Ford (moved on from the bow and arrow stage?), and **Corporal "Harry" Kernohan,** who has a Humber Super Snipe of Concours d'Elegance fame.

Incidentally, with Malta taking on the role of a popular holiday area, we invite any of our readers who are choosing this "jewel in the sun(?)" for their holidays and intend to hire a car, to enlist the aid of this club's officials. It could be of much benefit as the hiring of a car on this island can be a dodgy business if one doesn't read the small print. **Mr. G. Cassidy** (U.K. based Civilian Technician) of 235 Squadron (D.C.N.), B.F.P.O. 51, is quite willing to give advice and help as required.

Junior Ranks Club

Corporal White, R.A.P.C., P.M.C., writes: After the bustle of the various Christmas activities, the club welcomed in 1968 with a new entertainments committee and the promise of even better things to come. We did not have long to wait and the committee were soon hard at work. A Valentine's dance was held on 16th February, and members rocked to the big beat sound until the early hours of the morning.

Darts is a very popular game among both male and female members and, as well as the usual tournaments held within the club, we have entertained both the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force at darts matches. These have proved very successful and will certainly continue.

It would be unworthy not to pause here and mention our W.R.A.C. members. Without these attractive young ladies our club would be an all male affair and we are grateful for the part they play in club activities. (I never liked dancing with **Ernie Thorpe,** anyway).

At the time of going to Press we are preparing for a Tramps' Ball which is becoming an annual fixture. At least it gives the ladies a chance to wear all those rags they only possess.

Captain Elaine Anton's Light of Foot

On 17th February, five members of the W.R.A.C. Troop completed an eight-mile "bash" along with male members of the Squadron who were on P.E. Tests. This was done in answer to a challenge from the "stronger sex" of the unit. Tired and weary, the five completed the walk in the time given but, needless to say, there were some fine blisters to be seen after this enterprise.

Cupid has been a frequent visitor to the Troop as there have been seven marriages since 6th January. We congratulate them all and hope they will be very happy in the future.

On Sunday, 31st March, a "swinging" farewell party was held by the W.R.A.C. Troop for **Major Alma Crofton,** DADWRAC Malta, who was leaving the island on posting to 16th Regiment, Krefeld.

Here and There

Recent arrivals to the unit include **Captain Denis Newton, W.O.II (F. of S.) Anthony Brookes, W.O.II Donald Rand, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) William Carr, Sergeants Brian Smoker** and **Humphrey Buxton, Corporal Douglas Rogers, Lance-Corporal John Bell, Signalmen Stewart Jones, Anthony Miller, David Lyons, James Carr, Kevin Toolan** and **John Moffatt, Lance-Corporal Christine Farrington** and **Privates Shelley Hession, Linda Salmon, Doreen Fields** and **Bernadette Burrows.**

Those who have left us are **Captain Desmond Spence, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Dereck Goodwin, Sergeants Mick White, Gerry French, Ron Hardman** and **Mick Roberts, Corporal Colin Harland,** and **Lance-Corporals Brian Leaman, Norman Sutton-Hibbert, Paul Clark, Keith Turner-Howe** and **Ian Haylock.** Of the girls who left, **Lance-Corporal Avis Jackson** and **Privates Jeanette Armstrong** and **Sandie Deer** went home on RHE, and **Privates Kathleen Simblett, Eileen Allen** have married **Sergeant David Burnage, Corporal John Taylor** respectively. **Private Margaret Brodie also RHE** to wed **Ian Haylock** in August, all of this Squadron.

253 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 1

SINCE our last WIRE notes life in Hong Kong has returned to a peaceful and pleasant existence. With less internal security duties to perform we have been able to relax and enjoy ourselves. At the same time we have been able to catch up on training, maintenance, cable construction and SWS projects.

Long and Loyal Service

Three Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and one G.O.C's Testimonial have been presented to members of the Squadron. The Brigade Commander presented the L.S. and G.C. medal to **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Chu Fook Hung,** our Hong Kong Squadron Sergeant-Major, and to **Staff Sergeant B. F. Chapman. Corporal Wong Fook Yu** was presented with his L.S. and G.C. medal by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General John Anderson, C.B.E.,** on 19th February. **Mr. Chan Pui Sang** was presented with the G.O.C's Testimonial in the New Year's Awards as a reward for 17 years' loyal and devoted service with the Corps.

On 2nd February, **Mr. Chu Woo,** a civilian lineman, retired after nearly 50 years' service with the Army. **Mr. Chu Woo** started work with the Royal Engineers in September, 1918. He transferred to the Corps a few years later and, except for the period of the Pacific War when he went to China, he has served continuously. In 1953 **Mr. Chu Woo** was presented with the G.O.C's Testimonial and the Coronation Medal. His retirement was marked by the presentation of an inscribed watch by members of the Squadron and a letter of appreciation from **Lieutenant-General Sir John Worsley,** Commander, British Forces, Hong Kong.

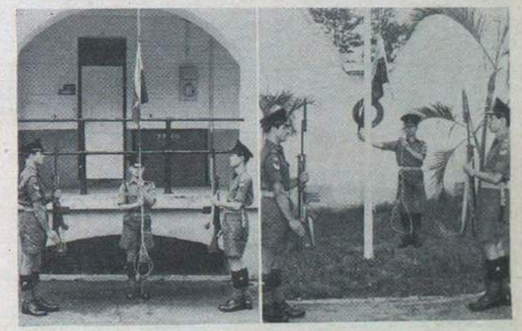
Arrivals and Departures

We have recently said farewell to **Major D. J. Chetwynd, W.O.II (S.S.M.) D. J. Freeman, Staff Sergeants Truran, Chapman** and **Brewer,** and **Sergeants Palmer** and **Franklyn.** We wish them happiness and success in their new appointments. In their place we extend a hearty welcome to **Lieutenant R. F. A. Davies, W.O.II (S.S.M.) M. G. A. Edwards, W.O.II L. L. Tucker, W.O.II G. A. Christie, Staff Sergeants Bowman** and **McInally** and **Sergeant Powers,** R.A.O.C.

MOVE TO NEW BARRACKS AFTER 34 YEARS

ON 1st June, 253 Squadron, Royal Signals moved from Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, Hong Kong, to Osborn Barracks, three miles away. The Squadron occupied Whitfield Barracks on 7th March, 1930, and, with the exception of the period of the Pacific War, had been there since that date. A total of 34 years.

The Squadron will miss the comfortable colonial-type barracks in Kowloon and the attractions of the city, but the new barracks has many advantages including improved accommodation and spacious training areas nearby.



The pictures show, left, the Corps flag being lowered for the last time in Whitfield Barracks and, right, it being hoisted for the first time in Osborn Barracks

SPORT

The winter season brought many successes to the Squadron. The soccer team won the Seven-a-Side Knockout Shield and the Minor Units League. They reached the semi-finals of the Major Units Knock-out Cup and the Minor Units Knock-out Cup, but in each competition they were eventually defeated by a better team. They bowed out gracefully to 18th Light Regiment, R.A., in the Major Units Cup and to R.A.F. Kai Tak in the Minor Units Cup. **Lance-Corporals Tierney, Daforno** and **Anderson** and **Signalman Steadman** were regular members of the representative Army XI.

At our first serious attempt at hockey we finished in mid-position on the Army League and reached the semi-finals of the Six-a-Side Knock-out competition. A promising start this season augers well for next season.

Pictorial background to the news—

A Look at 253 Signal Squadron at work and play









1. **Members of a Security Patrol embarking in a Whirlwind Helicopter.**
2. **The Squadron shooting team 1967. Winners of the Royal Signals (Hong Kong) Inter Squadron Rifle Meeting.**
3. **The Squadron Association Football team. Winners of the Inter Unit Six-a-Side competition and the Minor Units League.**
4. **The Squadron Chow Party, Chinese New Year 1968.** *Left to Right:* **Lance-Corporal Ho Chee Hee, Mr. Chow Kong Hoi, Signalman Lee Yin Nun, Mrs. Edwards, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Edwards, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Chu Fook Hung, Sergeant Millar, Lance-Corporal Leung Cheuk Kwong, Signalman Chan Kwok Kit.**

For the first time in many years, if not for the first time ever, the Squadron entered a team in the Inter-Unit Cross-Counrty meeting. In a Gurkha dominated meeting the Squadron team, comprising fit (and keen?) sportsmen rather than ardent cross-country runners, ran extremely well to finish second in the Minor Units Competition. **Lance-Corporal Tierney** was our first man home.

Orienteering now recognised as an official sport in the Army, is a popular recreation during the cooler months. Hong Kong lends itself to this strenuous sport and one soon becomes familiar with ascending from a beach straight up a 1,000ft. hill in 15 minutes. Teams comprise three pairs and the aim is for each pair to visit as many different check points as possible in a given time. Points are allotted for each check point visited according to its location and accessability. Points are also deducted for lateness at the finishing point. The Squadron team acquitted itself well in the Inter Unit competition and was placed fifth out of 18 teams.

Members of the Squadron have been prominent in other sports. **Corporal Mead** and **Lance-Corporal Devereux** deserve special mention for being selected for the representative Army Rubgy XV on frequent occasions and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Edwards** and **Sergeant A. R. Millar** have been prominent on the golf course.

With the winter season behind us we are now preparing for athletics, swimming, water polo and sailing.

Royal Signals Rifle Meeting

The Inter-Squadron (Hong Kong) Rifle Meeting for 1967 was held in December. Teams from 252 Squadron, 253 Squadron and 246 Gurkha Squadron entered a meeting consisting of the Roupell Cup, Britannia Trophy, the Worcester and Lindley Cup, the Parachute Regiment Cup and the Ulster Rifles Cup, 246 Gurkha Squadron won the Worcester and Lindley Cup, 252 Squadron won the Britannia Trophy and 253 Squadron won the Roupell Cup, the Parachute Regiment Cup and the Ulster Rifles Cup. This gave 253 Squadron the Champion Squadron Cup, followed by 252 Squadron and 246 Gurkha Squadron.

260 Signal Squadron (SAM) Shoeburyness

Dispersal

HAVING enjoyed the pleasure of having the complete Squadron around us for the past two months, we now have to face up to the old problem, familiar to the Corps—dispersal. **Lieutenant Owen Lewis** and his merry men of X-Ray Troop are now firmly settled in the exercise areas of B.A.O.R. and are shortly to be reinforced by the 'Dragon' Battery's T.C. Troop element of 'Yankee' Troop under the command of **Lieutenant Roger Barry,** from where we hope to have some interesting notes for publication in next month's issue.

For those remaining in the U.K., there are the usual Trade and M.P.T. courses, and military training, and two lucky members of the Squadron, namely **Signalmen Jim Brent** and **Ian Hamilton,** are detached at the Suffolk and Colchester Tattoos.

Squadron Club takes shape

Feverish activity has lately been taking place on a burnt-out wooden shack that stands in our area adjacent to our Squadron Headquarters. Having been given permission to do what we liked with this building, "as it no longer existed," it was decided to attempt to turn it into a Squadron Club, the main purpose being to provide morning breaks for all, thus eliminating the long trek to the J.R.C., situated some distance across the camp.

It can now be reported that slowly this project is taking shape, roofing, weatherproofing and inner wall panels are nearly completed and the idea now seems more of a reality than it at first appeared. The leading lights in this enterprise so far are **Corporals John McCrindle, Michael McKigney** and **Paul Bendall.** The opening day cannot come too soon, and already the O.C. and Administrative Officer can be seen rubbing their hands and saying "at last . . . money coming in."

It pays to advertise—"Jimmy" arrives

The writer has always believed in the above slogan, and it was not just a case of wishful thinking when we advertised in our first issue of notes in May/June WIRE ("**Wanted—Good home offered for one figure of Mercury**").

The result of this piece of blatent advertising was that we are now the very proud owners of one large "Jimmy," complete with glass case—which has been given pride of place outside our Squadron Headquarters.

For this generous donation to this, the newest Squadron in the Corps, we are greatly indebted to **W.O.I (R.S.M.) M. F. B. Garland** of 31st Regiment (V), who, having satisfied himself that we really did offer "a good home," presented us with a fine piece of workmanship which is now our mascot and the envy of our Gunner neighbours.

For the benefit of ex-Junior Leaders, our new centrepiece is the self-same "Jimmy" that once graced the lawn outside R.H.Q. at Denbury.

Certa Cito.—**Mr. Garland,** thank you, we will take good care of him.

Visits

We were very pleased during the month to see **Colonel E. J. Winn,** Commander, 1st Signal Group, Strategic Command, who paid us a visit on 15th May. During his visit **Colonel Winn** spoke to many personnel and watched a demonstration of the erection of the "zip-up tower." We hope that he was suitably impressed with us and that what he saw was well worth the long journey from Salisbury.

Departures

The only departure of the month and a very notable one at that, is **Captain Gordon Morgan,** who has now relinquished command of X-Ray Troop and is about to depart on the first of a number of courses at Blandford, Warminster and Camberley. **Gordon** will be greatly missed and no more so than in the Officer' Mess, where he has held the appointment of Mess Secretary. In fact, he was probably the only Royal Signals officer to have been Secretary to a Gunner Station Mess. He also had the distinction of organising his own "dining out" night—during which he produced among other things a live elephant (not pink) that rocked the Mess building as it circled around the table in the dining room. *Gordon, we shall miss you.*

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus) B.F.P.O. 53



WO II Foster and his wife after the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

IT was a proud morning for the Squadron when, on 25th May, the Deputy Commander, **Brigadier E. G. B. Davies Scourfield,** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.II Peter Foster,** who has been Signal Centre Supervisor in Dhekelia and was recently promoted to Warrant Officer. This was a fitting occasion to end his service with the Squadron, as he takes up the post of Squadron Sergeant - Major with 260 Squadron in July. We wish him every happiness there.

Sports Voice of the Year

Radio Troop have been very busy—providing public address facilities for nine events during May alone. A one-to-one link on C11/R120 was provided for the Dhekelia Dash, and **Second-Lieutenant Alan Macgregor** is hopefully awaiting the award of "Sports Commentator of the Year." A three-day course on voice procedure was run for six corporals of the Royal Military Police, and the results of this were encouraging. We have started a series of signals training mornings for officers of the Garrison. This is to train officers who are likely to be called on to man the Dhekelia Operations Room in times of trouble.

The Squadron improved in this year's Royal Signals Shooting Meeting by gaining third place. However, a better achievement came in the Commander 3rd Signal Group's athletics, when the Squadron was third overall. Some fine individual performances were made, and the tug-of-war team pulled its way to victory in the finals. Credit goes to **Lance-Corporal 'Dinger' Bell** and **Signalman 'Taff' Doig,** who won the 220 yards relay and were also second in the 100 yards relay, and to the team trainers, **Sergeant Tom Foody** and **Sergeant-Major Appleby.**

Sheila takes her first jump

Special mention for **Corporal Sheila Beattie,** who took second place in the ladies' event at the Cyprus Parachute Championships at Easter. This, believe it or not, was her first descent ever. These were the first championships to be held in Cyprus and were a great success. However, we will leave it to 261 Squadron to gloat over their victories in their own WIRE notes!

Staff Sergeant Jackie Clark and **Lance-Corporal 'Babs' White,** of Comcen Troop, organised a beach barbecue on 11th May. P.A. and lighting were provided by Radio Troop, and the music by **Sergeant Terry Mack** and B.F.B.S. About a hundred turned up and said it was a great success.

Privates Linda Thomas and **Jan Starkey** went on the first of this year's exchange visits with 235 Squadron in Malta. These visits give the operators a two or three-week working holiday, and a chance to see something of the other end of the Mediterranean. At present, we have four girls in Malta on a Comcen Operator upgrading course. With the help of our new Yeoman of Signals, **Staff Sergeant Tom Cockerill,** we hope to be running our own courses fairly soon.

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!

621 Troop, H.M.S. Fearless
B.F.P.O. Ships

THE Troop formed at Blandford Camp in April and started continuation trade training and work-up to our annual P.E. tests. We played lots of sport and even beat 2 Squadron, 30th Regiment 7—0 at football, and 4 Squadron 2—0 at hockey. Not bad for a Troop of 12 blokes!

The 'Comms' are slightly better today...

After our P.E. tests we started on our Naval training with a visit to Portsmouth. We stayed at the Royal Marine Barracks at Eastney. The first course was on damage control at Portsmouth Dockyard, and after two introductory films and a lecture we found ourselves in a large steel room (a replica of a ship's compartment) with what appeared to be hundreds of gaping holes in the bulkheads (walls, decks (floors) and overhead water pipes. The C.P.O. instructor was most surprised when the banging stopped and the lights were switched on to find the holes were plugged neatly and with very little water seeping through the various plugs, bins and shoring that we used. We went aboard Lord Nelson's flagship, H.M.S. *Victory* that same day, and came to the conclusion that communications are slightly better today than they were in his day.

Aboard H.M.S. "Phoenix" for a fire-fighting Course

The next day we went to H.M.S. *Phoenix* for a fire-fighting course. The routine was similar to the day before. We had two films and two lectures in the morning and that afternoon found us blundering around smoke-filled compartments wearing breathing apparatus, fighting oil fires with foam cannisters and larger oil fires with hoses and foam adaptors, and finally the one that really rocked us, fighting large and small oil fires with water. The mind boggled at first, but everyone got the hang of it in the end. We had to.

On Friday, 10th May, the C.S.O., **Brigadier Gray** made his first visit to the Troop in Blandford. He met each one of the Troop personally and then listened to a presentation given by the Signal Communication Officer and the First Lieutenant of H.M.S. *Fearless* on life in the Royal Navy and the role of the ship in particular. We look forward to his next visit when we are on board.



GETTING READY TO SEE THE WORLD AGAIN
Members of 621 Signal Troop all looking fit and cheerful now stationed c/o 30th Signal Regiment, out and about to start their naval training for the second commission of H.M.S. Fearless

On 15th May, we moved down to Eastney for the last time. We were to familiarise ourselves with marine radio sets and this took the form of a mobile exercise where we tested the range of some of the A14's. On the 17th we returned to Blandford. Three days later we were out again. This time for days at H.M.S. *Mercury*, where we started to learn Naval procedures and equipment. We were issued with station cards and bedding and several hours later the Vocab was being picked up, practised and stored in our memories for future reference.

Training in telepathy?

Another thing we noticed about the Navy was the speed a "Buzz" went round the ship. Our Yeoman (who is on a get fit kick) asked about gymnasium arrangements just before we stopped for lunch. At lunchtime the matelots were asking us who was the keep fit fiend in the Troop. We think they train operators in telepathy instead of telegraphy.

The Tot (pronounced with great reverence) went down quite well, if you'll excuse the pun, and was one of several reasons we were sad to leave *Mercury* and return to "Dry" Blandford on 24th May.

We spent two days at Aturm, Poole, on 27th May, and met the Amphibious Detachment including the Royal Marines, R.E., R.C.T., R.E.M.E., R.A.P.C. and A.C.C. elements. We were shown the ship's handling of vehicles techniques and the beach unit's method of working. We also went out in both types of the ship's landing craft and the Geminis.

Postscript for 661 Troop (H.M.S. Intrepid).—We have welcomed aboard Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) G. Lile and Signalman Fred Mulley, who are to be posted to you soon. You will find them immaculate; they must be, 621 trained them.

638 Signal Troop (Air Formation) R.A.F. Tangmere

R.A.F. Tangmere, where's that?

ONE Chief Clerk of a a well-known Signal Regiment in Germany thought it was in up country Malaysia. It is in fact the famous wartime fighter station that now performs the less glamorous, but still vital role of being the base for the Tactical Signals Wing of 38 Group R.A.F.. 638 Troop (Air Formation) lives cheek by jowl with the "customers" and is poised to sally forth to support the Group. Recent forays took detachments to Cyprus, Malta and North Africa. Exercise "Crayon" has been the major commitment since **Captain B. F. Strange** handed over to **Captain R. Sampson.** Reports have reached us that the former O.C. and his family are now firmly established in Singapore. The Troop and "customers" wish them well.

Some blood letting for Captain Sampson

Libya was the setting for **Captain Sampson's** blooding. That is if one forgets about his week in Malta looking in vain for his suitcase, which disappeared into the belly of a Britannia never to be seen again. Two detachments were deployed; one to El Adem, another to a feature somewhere in the desert. Scorpion and lizard hunting proved to be the favourite off-duty pastime. **Staff Sergeant Block** always made a point of shaking his bedding and kit thoroughly once he had heard about it.

Sergeant Drew was responsible for the "ad hoc" systems, improvised due to delays in arrival of certain equipment. The Troop motor-cyclists found themselves performing display team like manoeuvres when the Troop accepted the task of S.D.S. for the airhead. **Signalman Lancaster** was horrified to cover the route in daylight that he had confidently cabbied the previous night.

Meanwhile, in U.K., **Second-Lieutenant Ryan** was looking after other commitments. Repair of R.A.F. coaxial cable installations is a role unique to the Troop. These were being maintained at various key stations.

The 50th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force deserves special mention. In a historical station like Tangmere, it received special attention. The station has the Freedom of the City of Chichester and exercised its privilege of marching through the City. On this memorable day the Troop took the place for once, on the left of the Line allowing the R.A.F. to lead the parade.



HUNTING SCORPIONS AND LIZARDS
This proved to be the favourite off-duty pastime for the detachment of the troop in Libya
Left to Right: Sergeant Drew, Signalman Patton, Lance/Corporal Phipps, Signalman Jarwood (with lizard), Signalman Cawtheray and Corporal Robson



"I'll hold it down till you get back sir". Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Harris, Brigadier P. Vaigncourt-Strallen, Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Neilson, Major G. C. Brooke

An evening of high junketing in the various messes was followed by some low flying in London. Neither will be forgotten by the R.A.F. or those fortunate enough to attend.



Signalman 'Billy' Budd the D.J. with the 'mostest' on the Tangmere Forces Network. His cheeky chatter enlivens the station

One of the extra activities that the Troop enjoys is running TFN, Tangmere Forces Network. This rediffusion radio is piped throughout the station and although one channel is always Radio One, the second channel is all live. **Captain Sampson** has never quite got over the experience of the disc jockey meeting he called. **Signalman "Billy" Budd** is the DJ with the mostest. The mostest what is not quite clear but his cheeky chatter between tracks wins listeners from a square Radio One!

40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) Belfast

A goodwill mission to B.A.O.R.

ON Sunday, 5th May, 40 (U) Regiment V. embarked on a goodwill mission to B.A.O.R. in the guise of attending Annual Camp. Our goodwill efforts were totally eclipsed by our hosts, the officers and men of 21st and 16th Regiments.

The bulk of 40th left Northern Ireland in two British Eagle Britannia's and on the way flew over several of our less fortunate brethren who were making their way to Germany with two 3-ton loads of stores. This 'Q' column was ably led by **Captain (Q.M.) Ham:** his report that the journey was uneventful falls on deaf ears; I know for a fact that in Liverpool for some obscure shipping reason he had to convert a 3-ton truck into a 2-tonner. **R.Q.M.S. Aven** accomplished this in 15 minutes with the aid of a sledge hammer. The E.M.E.R. for this is being drafted!

I am not prepared to stress the military aspect of the camp. Sufficient to say that after the exercises we earned praise from our Regular counterparts, even the G.O.C. Northern Ireland, **Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Harris, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., Brigadier P. Vaigncourt-Strallen** and our Honorary Colonel, **Colonel C. F. C. Lindsay,** who visited us in the field, made guarded, yet complimentary comment.

On the social side, 21st Regiment had arranged parties for all of us on the day of our arrival and these were returned before the conclusion of camp with reciprocal "Irish Orgies."

Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Neilson, of 21st Regiment has still not found out how to reload the shillelagh with which he was presented.

"Lecherous soldiery"

The middle week-end provided an opportunity for the lecherous soldiery of 40th to partake in the delights of the Rhine and that city of sin, Amsterdam, the sights of which I gather were appreciatively viewed through bottoms of beer glasses.

In conclusion, the real battle was fought with the Customs on our return to Northern Ireland. One member of H.Q. Squadron brought 200 cigarettes and a bottle of Scotch, his entitlement and found to his dismay, that his extra half-dozen bottles of brandy and a box of cigars did not constitute "£5 worth of presents."

In all, a very successful camp, and our sincere thanks to our host Regiments in Germany.

Wales in Springtime? Draws Fifty Volunteers

But Exercise "Ace High" was not all that easy

By Lieutenant Dickinson, 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

If you have read 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment's notes earlier on in this issue, you will have seen that R.S.M. Templeton thinks he has conned Lieutenant Dickinson into writing a report on Adventure Training in Wales. He is right, he has!

However, do not think that I am taken in by the offer of "no summer essay": I am well aware that if there is a summer essay I shall be required to produce one in any case!

I must return to the subject, Exercise "Ace High." It struck me as an odd name for an exercise, yet events proved that oddity was the code for the weekend.

"Alpha" Troop, having grafted for several months on Regimental, Squadron and Troop communications exercises

had decided that the time had come to spend a weekend at home. But when they were told that there was a visit to Wales in springtime organised for them, 50 soldiers and three officers bravely volunteered for this treat. To my utmost delight I discovered that I had volunteered and had been accepted for the visit.

The King and Crown Prince of Adventure Training

Since this is intended to be a complete account I shall start at the beginning. First parade, 06.30 Friday, 24th May, by 06.50 we were off in 4-tonners to Wales. We reached our rendezvous after some superb map-reading by **Captain Almonds.** There we met the Adventure Training King, **Major Hassell** and his Crown Prince, **Second-Lieutenant Cunniam.** We were split into four groups which had been previously published in an exercise instruction. Regrettably "Alpha" Troop did not receive this instruction until three days after our return from Wales.

The four groups then assembled under their groups leaders: "Q" Force under **Sergeant Harris,** "X" Force under **Lieutenant Dickinson** (later known as Blade's Force), "Y" Force under **Lieutenant Hodson** (unfortunately the Editor will not be able to publish this force's nickname) and finally "Z" Force, under **Sergeant Bartlett.** We were issued with Bergen rucksacks, footpowder, maps and compasses; you will notice no issue of rations. For one determined member of "X" Force, the compass was not much help since East was confused with West.

Fortunately no harm came to this soldier. The Scottish Nationalist Party would have lost an ardent supporter!

We quickly packed our kit and were briefed on the country code, also on the latest teaching on how to combat exposure. This hinted that the warm sunshine was not likely to be quite so warm further up in the hills. Anyone who took this hint later realised that he had underestimated the temperature difference between hills and valleys.

Fighting against a harsh dictatorship

The four forces were to represent commando troops who were about to be parachuted into Wales to help the guerillas fight against a harsh dictatorship. At times during the following three-and-a-half days the temptation to put this role into active operation was great. Little did the D.S. realise how close they came to being treated as realistic enemy.

The time was about 11.30 when the four forces moved off in 4-tonners. The parachute drop was a surprise for many since each 4-tonner dropped off its personnel one by one. Therefore, right from the start force leaders found their control over their fortunes was slipping.

Each force was given a round of tasks to perform. The tasks were intended to be the same for all forces, but in two cases were modified after the first day.

After jumping off the 4-tonner at the last drop-off point I found that I had lost contact with all my force. All that I had was a photograph of the objective and the grid reference of a hastily arranged rendezvous for the force. When I arrived at the rendezvous I found all "X" Force less one man which I felt was an encouraging start. When we reached the objective at 16.00 hours we discovered the task had just begun. A system of check points and coloured discs had been devised, which on paper was complex; practically it involved a large amount of walking. In exchange for discs collected earlier groups of at least three men were given other coloured discs. The beauty of the system was that unless the force ended up with five green discs they would not be issued with rations at the final check-point. By this time it had began to rain. As the evening drew on and the rain became heavier a compromise was reached with various check point personnel who surrendered their discs (a sensible decision).

. . . even at this stage a camel would have tasted good

Arriving at the camp site we were given tentage and rations, delicious two-man 24-hour assault rations—the type that require 8 pints of water to reconstitute. Mind you, at this stage, even camel would have tasted delicious. The D.S. appeared to be very comfortable (rubbing salt in the wound) they had found an old barn and even had a roaring wood fire which was a help since we were able to dry out.

Day two began for me at 05.00 rudely awoken by my alarm clock; for 15 minutes I lay in my sleeping bag listening to the rain drumming on the tent. Finally I could put reveille off no longer, amid groans I persuaded my force to join me in the rain. Really the less said about day two the better. The main impressions that we all had at the end of the day were rain, mist, a constant cold wind and Pen-y-Fan which we were obliged to climb (2,906 ft., give or take 3%). The high spot of the day was certainly a daring daylight raid by **Corporal White** on a local dam.

Racing up Pen-y-Fawr with a bomb and time fuse

Day three for us was really the easiest and for some the most interesting; for others it was simply a continuing slog up and down hills. The first problem was a race against time up Pey-y-Fawr (2,409 ft.) We were given a bomb with an hour's time fuse which was to be passed from person to person up the hill. We did the task with three minutes to spare; the record time was set up at 34 minutes, but we had not realised it was intended as a race. Even so, **Signalman Kennedy** and **Signalman MacKenzie** ran most of the final half to get the bomb to the dam in time. At the dam we were given a photograph of a cluster of stones which was the next cache for rations. After a serious study of this photograph without much success we were given a second photograph after which all became clear. The first photograph, in true Chinese fashion, was meant to be read back to front and inside out. Having found the rations we met up with a vehicle to take us to the next camp site where we relaxed and tried our hands at canoeing.

The final day dawned bright and sunny and we left in good spirits realising that the end was in sight. This day's main task was a river crossing, which we had planned (or so we thought the night before). We were aiming at a very fast time. After a quick discussion at the river bank, **Lance-Corporal Wager** volunteered to cross the river on the one strung rope towing the second rope behind him. I must admit he was unlucky, having successfully reached the tree on the other bank he discovered he had no handholds to enable him to leave the rope and gain dry ground. Still the sun was out and his clothes dried quickly.

Having strung the second rope I foolishly decided to test the two. Quarter way across, well out from the bank it became obvious that the second rope was not taught enough: I ended up clinging to the top rope below the bottom rope—it sounds Irish! Certainly, the situation was desperate. By this time the C.O. and various others had arrived to watch the fun. I was determined not to fall in, and to the dismay of the audience, succeeded in reaching dry land completing a tricky rope change on the way. My second attempt was successful. Now, however, we reached a snag, and after some shouting it was discovered that voice as a means of communication over 30 yards of water was inadequate! Fnally, the required solution was reached. We had taken 3 hours 15 minutes to move 12 men and Bergens across 30 yards of water, during which time two men had taken involuntary baths and one had swum across which was the quickest method.

Their morale was not high . . .

The other forces all had incidents during the weekend. "Z" Force, after leaving Pen-y-Fan were not picked up by transport as briefed, so they "found" an old railway station for the night. Since this happened the first day their morale was not high. "Q" Force, on their first night had to be awake at 04.00 to blow up a dam, so **Sergeant Harris** and **Lance-Corporal Weightman** sat under one groundsheet. Anyone who happens to know **Lance-Corporal Weightman's** size will realise they were both soaking wet in the morning. "Y" Force also had transport problems but were lucky to find a barn with a pub built on one end. Also attempting to blow up a dam they asked the dam keeper where to put the bomb. He seemed a bit dubious: "I don't know about that, see. You'll have to speak with the Foreman."

All of us were glad on Monday evening to return to Bulford. Seldom has an Army Camp seemed so desirable. No doubt, everyone learnt a great deal about Wales, in particular, the Brecon Beacons and Welsh sheep, and certainly enough to last for at least one year, if not forever.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

Remarkably Good Shooting in the

Royal Signals BAOR "Mini-Bisley" 1968

ON 27th May, 1968, some 100 competitors from 10 units in B.A.O.R. gathered together in Sennelager for the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Skill-at-Arms Meeting, 1968.

The standard of shooting was remarkably high, particularly in the new Roberts Match, which few competitors had fired prior to the meeting. Good weather and a fairly trouble-free electric target range helped to produce a very successful shoot. At least half of the competitors are scheduled to travel to Bulford in late June to compete in the Corps Meeting and then to Bisley for the Army Rifle Association's Central Meeting.

The outstanding individual was undoubtedly **Lance-Corporal Corcoran,** of 7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, who obtained consistently high scores throughout the meeting. He was the Army Champion Young Soldier at Bisley last year, and made Bisley history by competing against, and beating, his father in the Army Hundred Match.

Thanks are due to the range staff, provided by all the Signal Regiments in B.A.O.R., and, in particular, to 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment who produced a comfortable and very effective administrative backing.

At the end of this three-day meeting the prizes were presented by **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** C.A.F.S.O., H.Q., R.A.F., Germany.

Full results:

Overall Champion Team and Champion Team Rear Zone Area
21st Signal Regiment

Champion Team—1 (BR) Corps Area
12 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron

Individual Champion shot and Champion Class 'B' Shot
Lance-Corporal Corcoran, 7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron

Match 1(a) Roupell
Winning Team—21st Signal Regiment (644)
Winner, Class 'A'—**Sergeant Norris,** 12 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron (132)
Winner, Class 'B'—**Lance-Corporal Corcoran,** 7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron (140)

Match 1(b) Whitehead
Winning Team—21st Signal Regiment (664)
Winner, Class 'A'—**Captain Stockhill,** 16th Signal Regiment (128)
Winner, Class 'B'—**Lance-Corporal Corcoran,** 7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron (128)

Match 2 Roberts (Fired Twice)
Winning Team—12 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron (1444)
Winner, Class 'A'—**Corporal Parnell,** 1st Div. Signal Regiment (316)
Winner, Class 'B'—**Lance-Corporal Corcoran,** 7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron (328)

Match 4 SMG Thirty
Winner, Class 'A'—**Corporal Alexander,** 16th Signal Regiment (111)
Winner, Class 'B'—**Corporal Viney,** 4th Div. Signal Regiment (105)
N.B.—The top score was obtained by **Corporal Hudson,** R.A.P.C., 21st Signal Regiment (123), but being non-Royal Signals, he could not qualify for the prize.

Match 6 Pistol Thirty
Winner—**W.O.I Smith,** 7th Signal Regiment (83)
Runner-up—**Staff Sergeant Smith,** 13th Signal Regiment (76)

Match 27 SMG Team Match
Winning Team—16th Signal Regiment (427)
Runners-up—28th Signal Regiment (421)

Match 26 Falling Plate
Winning Team—4th Div. Signal Regiment
Runners-up—21st Signal Regiment

Obituary

CAPTAIN C. R. CHILD

AFTER serving as a boy in the Mercantile Marine, mine-sweeping in the Atlantic and with the North Russia Expeditionary Force, **Charles Roland Child** enlisted in the Corps in 1920. He saw further active service in Ireland, the Khyber Pass and Waziristan, before becoming, in 1939, R.S.M. of the 1st Air Formation Signals, with whom he served in the B.E.F.

On commissioning as T.M.O. in 1941, he was again in battle in North Africa (1st Army). After the war he took part in the Palestine operations.

"Charlie" was a fine boxer, being Southern Command Middleweight Champion in 1929 and runner-up in the All India Welterweights in 1926. He was a keen horseman.

He was still serving the Corps as a civilian instructor in the Training Brigade when he died suddenly in his garden on 22nd May.

His funeral took place at Hipswell with full military honours. **Lieutenant-Colonel Nat Gould** represented the Indian Signal Corps.

Our deep sympathy is extended to **Mrs. Childs** and her three children.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. H. BRITTON, OBE.

ALBERT **Henry Britton,** who died in Edinburgh on 1st May, joined the Royal Garrison Artillery at the age of 14 in 1911. On attaining man's service, his first experience of war was with R.E. Signals in Gallipoli. Later he was to serve in France, where he won the Croix de Guerre. He was R.S.M. of the School of Signals when promoted to commissioned rank as an Inspector of Permanent Communications in 1936. Scotland was his responsibility, and he remained in Edinburgh until assuming command of the Orkney and Shetland Signals as a Lieutenant in 1942. His eldest son, Henry, was killed in action in 1940.

In 1945 he commanded Nigerian Area Signals for a short period, and then returned to Scotland, at first in a Highland District and later in Scottish Command Signal Regiment. He retired in 1954.

LOCKWOOD.—**Ex-Sergeant Alfred Lockwood,** of 153, Belgrave Road, Oldham, Lancs. Died in Oldham Royal Infirmary on 18th June. Member of Oldham Branch, Royal Signals Association.

TUGWELL.—**Ex-Sergeant G. H. Tugwell,** at his home, 22, Dunraven Road, Cardiff, on 17th June. **Sergeant Tugwell** joined the Corps in June, 1930. He was a Life Member of the Royal Signals Association and a founder member of the Cardiff Branch, in whose interests he was a staunch and enthusiastic supporter.

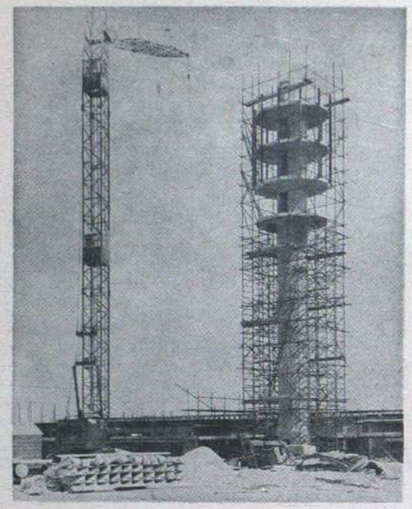
WRIGHT.—**Signalman D. Wright,** of 7th Regiment, as a result of an accident in Bielefeld, B.A.O.R., on 9th June.

PRICE.—**Ex-Signalman G. Price,** on 31st May. **Signalman Price** served from 1928 until 1934, and from 1939 to 1945. In the early 1930's he saw service in India. He was a Life Member of the Association from 1934—a period of 34 years. He leaves a widow, to whom great sympathy is expressed, at 11, Charlesville, Oxton, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

NEWCASTLE BRANCH

Mr. W. A. Lightbody, Hon. Secretary, has now moved to: 138, West Thorpe, New Biggin Hall Estate, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 5.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER • 1968

Vol. 22 *(New Series)* **No. 8**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

This edition of THE WIRE has quite a lot to do with the Association's annual reunion gathering at Catterick on 22nd/23rd of June. It seemed appropriate, therefore, to try and capture on the outer cover of THE WIRE some of the spirit of this very special Corps occasion. What could better serve this purpose than the fine colour photograph taken by **Mr. R. A. C. Drake** (late Staff Sergeant of the Corps) at the 1966 reunion, but so typical of the reunion spirit in any year.

The March Past, after an inspiring Church Service, has always been one of the highlights of this weekend, and perhaps the most impressive moment has been when the Old Comrades' Squadron, preceded by the Association Standard Bearers and their Escorts, has proudly marched by the saluting base.

Mr. Drake's photograph portrays this scene with considerable effect.

Reunion 1968

THIS year's Reunion Weekend must go down in history as the year of the miracle, for despite the worst of weather forecasts and a constant overhead threat by black and lowering clouds, scarcely a drop of rain fell to mar an excellent weekend. On Saturday morning there was a deluge, and wet weather plans were the subject of serious discussion at H.Q., Training Brigade, but by the time Retreat came around there was an almost unbelieveable cessation of the teeming rain. The Retreat Ceremony was as near perfection as we have ever seen it, and the swelling applause that went right round the ground as the Bands marched off was a well-earned tribute to those taking part—not least a large contingent from the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate.

Saturday evening's arrangements took their usual course, and an admirably frequent bus service between messes ensured there was no undue inhibition on the grounds of breathalyser tests—quite the contrary!

Sunday morning, still overshadowed by the constant threat of rain, saw an impressive turnout of Old Comrades falling-in to march to Church—considerably augmented by those seemingly lost souls who, every year, appear discreetly from behind hedges and odd corners to join the already marching column.

We have used the words "Old Comrades." This is a misnomer, for 1968 was conspicuous for the attendance of a number of "Young Comrades" currently serving with T. & A.V.R. units—a very welcome trend in Association membership.

The Church Service, as usual, an inspiration to all, was noteworthy because of the Dedication of the Standard of the newly-formed Dorset Branch and an invigorating sermon by the Garrison's Senior Chaplain, the **Reverend F. W. H. White, M.B.E., C.F.**

The March Past was up to its usual high standard—probably even better—being described as "excellent" by the wife of the Parade Commander, who commented: "She really knows far more about parades than I do."

The Annual General Meeting took place comfortably in the North Hall, and the hand-bell, thoughtfully provided for the General Secretary, brought in even many of those whose thirst called for urgent solace in the neighbouring refreshment tent.

After what was described as the best mid-day meal ever, Sunday afternoon found the Messines Ground comfortably full, with a crowd that must have been near the 2,000 mark. The various displays and sideshows were of the usual high order, and so, still without any appreciable rain, another splendid weekend drew to a close.

The common verdict—**BETTER THAN EVER!** But as the Commander Training Brigade somewhat ruefully remarked at a follow-up conference, "How on earth can we keep on making it better every year?"

THE 1968 CATTERICK REUNION

—*A case of Saturday night and Sunday morning*



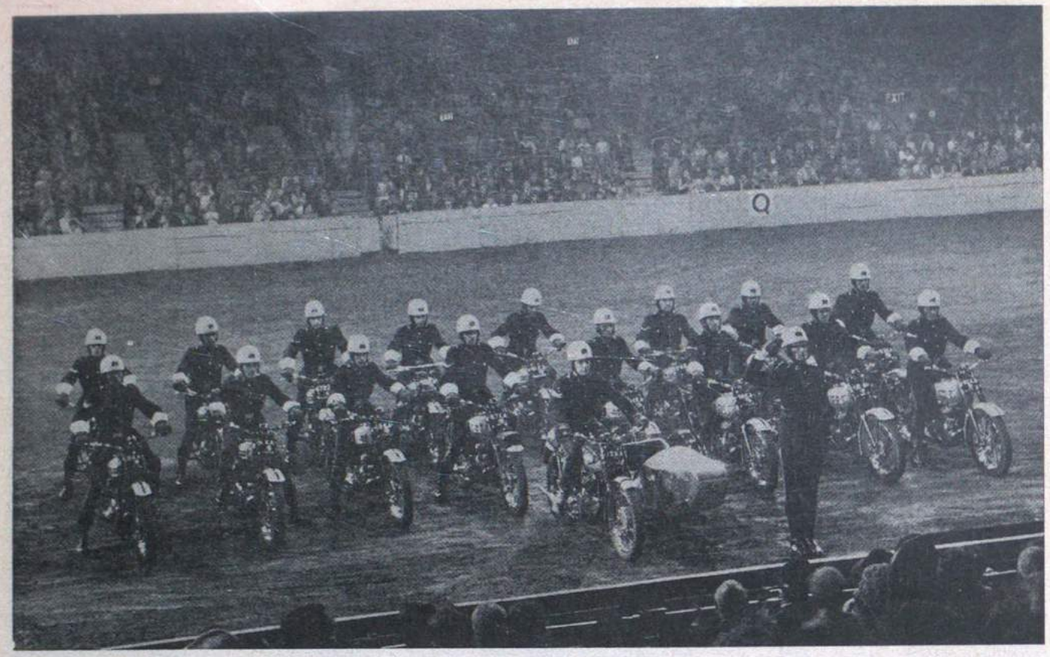
[Photos by courtesy: J. K. Hendren, Market Place, Richmond, Yorks

SATURDAY NIGHT

1. **The serving Corps decided that the situation called for a song**
2. **But Newark Branch felt it was a standing up occasion**
3. **While York decided that those who sit last longest**
4. **And Manchester went at it with youthful vigour**

SUNDAY MORNING

5. **Standards and escorts made a brave sight as they marched past after Church**
6. **Association members formed an impressive column on Church Parade**



Report from Earls Court

The Corps Motor Cycle Team at the Royal Tournament

H.M. The Queen was "delightfully thrilled." Prince Philip was "impressed." An unknown little boy, aged eight, wanted to grow up and be as good as "them boys on the bikes." All this because the Royal Tournament of 1968 once again featured the best motor cycle team in the world: the "White Helmets" of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team.

Selected for the star position

The announcer at Earls Court for the 18 days of this year's Tournament gave the team quite a build up to start and to challenge them. The first week started "... best in the world, crossing at over 30 m.p.h." The second week "... the best in the world, crossing at over 40 m.p.h." The third week "... best in the world, crossing at over 50 m.p.h." Thank goodness no fourth week, because no one can manage 60 m.p.h. inside the small arena at Earls Court! Right from the start as the big arena gates opened the thrilled crowds cheered their heads off as thrills and excitement were mixed with precision, discipline and near perfection. This year the order of events was changed which gave the "White Helmets" the star position just before the massed bands at the end of the Tournament. Even for those who watched the B.B.C. television show, there is no need to elaborate on the detail of the performance. Spot lights were used, it is believed, for the first time to full effect on the bikes, and one or two new rides were performed—in particular, the "Union Jack" ride, including two star formations revolving in opposite directions. This, under spotlights only, created a fitting climax after all the thrills of the previous ten minutes.

The thrills are on top of you

When one sits at home watching by television or out in the open on a large sports field, the actual thrills of the riding take place "out there" or somewhere else at the end of the line. Sitting in the seats at Earls Court the smell of the bikes, the noise, hurtful in its loudness, the ever present sense of potential danger as each cross over takes place only yards from one's seat, all add up to make one's visit very worthwhile and the experience a memorable one.

Ask any pretty young lady who sat in the front stalls and she will tell you how close the bikes came — often only to be stopped by the strong wooden safety wall. As the performances went on, more chunks of wood were torn out of the barriers, more rubber footrests left a tell-tale notch to mark the riders' determination to thrill one and all as they broke out from the star into the closing formation.

Introducing some of the team members

All teams, are however, made up of individuals, and for 1968, the team are well blessed with ample experience and sufficient new talent to keep everyone on their toes. **Corporal Jack Usher,** an ex-Desert Rat, performing in his third Tournament, gave a masterly performance on his penny-farthing (what do we call it in the new currency?), and under his pupilage, **Signalman "Flossy" Foster** endured bruises, bumps, cuts and a very sore behind as he "cowboyed" his way the arena on the "Bucking Bronco Bike." For pure excitement, perhaps the crowds were most thrilled by the jump-ride—no longer a precision ride some old team members may recall, involving crossing in the air—but an unofficial competition to see who could "monowheel" off a ramp the farthest. Ably led by the team riding Corporal, **Corporal Jim Sharp,** our Scot, and team mechanic, Irishman **Lance-Corporal "Paddy" Ashmore,** the two teams of four certainly had the crowds in uproar—so would you if a bike approached you in a near vertical position on one wheel at 30 m.p.h.!

For danger and daring—when mothers turned aside and quietly led the children away—the reverse ride must have been the climax. **Corporals Sharp** and **Gann** set a fine example, often touching wheel to wheel, riding backwards on the handlebars at speed. As the only team in the world to do this ride, the six riders certainly showed why a despatch rider has to be tough; all three pairs had one flirt with fate, but no one more spectacularly than **Lance-Corporal Richard Pinkus,** who "touched" too hard, and as a result stood his bike upside down still running—some thought it all part of the act!

For those who didn't see the show this year, perhaps you might like to make a visit to the team sometime during the summer and be sure to make a date now for the 1970 Royal Tournament. As for dates, may the team say how pleased they were to welcome so many Royal Signals men, women and children to their stand during the Tournament. Although many senior officers came around—perhaps for the team the most pleasant time was meeting informally older members and younger ones on the stand before and after a show. Old memories were revived and what a pleasure it was to endeavour to uphold the good name and tradition of the past 40 years of team history.



TAKE-OFF
Corporal Jim Smart about to become airborne off the moving kart ramp

A presentation is made

To celebrate the team's 40th birthday and to commemorate the wonderful assistance they receive from Triumph Engineering Company—makers of the magnificent motor cycles always used by the team—a small presentation was made at Earl's Court by the Representative Colonel Commandant, **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C.,** to **Mr. L. E. Jofeh, O.B.E.,** Managing Director of the Birmingham Small Arms Company, who make both B.S.A.'s and Triumphs. A colour film of the 1966 team was presented in a small polished wood casket with an inscription which read:

"Presented to the Triumph Engineering Company Limited in recognition of 40 years' association with the Royal Signals Display Team."

That night the team were in top form, and it is rumoured that the guests were highly delighted by all they saw from the moment that they entered the gates to be met by the team's N.C.O.'s, carefully positioned as guides until they left some hours later. **Mr. Jofeh** spoke to members of the team after the show and took much interest. He also, incidently, gave **Corporal Munro,** our ex-Metropolitan policeman, and **Corporal Usher** a thrill by allowing them to drive away his car and return it from the park: a large, gleaming managing director's black Mark 10 Jaguar!

In the end it all boils down to the individual Soldier

So once again the 1968 Royal Tournament ends and the crowds depart; and what is remembered? Many have read in the Press about the cuts, the uncertainties, the streamlining and the axe; about equipment, mobility and planning, contigencies and training, but it all ends somewhere and that somewhere is with a soldier. In our Corps, let us be proud of the 30 "White Helmets" of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team. Varying in age from 18 to over 40, trained operators and skilled drivers, these men represent us to the multitude. They show by their courage, dedication and self-discipline, the qualities we need in all our soldiers of today. May they long continue to represent us and may they be our best men so that we can continue to say with impunity: "The best in the world."

THE DISPLAY TEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS — ARE YOU GOOD ENOUGH?

TRAVEL

Next year a trip to America. In 1970 America again?

Also in 1970 the Royal Tournament and many other big occasions.

DISPLAYS

Few military duties. Constant contact with the general public, both riding and on stands.

NEW MEMBERS

Join this year (about October) for training, but only the best are required.

Are you one of the best?

All skills welcome:—

Clowns
Carpenters
Mechanics
Gymnasts
Salesmen
Artists
He-Men
Motor Cyclists

You don't have to have a current licence.

A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY

Courses, training and tradework during the winter at the Training Brigade. In the summer, plenty of hard work, interesting places, and never a dull moment.

TO VOLUNTEER

Apply through your Unit or write to:

Officer Commanding, Royal Signals Display Team, Catterick Camp.

YOU NEED:

—To be keen, active, healthy, fit, smart and daring.
—To have good eyesight—no glasses when riding.
—To have a clean conduct sheet.
—To be fit for promotion and determined to succeed.

SEE YOU IN OCTOBER

CHRISTMAS CARDS, 1968

The Corps Committee have decided to make the following arrangements for Corps Christmas Cards this year :

(a) A plain card with "Jimmy" and Corps Ribbon, as in previous years. These will be available from the Forces' Press (NAAFI) who have taken over all arrangements from Gale and Polden. Price is 1/- (including Purchase Tax).

(b) To use the Army Benevolent Fund cards also printed by Forces' Press (NAAFI) leaving it to Formations and Units to have their address and/or a "Jimmy" embossed on inner sheet under their own arrangements.

Full details of the Army Benevolent Fund cards, together with order forms, have been distributed to all Commands by the Director of Personal Services. Additional copies can be obtained from the Army Benevolent Fund, 20, Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1., or from Association H.Q., Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

All orders should be sent direct to the Forces' Press (NAAFI), Crimea Road, Aldershot, Hants.



THEY JUST CANNOT STOP JOE!

Mr. Joe Merriott of Chesterfield branch who, at the age of 72, made his third consecutive journey from Chesterfield to attend the Reunion at Catterick on his 'bike'. Just a matter of a hundred miles or so each way—which is nothing much to Mr. Merriott. Offers of a lift are turned contemptuously aside "I'd rather do it on my bike" *You really cannot keep these Old Soldiers down*

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in June	**51**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**19**
Amount spent in grants and loans ...	**£1,022 14 2**

One of the Month's Cases

EX-SERGEANT, long-serving member of a local branch of Royal Signals Association, died in hospital after a very short illness. Two days before his death, his house was burnt to the ground as the result of an electrical fault, and his wife was admitted to hospital suffering from shock. Due to the efforts of the local branch, she has now been rehoused by the Council, and the Association made an immediate grant of £30 for her most essential needs.

One of the Month's Letters

"VERY many kind thanks for the financial help you have given me in my present difficulty. I have been in and out of hospital quite a few times in recent years and have had six operations, and, at this time, I had reached the end of my financial resources. I am very pleased to say I am now feeling much better and relieved with the help your kindness has given me, which I greatly appreciate on behalf of myself and my wife. I now hope for a return to work in the not-too-distant future, and perhaps a normal life again. I am indeed grateful for your help."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

The Whistler Subaltern's Trophy

This trophy is competed for annually by Subalterns and temporary Captains, and the winner is adjudged to be the young officer who has shown the 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 **Lieutenant John Neeve,** seconded to Gurkha Signals, on winning the trophy.

His citation comes from the Commanding Officer, Gurkha Signals, and reads as follows:

Lieutenant John Neeve joined Gurkha Signals in January, 1966, direct from Sandhurst and the School of Signals.

He very quickly displayed a degree of professional competence and a maturity beyond his years. During his first six months he was engaged in many strenuous counter-revolutionary warfare exercises in Malaysia. Because of his initiative, tactical ability and physical stamina, he was quickly accepted by British and Gurkha ranks as a natural leader. He soon mastered Gurkhali.

In June, 1966, he was posted to 246 Gurkha Squadron with 48th Brigade in Hong Kong. Two days after his arrival, a typhoon hit the colony. **Neeve** was sent out to establish VHF re-broadcast sites. Roads were washed out and landslides made the approaches to the pre-planned sites impassable. Under the most difficult conditions, he strove to get his detachment into position. By sheer determination and persistence, he eventually got to a site and provided the vital key to Brigade emergency communciation.

For the past year he has been Royal Signals' 'man in Nepal.' Whilst officially posted to Dharan, in Nepal, as the British Gurkha L. of C. Signals Officer, he carries out the additional responsibilities of M.T.O., Cipher Custodian, Asistant Cantonment Officer, Security Officer, Kosi River Boat Officer and Church Officer; in the latter appointment he doubles as organist.

Besides these very full official duties, he has taken a close interest in the welfare of the increasing number of Gurkha Signals pensioners and their families. He undertakes such work with a wealth of understanding and kindness.

He initiated a project to link by telephone line the local mission hospital with a remote leper colony. By persuasion and persistence, he obtained stores to carry out the project on a no-cost, self-help basis. The facility will benefit the many Nepalese patients and the hard-pressed missionary doctors and nurses.

He is responsible for a complex and widely dispersed radio communication and network including one link working into DCN. He provides these communications with such antiquated equipment as WS No. 76, R107, No. 62 sets and some WS53. He must rely very much on his powers of decision and initiative. The nearest Royal Signals unit, re-supply, and maintenance on re-pair facilities are all 2,000 miles away in Singapore. Communications have never failed during his steward-ship.

Neeve commands a Troop comprising serving Royal Signals and Gurkha Signals soldiers and a number of Gurkha civilian pensioners. He has welded them into an efficient and happy sub-unit. He has earned their loyalty and respect by his ability, hard work and devo-tion to their interests.

As a sportsman who has played good-class hockey, rugby and squash, he might well have been disappointed that Nepal offered little time or opportunity for such pursuits. However, he now keeps fit by the simple ex-pedient of walking up and down the ever available Himalayan hills, often on some self-imposed welfare mission.

By his strong character, cheerful personality, good manners and sense of humour, he has proved himself an excellent ambassador for our Corps. He has served his soldiers and fellow men with zeal and sincerity and without thought for himself.

Special Mention

A MONTHLY miscellany of Corps happenings which have come to our ears or have been sent in by readers, and are deserving of SPECIAL MENTION.

— ***Major S. G. de Clive-Lowe (55 Squadron) (Captain) and Members of the Corps Cricket Team***

for playing attractive and forceful cricket and proving themselves to be such a talented side that all Service sides now face them with wary respect. **Major de Clive-Lowe,** as Army Cricket Captain, has invited two members of the team, **Corporal M. G. Kilvington** (S. of S.) and **Lance-Corporal L. R. Worrall** (30th Regiment), to be in the Army side which plays the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force at Lords on the 17th and 20th August respectively. It is believed that the selection of three Corps players in one season to play for the Army at Lords is unparalleled. Both Kilvington and Worrell have additionally been invited to represent Dorset in the Minor Counties Championship.

— ***Army Apprentices College***

for winning the Army Cup (Cricket) Northern Command Stage Final by beating old rivals in Apprentices' College, Carlisle. Scores: Carlisle 121 for 9 wickets; Harrogate 126 for 5 wickets. The Harrogate Apprentices now go on to meet the winners of the Scottish Command competition in the Zone Final.

— ***Captain (T.O.T.) Bowden, W.O.II (F. of S.) John Cooper and Lieuteant (Tfc.) M. Caplan, of 17th Gurkha Regiment***

for their skill and determination in making a unique trip to Brunei to establish a ham station there and incidentally logging 3,350 contacts in five days so enabling ham opera-tors throughout the world to log this rare country on call sign VS 5 RCS. (Article on page 303).

— ***21st Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43***

for winning the Laarbruch Station Athletics Champion-ships for the *seventh time in succession.*

— ***Corporal W. Venus, of 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment***

for yet again displaying his championship potential by winning the three-mile and the 3,000 metres steeplechase at the Army Individual Athletic Championships at Aldershot.

— ***16th Regiment***

for winning every event and incidentally breaking the existing record in each event at the Rhine Area Swimming Championships.

— ***Lance-Corporal M. T. Gue, of 9th Regiment***

for getting another mention in this column within the space of a few weeks. His list of successes to date is remarkable. In the Army Cyprus Minor Unit and Individual Athletics Championships he won the 800 yards, the mile, and the three-mile events, and followed this up in the Inter-Service Athletics Match, Cyprus, by again winning the 880 yards and the mile. (See Unit Notes on pages 292/293).

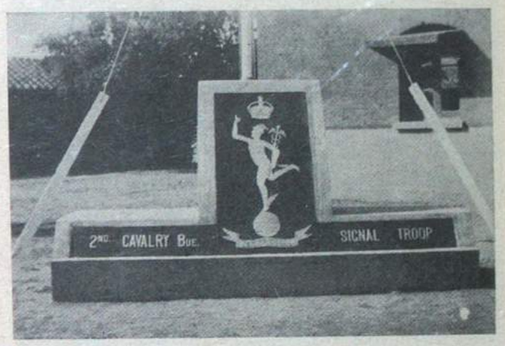
— ***Lieutenant H. B. Bennett, of 9th Regiment***

for being the runner-up in the Novices "C" Class of the Army Parachute Championships recently held at the Army Free Fall Parachute Association Centre, Netheravon.

— ***Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, Royal Signals***

for captaining the West Cyprus team to win 7—3 against East Cyprus in the premier polo match of the season, the Tyrrell-Martin Cup.

From our "In" Tray



2nd CAVALRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

Sir,

I was interested to read George Cook's letter in the June/July WIRE.

I was a member of this Troop from 1935 until disband-ment. Ken Mills is residing in Leigh; he was also a member.

I enclose a photograph of the unit sign which was outside the Troop Office at Sailkot.

Yours, etc.

J. H. W. Roake,
(Then U/A/Lance-Corporal)

Major (Q.M.) J. H. W. Roake,
100, Dawlish Drive,
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

* * *

Sir,

The letter from George Cook in the current issue of THE WIRE (June/July) regarding the 2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot, revives happy memories.

You ask about other members of the Troop. Four of them who were there at the time are still with the Corps in Catterick, serving in civilian capacities. These are **"June" Knight, Jimmy Wright, Cass** and **McCleod. "June" Knight** and myself were two of the last to leave. This accounts for six. We were 40 strong. What of the remainder?

Yours faithfully,

J. F. Dexter.

19, Elmdale Road,
Palmers Green, N.13.

* * *

AN INVITATION!

Sir,

I have been approached by 2nd Field Regiment, R.A., who are starting a Regimental Officers' Dining Club and intro-ducing a Regimental tie. They are inviting all who have served with the Regiment, including Royal Signals Officers and men, to buy their tie and to join the Dining Club.

I would be grateful if the announcement could be inserted in THE WIRE.

Yours, etc.,

D. J. Milton (Major),
Royal Signals

6 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Streatlam Camp,
Barnard Castle, Co. Durham.

HALLIDAY PRESENTATION FUND

Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all those parents who so kindly subscribed towards the Halliday Presentation Fund. A cheque for £200 was presented to **Mrs. Halliday** on Wednesday, 26th June, after the annual school sports. **Mrs. Halliday** has asked me to convey her gratitude and to say she will be writing, in due course, to everyone concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Phyllida Good.

Bowlers,
Brough Park,
Catterick, Yorks.

CAPTAIN MARC BARIL

Sir,

I had a very sad letter yesterday from the wife of **Captain Marc Baril,** Royal Canadian Signals. **Marc Baril** passed away very suddenly on May 22nd.

Marc was a very popular member of No. 3 Communications Course at Catterick, and he will be remembered by everyone who was at the School during the period February/November, 1965.

Yours sincerely,

P. R. Brewis (Captain).

18 Flight,
1 Wing, A.A.C.,
B.F.P.O. 41.
13th July, 1968.

Movements

Officers

AUGUST

Major (T.O.T.) L. E. Adcock	... To	Malaysian Forces
Lieutenant D. J. Buckley	... ,,	21st Regiment
Lieutenant J. F. Budd	... ,,	1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant A. J. Briggs	... ,,	30th Regiment
Captain D. T. Burton	... ,,	249 Squadron
Major J. R. Burrows	... ,,	J.S.S.C. Latimer
Major D. A. Brockhurst	... ,,	222 Squadron
Captain E. C. Byrne	... ,,	School of Signals
Major N. A. Butler	... ,,	21st Regt. As C.O. (Lt.-Col.)
Captain (T.F.C.) D. A. Burge	... ,,	8th Regiment
Lieutenant S. Cowan	... ,,	Mons O.C.S.
Lieutenant J. D. Cox	... ,,	30th Regiment
Captain J. R. Dawson	... ,,	22nd Regiment
Captain R. A. Ellis	... ,,	632 Troop
Captain M. L. Forge	... ,,	24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Captain A. P. Fielding	... ,,	Signal Wing Royal Marines
Captain J. M. Gray	... ,,	30th Regiment
Captain J. G. Greatrix	... ,,	21st Regiment
Captain A. B. Grant	... ,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Captain J. P. Goldney	... ,,	M.O.D. (Sigs. 35)
Captain D. C. N. Genders	... ,,	3rd Div. & H.Q. Signal Regt.
Major C. S. Galbraith	... ,,	14th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. C. Gladwyn	,,	No. 2 WETC Crookham, Hants
Captain (T.F.C.) C. E. Hesketh	... ,,	7th Regiment
Captain I. J. Hamilton	... ,,	4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Horner	... ,,	M.O.D. (Sigs. 36)
Lieutenant J. P. Hayes	... ,,	11th Regiment
Major J. G. Harry	... ,,	19th Regiment
Captain R. R. Johnson	... ,,	Office of Mil. & Air Attache, Teheran.
Lieutenant C. D. McK. Kemp	... ,,	18th Regiment
Captain M. L. W. Jennings	... ,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant T. E. Knight	... ,,	237 Squadron
Major L. C. P. Jaggard	... ,,	H.Q. D.C.N. (A.E.)
Captain (T.F.C.) W. H. Lockie	... ,,	13th Regiment
Lieutenant A. R. Martin	... ,,	11th Eng. Bde. Signal Troop, B.F.P.O. 29
Lieutenant C. D. Melhuish	... ,,	7th Regiment
Lieutenant F. A. May	... ,,	3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt
Captain J. C. Milford	... ,,	13th Regiment
Major G. J. K. Mackintosh	,,	School of Army Aviation (H.S.)
Lieutenant-Colonel A. Pagan, M.B.E.	,,	School of Signals, as Col. C.I.
Colonel W. D. S. Renton	... ,,	C.I. Tactics to C.I. Engineer at School
Lieutenant J. H. Roberts	... ,,	260 Squadron
Major T. I. McL. Robinson	... ,,	10th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) K. V. Risby	... ,,	School of Signals
Captain W. J. P. Robins	... ,,	R.M.C.S.
Colonel I. G. Swan	... ,,	B.A.S.Washington
Captain T. B. Scarff	... ,,	22 S.A.S. Regiment
Captain C. E. R. Story	... ,,	Birmingham University O.T.C.
Lieutenant E. Summers, M.B.E.	... ,,	22nd Regiment
Captain R. A. C. Siderfin	... ,,	21st Regiment
Captain A. G. Stutchbury	... ,,	Signal Wing School of Infantry
Major M. W. Simms-Reeve	... ,,	8th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant W. M. Taylor	... ,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Lieutenant A. Taylor	... ,,	13th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) L. J. Taylor, M.B.E.	,,	28th Regiment
Captain E. C. Vulliamy	... ,,	School of Signals
Lieutenant T. A. Woodhouse	... ,,	2nd Signal Regiment (Aust.)
Second-Lieutenant R. L. Wilson	... ,,	24th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) J. Worsley	... ,,	18th Regiment
Lieutenant M. J. Young	... ,,	4th Gds. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I E. Ormond	... To	H.Q., Western Command
W.O.I S. Barrett	... ,,	14th Regiment
W.O.II N. Salter	... ,,	34th Regiment (V)
W.O.II P. J. Tompkins	... ,,	36th Regiment (V)
W.O.II A. R. Hill	... ,,	4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.II P. Jackson	... ,,	SHAPE H.Q. Comd. & Support
W.O.II P. W. Todd	... ,,	249 Squadron
W.O.II J. Horne	... ,,	33rd Regiment (V)
W.O.II G. J. Holland	... ,,	7th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) D. V. Boddington	,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.II D. G. Ellen	... ,,	10th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) C. B. Bumphrey	... ,,	16th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) P. Gill	... ,,	647 Troop
Staff Sergeant P. J. Harris	... ,,	17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant B. A. Thomas	... ,,	Reserve Army Training Centre
Staff Sergeant H. Birtles	... ,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. McKay	... ,,	24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Carr	... ,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. A. Downie	,,	19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. V. Bridgeman	,,	227 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. J. D. Groom	,,	17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. F. Potter	,,	255 Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. F. Graham	... ,,	37th Regiment (V)
Sergeant D. G. Palmer	... ,,	13th Regiment
A/Sergeant C. Mills	... ,,	249 Squadron
Sergeant J. Lyons	... ,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant G. W. Menulty	... ,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant G. W. Orton	... ,,	4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant K. Hornblower	... ,,	40th Regiment (V)
Sergeant K. Owens	... ,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant J. Woolgar	... ,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant V. F. Lee	... ,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant P. J. Malone	... ,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Isgate	... ,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant F. Jepson	... ,,	32nd Regiment (V)
Sergeant A. Leary	... ,,	Jun. Tradesmen's Regt., Troon
Sergeant R. A. Finch	... ,,	School of Signals
Sergenat P. Waugh	... ,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant T. L. Daws	... ,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant D. E. G. Rozier	... ,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant T. S. Jephcote	... ,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant R. E. Cathcart	... ,,	24th Regiment
A/Sergeant J. C. Sydney	... ,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant C. Moore	... ,,	4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant B. E. Young	... ,,	5th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn.
Sergeant D. E. Cheyne	... ,,	11th Regiment
A/Sergeant K. D. J. Donaldson	... ,,	257 Squadron
A/Sergeant R. L. Skillicorn	... ,,	28th Regiment
A/Sergeant C. A. Monks	... ,,	10th Regiment
Sergeant T. D. Brabon	... ,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant B. Hassall	... ,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant R. B. Kelbie	... ,,	38th Regiment (V)
Sergeant D. Knox	... ,,	1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant G. J. Laws	... ,,	22nd Regiment
Sergeant B. Longden	... ,,	40th Regiment (V)
Sergeant G. C. Maple	... ,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant A. McMullen	... ,,	4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant G. J. O'Sullivan	... ,,	4th Guards Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. N. Rogers	... ,,	257 Squadron
Sergeant D. G. Rotherham	... ,,	SHAPE H.Q. Comd. & Support
Sergeant P. Waldock	... ,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant H. D. Woolf	... ,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant T. G. Southall	... ,,	Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant I. Holmes	... ,,	235 Squadron
Sergeant S. Devereux	... ,,	252 Squadron
Sergeant A. E. Feltham	... ,,	4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant R. D. Brown	... ,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant S. J. Esdale	... ,,	School of Signals
Sergeant A. J. Lowry	,,	259 Squadron

Thank You!

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were most gratefully received during June, 1968:—

	£	s.	d.
37th Regiment (V)—Collection at Church Service at Scarborough	7	14	5
237 Squadron (D.C.N.)	50	0	0
Derby Branch	20	0	0
Mrs. E. Salmond	6	0	0
Various individual donations	5	6	0
Total Receipts ...	£89	0	5
Expenditure during June, 1968	£1022	14	2



HEAVE... HEAVE... HEAVE!

When the last half-ounce is going to matter. A photo taken in the tug-o-war contest at the Brigade Athletic Meeting



HOME BY A FINGER-TIP!

A nerve tingling finish to the Chain of Command event at the Brigade Swimming Meeting

H.Q. Training Brigade, Catterick Camp

Brigade Athletics Meeting

DULL weather did not stop a most enjoyable athletics meeting taking place on 12th June. As outside units and novelty races were included in the meeting, there was much interest in the proceedings, and it was forecast that 8th Regiment would not have things all their own way this year.

As it happened, 24th Regiment, with 12 trainees in their team of 18, swept the board, recording 15 wins out of 19 events, with 8th and 11th Regiments each winning two events. 24th Regiment had many winners, but those of special note were **Corporal David Dunbar** and **Lance-Corporal Eroni Turago,** who won both the discus and the shot, and **Corporal Neville Illman, Corporal Barrie Brown, Corporal Vaughan Unwin** and **Lance-Corporal Ray Gourley,** who won the 4 x 220 yards and the 4 x 110 yards relays. If there had been a Victor Ludorum Cup it would have been difficult to award, as **Corporal Neville Illman** and **Corporal Barrie Brown** were also in the winning long jump team, thereby each recording three wins.

Although 24th Regiment won both the one mile and three miles team race, the individual winner was **Lance-Corporal Colin McMeilly,** of 8th Regiment, who ran two well-judged races to emerge an easy winner.

The old soldiers' race provided a light-hearted moment during the proceedings. With a yard's start for each year served over 18, there was a dodgy moment when we thought some people might have to run back towards the finishing tape! The race was run rather against conventional military tradition, in that the R.S.M. (**W.O.I Tom Pearse,** of 24th Regiment) led and won the charge, with the Senior Officers bringing up the rear.

After Note.—As 24th Regiment had lost most of their trainees in their team, 8th Regiment entered the Northern Command Athletics Meeting and, having come second, went forward to the Northern Zone stage, in which they came fourth—a very creditable performance.

Brigade Swimming Meeting

The annual Brigade Swimming Meeting, held this year on 10th July, provided a real cliff-hanger finish, with the result resting between 8th and 24th Regiments, and everything depending on the last event.

The water polo matches were played in the morning, with 8th Regiment emerging as the winners, on goal average, over 24th Regiment.

Several Brigade records were broken during the afternoon, but the most notable was in the 100 yards backstroke, where **Corporal Alan Chandler,** of 24th Regiment, broke the existing record by 11 seconds.

All through the afternoon, 8th and 24th Regiments were battling for the lead, and this closeness was typified in two events, the medley and chain-of-command relay races, each held over a total distance of eight lengths. In the first of these events 8th Regiment won by a margin of one second, and in the second, 24th Regiment literally got home by a finger tip, just 1/10th of a second ahead!

Light-hearted moments were provided by a variety of novelty events. **Lance-Corporal Derek Ford,** a slim young man from 24th Regiment, beat all the "heavies" in the "biggest splash" event, and with an incredible twist, produced an enormous splash and nearly emptied the pool! **Corporal Stan Berry** and **Corporal Keith Brown,** of 11th Regiment, paddled as if their very lives depended on it, to win the rubber tube and paddle race, and **Second-Lieutenant Fizz Reynolds,** W.R.A.C., and **Private Vivienne Mayhew,** W.R.A.C., won the old clothes race on a technicality—they were the only team to "remove" their trousers whilst still in the water (this was a late rule that the other teams didn't seem to know of!). In the ladies' freestyle event, **Private Diane Osborne** took the honours.

And so to the last event, the freestyle relay, with everything to swim for. Superior swimming by 24th Regiment gave them a comfortable victory in this event, and thus the championship.

Visits to the Brigade

During the month we have received a visit from **Brigadier A. J. Wilson, C.B.E., M.C.,** the Director of Army Recruiting, who, amongst other things, came to examine 11th Regiment's excellent record of having the lowest recruit wastage rate in the Army, and also from **Colonel H. F. D. Gillett,** Colonel G.S. Headquarters, Northern Command, who came on a liaison visit to the Brigade.

Old Comrades' 'At Home'

This annual event was held at Catterick on 22nd/23rd June. (See Editorial and photographs, pages 278/279).

UPGRADING/CONVERSION COURSES TO BE HELD IN CATTERICK

Course No.	Title	Assembles	Disperses
1/47 (Lt)	Tech Radio II-I	19 Nov. '68	19 June '69
1/21	Tech Radio Relay II-I	5 Nov. '68	12 June '69
2/36 (E)	Tech T.E. III-II	26 Nov. '68	17 Apr. '69

Army Apprentices' College
Harrogate

New Permanent Staff Club

ON 10th June, the Junior Ranks' Club of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, moved into new premises, under the nearly-completed rebuilding scheme.

The Club was officially opened on 15th June, by the Commandant, **Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E.,** E.R.D. The pleasantly informal ceremony was followed by a social evening with dancing.

Simultaneously, with its opening, the Club acquired a new name: it will henceforth be known simply as the Permanent Staff Club.

President of the Mess Committee is **Corporal K. E. Hill,** Royal Signals, a member of the College Provost Staff.

The Quadrangular Games

This year, on 28th/29th June, it fell to Harrogate to stage the Quadrangular Games—the annual series of sporting encounters between the Army's four Apprentices' Colleges.

For a time it looked as if we should be prevented this year, too: incessant and torrential rain the day before the games made it seem likely that the only possible event would be canoeing—and that round the athletics track. As it was, conditions were extremely difficult: the running track was leaden in its heaviness, and the cricket pitch reduced to the consistency of a half-baked Yorkshire pudding. Times were thus slow and scores low, although **A/T Mansbridge,** of Arborfield, did establish a new long jump record for the meeting with a leap of 21ft. 2¼in., and **A/T Wood,** of Harrogate, won the half-mile in the very creditable time of 2min. 6.1sec.

The Commandant, **Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E.,** E.R.D., invited the Commandant of Carlisle, **Colonel J. M. Kneen,** to present the trophy to the winning team, from Arborfield. This was the last occasion on which the Army Apprentices' College, Carlisle, will be able to compete, as it is scheduled to close next year.

After the games the Massed Bands of the College impressively beat Retreat on the parade ground, and to round off the weekend, a highly successful dance was held for the 400 competitors.

Results are as follows:

	Harrogate	Arborfield	Carlisle	Chepstow
Athletics ...	2	1	3	4
Canoeing ...	2	3	4	1
Cricket ...	1	1	3	3
Cycling ...	4	1	2	3
Swimming ...	4	3	1	2
Tennis ...	4	3	2	1

Cricket

The Apprentices' team reached the quarter-final of the Army Junior Cup, thanks largely to a redoubtable half-century by **A/T Naylor.** He received able support with the bat from **A/T Hughes,** who scored 29, and with the ball from **A/T McCarthy,** who took 6 wickets for 55.

The College XI won through to the Command semi-final, leading roles in the defeat of 24th Regiment and 8th Regiment being played by **S.Q.M.S. Drake,** R.A.P.C., **Captain Robinson,** R.A.E.C., and **A/Ts Kallmeier** and **Daniels.**

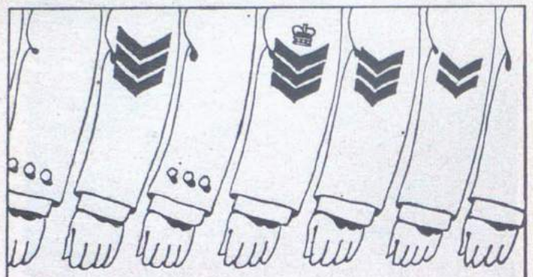
In the Command semi-final, played at Harrogate, on 26th June, the College beat 1 R.R.F. by 5 wickets.

Scores: 1 R.R.F. (**W.O.I Stock** 3 for 6; **A/T Legge** 3 for 18); Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, 73 for 5 (**Captain Robinson** 23 n.o., **Corporal McCormack** 15).

The Northern Command final, to be played by 17th July, will be between the College and the Army Apprentices' College, Carlisle. **(See Special Mention).**

Our overall record so far this term is: Played 12; won 8; lost 2; drawn 1; tied 1.

There have been too many fine performances for them all to be mentioned individually, but a word must be said of **A/T Bracey,** a Third Term Technician in Scott Squadron; he has appeared regularly in the team—and will not be 17 until 16th August: a "promising youngster," indeed!



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2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 22

French Army Canoe Championships, 1968

WITH an eye to the future and the need to get as much experience as possible before the B.A.O.R. canoe championship in July, the Regimental canoeists decided to enter the French Army canoe championships. These took place on the River Marne between Houteville and S'Germain la Ville, on 18th and 19th May.

Second-Lieutenant John Theodorson, with 16 paddlers and eight canoes left Bunde on 9th May in assorted transport. After a not uneventful journey, somewhat impeded by mechanical failures and problems in crossing the French border in a group, they arrived at S'Germain la Ville late on 11th May to find a tented camp already erected by the French Army on the banks of the Marne.

The next few days were taken in practice and reconnoitre of the river, which is by no means a straight forward stretch of water. In the area of Vitry le Francois there are many dead ends and it takes time to find the main channel and the numerous rapids claimed two of the canoes during training.

We had entered for two events in the K2 class. The 30Km long distance race and the slalom. Training consisted of going over each of the courses on alternate days.

The first event, the 30Km race, took place on 18th May. All competitors were lined up on the bank of the Marne at Hauteville, and at 11.00 hours the "Le Mans" type of start was given. Everyone picked up their canoes and rushed down to the river to launch them and get away. Flashing paddles and barging are not disallowed in the rules and the strongest and most aggressive competitors got away well. A few of the weaker brethren sank at the start.

30 Km. later the team achieved first, second, third, fifth and sixth places in the K2 class. The next day, in the slalom event, we took first, second and third places in the K2 class.

Signalmen Duncan Wink and **Mick Pawlow** came first in both events and collected four cups between them that were soon filled with the local vintage.

Our thanks are due to the French School of Artillery for looking after our team during their stay.

For achievement



C.S.M.I. R. Shuttle after the presentation of the shield made to him to mark his outstanding achievement in connection with Regimental boxing. With him is R.Q.M.S. Rumsey

Several years ago the Regiment instituted an award scheme to give recognition to members of the Regiment who made some notable contribution towards the life of the Regiment, either at work or in the sporting field. **C.S.M.I. R. Shuttle,** A.P.T.C., served with the Regiment for 2½ years, during which time his main interest was the Regimental boxing team. As a direct result of his energy and guidance, the Regimental boxers achieved some notable successes, which have been previously reported in THE WIRE. Whilst the Regiment was paraded on 16th May, the Commanding Officer presented **C.S.M.I. R. Shuttle** with a Regimental Shield for Achievement, giving an outline of his many contributions to the life of the Regiment.

Building a sailing dinghy

During the latter part of the 1967 sailing season a lot of interest was developed towards dinghy sailing within the Regiment, and in particular, within the L.A.D. After a considerable amount of research and comparison, a decision was taken to build our own dinghy. The choice was a Mirror 16.

This particular design is available in kit form, and comes complete with sails, rigging, fittings and all wooden parts shaped or part shaped. The kit includes all "bits and pieces," including



EASY THERE!

Signalman Mick Pawlow surfacing from a roll in the French Canoe Championships. With Signalman Duncan Wink he came first in the 30 Km K2 class and also in the slalom event in the K2 class

nails, glue, etc., sufficient to build the boat (at least this is what we were told).

After a certain amount of delay while decisions on high finance were taken, the kit was finally ordered in December, 1967.

At this stage the L.A.D. were asked to take on the job of building the boat, which they gladly did. This isn't surprising, because the prime movers of "Build-it-ourselves" are members of the L.A.D.

The kit arrived in February after a delay of about two months, when most people were beginning to think that we would be lucky to finish building in time for the sailing season to end.

The building process started slowly with many hours devoted to sorting out and identifying all the parts and planning the construction process. The boat slowly, but surely, took shape, with many willing volunteers burning the midnight oil on numerous occasions.

The actual building process was spread over three months working most evenings and weekends with no more than four people allowed to work at any one time. The last four weeks were devoted to finishing off i.e. rubbing down, painting, varnishings, etc. This would have taken less if exercises hadn't interfered.

The sailing trial took place on the Dummersee on Tuesday, 14th May, and was a complete success except for an unfortunate defect in the shroud shackles which allowed the mast to part company with the boat. This was easily rectified and the boat is now completely satisfactory and complete except for naming.

The opportunity was taken during the visit of the Master of Signals on 12th June to name the dinghy *Mercury.* This the Master kindly consented to do with the normal champagne trimmings!

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Bulford Camp

Veterans' Visit

The weekend of 29th/30th June saw another visit of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club to this Regiment at Carter Barracks in Bulford. The previous ten days had been cold, wet and windy, but Saturday, 29th, dawned bright and breezy. The Old Comrades started to arrive at midday for the first event which, needless to say, involved drinks at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. One of the last to arrive was **Sergeant Vic Cole,** of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, who came in just as the others were moving off to lunch. He had his own scale of priorities, however, and he wanted to visit the 'gents,' then a pint, and *then* he would consider lunch. The R.S.M., whose final words to the hosts had been, "We play this by ear," was in no way nonplussed and joined Vic in a preprandial wet.



A GREAT GET-TOGETHER

General view of the annual dinner of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club held in the W.O.'s and Sergeant's Mess, at Bulford Camp

After lunch, 54 Old Comrades settled down in the Wives' Club and were officially welcomed to the Regiment by **Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. F. Webb,** and then given a presentation of the present role of 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment **by Major D. C. Woodbridge,** the Second-in-Command. This proved most interesting to the veterans, and many questions from them showed just how quick on the uptake the ex-Signalman always is. (Signalman in this context being anyone in the Corps). They then saw a demonstration of a variety of the equipments we use today and had an opportunity to practice their old skills on key, printer and hammer and jumper.

This, too, proved of great interest, and the present-day Signalmen were inundated with questions from their predecessors. Just as great an attraction was the chance to fire the S.L.R., S.M.G. and 9mm. pistol, and the range party was hard-pressed to run through the safety drills before the eager Old Comrades were blasting off five rounds rapid and telling how they had won the pool bull in '25.

At 4.30 we joined the ladies of the Regiment for afternoon tea on the lawn, with music provided by the Band of 2nd Bn. Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

We then had the first and only crisis. We had offered the Reunion Club the Wives' Club Room for their Annual General Meeting, and this they had agreed to, but, when it was discovered that there was no bar in the Wives' Club consternation reigned. However, the R.S.M. made a rapid re-appraisal of the situation and offered the Sergeants' Mess Ante Room, and the crisis was resolved.

After the A.G.M., the Reunion Club and their guests sat down to dinner in the Sergeants' Mess, 74 strong. Amongst the many distinguished guests were **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond,** retiring G.O.C. of 3rd Division, whose last official engagement this was; **Brigadier R. Chenevix-Trench,** who commanded the Regiment in 1925; **Brigadier J. D. T. Brett, Brigadier F. W. Nicholls, Colonel J. R. Piddington, Colonel P.A.M. Tighe, Colonel P. R. Hoskins, Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. N. W. Nanney-Winn, Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Pownall, Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. N. Solly** and **Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Webb,** the present C.O., and, of course, **Sergeant Vic Cole,** who had some promotion in the Hospital, and is now a Pensioner-Sergeant and very proud of his new coat, resplendent with gold braid.

The evening ended with a social and dance in the Sergeants' Mess, which went with a swing. The Old Comrades were twisting and jiving into the wee small hours, and the Mess members were hard-pushed to out-last them.

On Sunday, the Old Comrades, with a good turn-out of the Regiment, attended morning service in St. George's Garrison Church, Bulford, where **Major-General** and **Mrs. M. D. Price** joined them. **Major-General Price,** who commanded in 1957-59, is now Vice-Quartermaster General at the M.O.D. After



AMONGST THOSE PRESENT

At the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club dinner those present included *left to right*:—W.O.I. M. Molony, Major K. Smart, Colonel J. R. Piddington, Brigadier F. W. Nicholls, Major-General Deane-Drummond, Major C. Stagg, R.S.M. J. Y. Templeton and Brigadier R. Chenevix-Trench

Church it was back to the Sergeants' Mess for a buffet lunch and farewell drinks.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable family week-end, where guests and hosts found much in common, despite the generation gap we hear so much about.

Skill-at-Arms

The Southern/Strategic Command and Corps Skill-at-Arms Meetings were held at Bulford from 24th June to 2nd July, with 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment acting as host unit. **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray,** C.S.O., Strategic Command, presented the prizes for the South/Strategic Command Meeting, when Engineer Wing, School of Signals, were Champion Team and **Major G. A. S. Exell** was Champion Shot. **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond,** in his capacity of Representative Colonel Commandant presented the prizes at the Corps Meeting, where the School of Signals won the Champion Team Award and **Captain R. J. Haywood** was Champion Shot.

The weather? Well, in **Major-General Deane-Drummond's** words: "It was the wettest, windiest, coldest, hottest, Skill-at-Arms Meeting since Noah was a boy."

Sports Report

The Inter-Squadron Athletics Meeting was held at Tidworth Oval on Tuesday, 18th June, and, contrary to all expectations, 3 Squadron produced a real upset for the form book, and came away winners with a lead of 47 points over 2 Squadron, their nearest rivals. During the meeting new Regimental records were set up by **Lance-Corporal Thomas,** of 3 Squadron, for the 100 yards and 220 yards; **Corporal Venus,** of 2 Squadron, for the 880 yards and mile; **S.S.I. Tiltman,** for the pole vault, and the 4 x 110 yards relay by the 3 Squadron team. **Lance-Corporal Thomas** was the Victor Ludorum—another feather in 3 Squadron's hat.

Court and Social

Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond relinquished his appointment of G.O.C. 3rd Division on 1st July and goes to the M.O.D. as A.C.D.S. (Ops.). He had many complimentary remarks to make when he was dined out by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on 24th June, and the Officers' Mess on 27th June. Our new G.O.C., **Major-General T. D. H. McMeekin, O.B.E.,** has already paid a short visit and spent a couple of hours meeting the soldiers and looking at some of our equipment.

July promises to be a quiet month, with only one exercise, Regimental Open Day, and a visit from the Corps Band to play Retreat to disturb the even tenor of our days. Ah well, *c'est la vie,* as they say in Wales!

4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

JUNE has been a very busy month. Apart from two CPX's, the Regiment has participated in a number of sporting events, the most important of which was the carrying off of the Army Team Fencing Championship.

Farewell to a loyal employee



RETIREMENT

Captain (TOT) Roger Taylor presents a retirement gift from M Troop to Herr Fritz Menzel

At the end of May "M" Troop said "Auf Wiedersehen" to **Herr Fritz Menzel** after his 16 years of loyal service with the Troop. Employed primarily as a radio technician, but truly a "Jack of all Trades," as all the T.O.T's (**Rogers, Amott, Bristol, Iveson, Addington, Spragg,** and finally **Taylor**), who passed through his hands soon realised, he was as much at home with an auto exchange as turning out a new wheel bearing on *his* antiquated lathe. We are sure he will be remembered by many throughout the Corps who will echo his own words in his farewell speech in which he said: "In spite of language difficulties through the years, there has always been a wonderful understanding between us."

All our best wishes go with Fritz in his retirement.

Sailing

A full sailing programme, organised by **Major P. D. E. Gregory,** is well under way, both at Kiel and in dinghies at the Dummersee and Mohnesee.

At Kiel, **Second-Lieutenants Thomas** and **Prymaka, Corporal Doughty, Lance-Corporal McMurray-Taylor** and **Signalman Kirkham** (the instructor), recently attended one of the well-known Helmsman Courses now run by the B.K.Y.C. They returned looking fit, full of enthusiasm and tales of their adventures and with half of their number qualified helmsmen.

In the open Whitsun regatta, **Major Hartnett** took the honours in the 30 Square Metre Class at the British Kiel Yacht Club. Crewed by **Captain Bowles** (G3 Ops. at H.Q. 4th Division) and **Second-Lieutenant Prymaka,** he had six starts which resulted in three wins, two seconds and a third. As a result of the individual events this crew was selected to handle one of the three Army boats in the Army/R.A.F. team event. Again they showed a clean stern to the fleet, and with the Army getting second boat across the line as well, the R.A.F. were well defeated.

On the Mohnesee, the Regimental team have now met 7th Regiment twice in competition and suffered defeats. The first time, in the Inter-Unit Knock-out Cup Competition, Helmsmen **Major D. H. Briggs, Major M. A. T. Hartnett** and **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) R. Marshall,** with crewmen **Lance-Corporal McMurray-Taylor, Corporal Doughty** and **Major P. D. E. Gregory,** had a very close battle in which 7th Regiment won the first race but our team won the second. However, 7th were overall victors, scoring 20½ points to our 21, which was as honourable an end to our hopes as we could wish if we hadn't hoped to win.

On the second occasion, during the Royal Signals Dinghy Regatta team event, the Regimental team had **Major Gregory** helming instead of **R.Q.M.S. Marshall,** but were still well beaten in the final match by 7th Regiment, having previously inflicted severe defeats on 22nd Regiment and 7th Regiment "B" team. During this regatta, **Major Briggs,** with crewman, **Signalman Turner,** of 3 Squadron, won the individual championship, having also won both their preliminary heats, and **Major Hartnett,** with **Corporal Doughty,** came third.

Golf—B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit championship

The second round of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Knock-out team competition was played at R.A.F. Gutersloh Golf Club on Wednesday, 26th June. It was a fine, warm day and the course was in excellent condition. Our opponents were 1st (British) Corps Troops Workshops. Representing the Regiment were **Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson, Captain A. J. Field** (Captain), **Captain J. Pertwee** and **Captain M. Hutchins** (R.E.M.E.). In this competition the match is decided on numbers of holes won on aggregate in the four 18-hole handicap singles played.

The Regiment had a clear win, but the sort of remarkable result likely in this type of competition was amply demonstrated when the Commanding Officer equalled the course record, yet lost his match! Fortunately, **Captains Field, Pertwee** and **Hutchins** all won their matches convincingly and we are now looking forward to meeting our third round opponents—5th Field Regiment Royal Artillery.

Finally, congratulations to **Major Mike Ellis** (O.C. H.Q. Squadron) on winning the S.T.C. Cup, and **Captain Joe Walsh** (P.R.I.) on also figuring in the prizewinners at the Sennelager Golf Club Open Campionship on 15th/16th June.

Athletics

The Regiment competed in the two-day event Morrison Cup with enthusiasm and vigour but without team success. However, since the high jump team of **Gunner Innes** and **Lance-Corporal Jordan** set a new record of 11ft. 6in., some four inches beyond the previous mark, the supporting but less successfull cast felt it was all worthwhile. Certainly, the 150 supporters from the Regiment who came in coaches from Herford to the Stadium at Sennelager, felt that the Regiment made a useful contribution to what was a supremely successful athletics meeting. We congratulate 22nd Regiment on a smoothly organised occasion.

Sergeants' Mess events

On Saturday, 8th June, the Sergeants' Mess held an official cocktail party, which enabled us to repay some of the hospitality we had received while our permanent home was in the hands of the builders. We played host to some 300 guests and during the evening the band of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment played for dancing.

To those who have served in this Division the name "**Franz**" will mean something. Well, "**Franz**" **Sihorsch** has now retired after 23 years' service in all and with this Sergeants' Mess since October, 1952. Saturday, 22nd June, was his official retirement day, and the Mess assembled to bid him farewell.

Mess members recently departed are **W.O.II Norman Salter** to T.A., **Sergeant McNaulty, Sergeant Hughes,** R.A.P.C., **Sergeant Hill** and **Sergeant Bender.**

Wives' Club

The ladies of the Regiment report that the Wives' Club has continued to hold its monthly meetings, and this month the highlight feature was an absorbing demonstration by a talented wife, **Mrs. Hughes,** of 10th Regiment R.C.T., who gave a short talk, illustrated with slides, on the history of jewellery through the ages. She also gave a really practical demonstration on how modern jewellery is made. We can now make our own diamond tiaras: we need only the diamonds!

The meetings are coming to a seasonal end with the Annual Fete about to claim our time and efforts for the next few weeks, and then the complications of children's school holidays and family leave. Meetings have been well attended and between 30 and 40 members turned up on average during the "season." It was good to see more of the younger soldiers' wives taking part.

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.

8th Regiment have a go at everything and succeed



FOOTBALL— Northern Command Senior League Champions 1967-68

1



RUGBY—1st and 2nd in the Northern Command Seven-a-Side Rugby

2



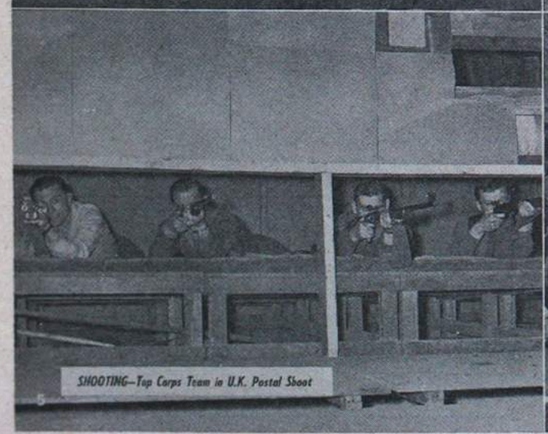
SAILING—Royal Signals Regatta—Unit Winners—1st and 2nd Individuals

3



GOLF—Winners of the Northern Command Golf Foursomes

4



SHOOTING—Top Corps Team in U.K. Postal Shoot

5



After a close association—two proud units present their compliments

6



BOWLING—Catterick Garrison League Champions

7



BADMINTON—1st and 2nd Northumbrian District Badminton Doubles

8



FENCING—Army Finalists

9



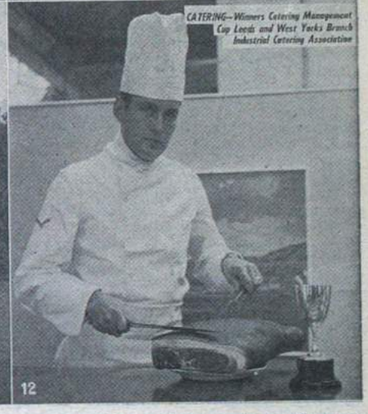
MOTOR RALLYING—Winners Class V Manchester Gourdon Rally

10



TENNIS—WRAC Tennis Finalist

11



CATERING—Winners Catering Management Cup Leeds and West Yorks Branch Industrial Catering Association

12

[Photographs: Courtesy Sergeant R. Herstell

Photo 1. *Left to right (rear):* **Lieutenant Young, Corporal Snook, Lance-Corporal Halford, Lance-Corporal Preston, Corporal Russell, Corporal Harvey, Lance Corporal Andrews, Sergeant Perry.** *(Front):* **Corporals Forrester, Allison, G. Nelson, M. Nelson, Signalmen Garrow and Hulme**

Photo 2. **Corporal Alec Kubu gets the ball away**

Photo 3. *Left to right:* **Corporal Araniello, Sergeant Corbett, Captain Stather, Lieutenant Vines, Captain Rose**

Photo 4. **Sergeant Kavanagh, Staff Sergeant Stoneham, Mr. Carver, Sergeant Crutchley**

Photo 5. **Major Thorman, Staff Sergeant Matheson (REME), Sergeant Kid and Signalman Wells**

Photo 6. **The close association between 8th Regiment and the 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales Volunteers) is exemplified in this photo, as prior to their departure to Malta the 1st Battalion with their Colours flying march through the Regimental Lines on a farewell Church Parade. 8th Regiment returned the compliment with a very smart Quarter Guard; Guard Commander: Sergeant Perry**

Photo 7. **Signalman Mick Filmer in action**

Photo 8. *Standing:* **Signalman Kesh Baha Dvr, Lance-Corporal Jones.** *Seated:* **Signalman Chia Yue Choo, Captain Stather, Signalman Tay Nian Hoe**

Photo 9. **Lance-Corporal Bowman scores on Corporal Paulley**

Photo 10. **R.S.M. J. Crow and Sergeant L. Hall**

Photo 11. **In action, Lieutenant Diana Feaver**

Photo 12. **Lance-Corporal Shaw**

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

Morrison Cup

THE Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Athletics Championships took place this year on 12th and 13th June. We gained an initial psychological advantage by winning the three miles race. This was the only event which scored points on the first day of the meeting, as all the others were heats. It was very pleasant, at least overnight, to be in the lead.

The following day really saw the excitement mounting as the final results began to come in. At lunch time we were still hanging on to our lead by about five points. This was due mainly to the really superb effort put in by our pole vault team, **Signalmen McKenzie** and **Jackson,** who both improved their performances by some two feet in less than a month's training, mainly in their own spare time. They were extremely unlucky to be beaten into second place by one inch. In the afternoon our lead was slowly whittled away, so that by the last event of the day, we were nineteen points behind the leaders, 16th Signal Regiment, although we won this event and got another 18 points. 16th Regiment came second, with sixteen, and thus beat us overall by a mere seventeen.

However, when we reflected on the improvement our team had made in the few short weeks since they were formed, after a hurried Regimental athletics meeting, we felt that it was a very fine effort to achieve second place. Much of the credit must go to **Second-Lieutenant Martin Stone,** who trained a very successful team of sprinters and quarter-milers, and to **Corporals George Holden** and "**Mac**" **MacMillan,** who forced our other distance men to get fit, if not fast.

Probably the outstanding field event man in the team was **Signalman Cooper,** who was dragged out of the archives of R.H.Q. to compete as our second-string high jumper. After a retirement from the sport of over nine years, he managed to clear 5ft. 8in. with no training at all, and doing the "scissors"! Other field event men who did well were **Lance-Corporal Rees,** who won the javelin, and **Sergeant Zoing,** who won the discus.

Our tug-of-war team, too, though decisively out-pulled in the final, distinguished themselves by at least getting there. This is undoubtedly the event which requires the most team training, and we must congratulate 21st Regiment on a most polished performance.

B.A.O.R. Tennis Championships

The Regimental team for the B.A.O.R. Tennis Championships consisted of two pairs, **Captain Browne** and **Signalman Ruffer,** and **Second-Lieutenant Coppock** and **Staff Sergeant Simpson.** The players also entered the open singles, the open doubles, the mixed doubles, as well as the Arms and Corps doubles, which was their main aim, since this latter competition had been won for the Royal Signals last year by **Captain Siderfin** and **Lance-Corporal Dunster,** at that time both of 7th Regiment.

The competition lasted for a week, and although the weather was not as kind as it could have been, the finals took place on time on Friday and Saturday. To describe in detail the full progress of all players would certainly need more space than is allowed here; suffice to say that the efforts, on the whole, were fruitful. **Second-Lieutenant Coppock** battled his way to the semi-finals of the plate competition, having been defeated in the first round of the open singles before he had really realised what it was all about. **Signalman Ruffer** and **Captain Browne** were both defeated in the quarter-finals of the open singles, the former by the eventual winner, the latter by the runner-up. Both were also defeated in the quarter-finals of the mixed doubles, their partners having put up with their antics quite well up to that stage.

In the Arms and Corps doubles, after many close matches during the week, **Captain Browne** and **Signalman Ruffer** found themselves in the final, on Friday afternoon, representing the Corps against an experienced pair from the R.C.T. Unfortunately the weather was grim, and although the match started at 14.00 hours, the rain had the players rushing for cover several times, until play was abandoned at 16.30. By then **Browne** and **Ruffer** were leading 7—5, 0—1. Play resumed again the following morning, and in about 40 minutes the Regimental pair were able to win the second set and thus keep the cup for the Corps, for the third successive year.

All players certainly gained much experience throughout the week and, at the same time, had the satisfaction of bringing a trophy back.

Club News

To those who read the account of last year's expedition to the South of France, read on, we have another trip for you, and for all those past and present, now is your chance to become updated on the changes within the club.

First, we say goodbye to **C.S.M.I. Dolphin,** A.P.T.C., our Diving Officer who, through his own unending efforts, has probably made Sub 7 Aqua the largest diving club in Europe. We are now capable of putting down eighteen fully-equipped divers at any one time.

We also say goodbye to **Lieutenant R. L. Windmill,** our expedition leader, **Staff Sergeant Stubberfield,** R.C.T., our other Diving Officer, and **Lieutenant Gardner.**

It is rewarding to find that within the club able and energetic divers are moving up the ladder to fill the now vacant appointments. **Captain E. Mulley** is to be Officer-in-Charge, **W.O.II Noble** is to be equipment officer, and we reserve a special welcome to our new allotment holder, at Bielefeld, **Captain P. Brown.**

With the coming of summer and warmer water, club members are far more active in the lakes and ponds around us and less active in the heated swimming pools, but by far our most enjoyable expedition was our 19 days spent on the Mediterranean. (See article, page 299).

Death of Signalman John Curran

It is with regret that we have to report the death of **Signalman John Curran,** one of the members of the Deep Dive Expedition, who died on exercise in the field, as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Our deepest sympathy goes to his mother and family. His many friends will miss him.

9th Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 53

Cookery Competition, 1968

HAVING already won the Unit Catering Efficiency Award for 1967-68, the Unit Army Catering Corps staff were determined to do well in the annual cookery competition, held at Dhekelia, on 4th and 5th June.

The first competition to be judged was the Unit Team, when each team had to produce a set dinner consisting of minestrone soup, cod mornay, casserole of chicken with Byron potatoes, the dinner rounded off by a strawberry slice. The 9th Regiment team was judged to have produced the best result.

With such a fine start behind them the team could not go wrong, and after **Corporal Austin** had carried off third prize in the Individual Military Competition, **Nick Nicolaou** won the Civilian Individual Award. Then **Corporal Austin** took fourth place in the Omelette Competition, and a highly successful day ended with **Lance-Corporal Mitchener** winning a Certificate of Merit for his work in the Pastry Competition.

We always thought we had the best cooks on the Island, and the result simply confirms our high opinion of them. It certainly seems a bit of an anachronism to term our restaurant a cookhouse.

Athletics

Pride of place this month goes once again to **Lance-Corporal Mick Gue,** of 2 Squadron. Following his success in the Commander Three Champion Sports Squadron Competition, when you may remember he won both the 880 yards and the mile, we had high hopes that he would do the same in the Army (Cyprus) Athletics Meeting; we were not disappointed. On the opening day, Thursday, 13th June, **Mick** had an easy win in the three miles event. Despite the very considerable heat he set out to make all the running, and in doing so he lapped one man three times . . . a wonderful run but more was to come on the next and final day of the meeting. Entered in the mile and the 880 yards, **Gue** proceeded to shatter the Army Cyprus record for the mile by some nine seconds, winning in 4min. 34sec., and later the same day he so nearly took the 880 yards record, failing by only 2/5th seconds.

Other highly creditable performances came from **Lance-Corporal Kelly,** who won both the shot and the discus, and **J/T Millar,** who won the long jump.

(Continued on page 293)



A SHATTERING PERFORMANCE

Lance-Corporal Mick Gue of 9th Signal Regiment setting up a new record for the Army (Cyprus) Mile in the recent Army Athletics Championship at Episkopi. On the same day he put up another outstanding performance only failing to beat the 880 yards record by the merest 2/5ths of a second

Gue again

The following week the Inter-Service Athletics Meeting was held. Episkopi was the venue, the day Tuesday, and the date 18th June. The Army had hoped for a closely fought match, but this was not to be, though the Army team was certainly by no means disgraced. However, the Army won but three of the 19 events and two of these went to the redoubtable **Gue.** First, he won the mile in a time of 4min. 30.6sec., and then he won the 880 yards in a very fast 2min. 1.1sec.

And so the athletics season has ended, a season which purely belonged to **Gue.**

Annual Summer Fete

9th Regiment's Annual Fete on 22nd June, got off to a fine start, when **Mrs. Pat Bate,** wife of the Commanding Officer, officially opened it, by scoring a bull's eye on the ducking stool target which tipped the luscious bikini-clad **Janet Murray** into the water tank.

And certainly the rest of the afternoon more than lived up to the promise of the opening. We had a splendid entry of 134 children for the Children's Grand Fancy Dress Parade, all of them decked out in the most ingenious costumes. What a headache they gave to the judge, **Uncle Lionel,** of British Forces' Broadcasting Service, Cyprus, who had to try and choose the winners. Two of the Combined Services Free Fall Parachute Club dropped in, one of them, **Lieutenant Hugh Bennett,** dropped in the middle of the bingo stall.

Other highlights of the day included the donkey derby and a wrestling match, which more than matched any seen on television. The club scouts put on an enthusiastic display and this was followed by an impressive display of marching by the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion the King's Own Border Regiment —a magnificent sight which rounded off an enjoyable, and profitable day.

Before finally laying the 1968 fete to rest, special mention must be made of **Corporal Jones** and his crew on the Noddy Train, who gallantly transported hundreds of small children around the unit lines during the afternoon.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Visit of the Director of Army Recruiting

ON 14th June the Regiment was visited by the Director of Army Recruiting, **Brigadier A. J. Wilson, C.B.E., M.C.** The reason for the visit was to see if the Regiment exercised some magic in maintaining the lowest wastage rate of any basic training organisation in the Army, and to see if our methods could be applied elsewhere. After a thorough briefing by the Commanding Officer, **Brigadier Wilson** showed a keen interest in all aspects of the Regiment, and in particular the contemporary approach and up-to-date methods of management applied to the young men who pass through the Regiment. For a large part of his visit the D.A.R. was left in the hands of the recruit troops' N.C.O.s.

It would appear from his comments that the Brigadier was much impressed with what he saw. Perhaps we shall see some of our methods reflected in Army policy soon.

Pass-off parade—25th June



Signalman G. E. Wheelan

The pass-off parade on 25th June was for No. 7 Troop. The parade, under their Troop Commander, **Lieutenant P. D. Smith,** was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier, M.B.E.** The best recruit was **Signalman G. E. Wheelan,** an ex-policeman, who comes from Ault Bea, Ross-shire, is a keen fisherman and holds St. John Ambulance First Aid Certificates. He now goes on to 224 Squadron for training as a Special Operator.

'At Home,' 1968

Once again it was time to pull all the stops out to give our Old Comrades a weekend to remember. The weather threatened to cast its usual dark shadow over the whole weekend, but at the last moment it cleared considerably. With weather reasonable and spirits high, the weekend has been described as the best ever.

CLOTHING

Since the beginning of May, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Major J. L. Donne
Mrs. J. L. Purdon
Major T. F. Jenkinson
A. Walsh, Esq.
J. Young, Esq.
F. Shelbourn, Esq.
Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E.
Major-General D. A. L. Wade, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.
Mrs. Davey
Lt.-Colonel G. M. Welsford, T.D.
11 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn.
Colonel and Mrs. I. G. Swan
Major A. G. MacTavish
Mrs.—D. St. J. Hoysted
Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E.
Mrs. C. E. Page
Lt.-Colonel E. R. N. W. Nanney-Wynn, D.L.
Captain J. M. Hincks
Mrs. V. A. Heath
W. E. Osborne, Esq.
Captain W. Farmery
Lt.-Colonel R. P. D. Painter
Mrs. M. D. Price
A. E. Stead, Esq.
Lt.-Colonel W. P. W. Robertson
Staff Sergeant & Mrs. N. Crowder

14th Signal Regiment, Gloucester

Where has 2 Squadron got to?

AT the time of going to press, we were weathering (in several ways) a period of unprecedented activity.

Stand-by duties for flood relief, as well as our own shift changes over blocked routes have challenged our ingenuity and taxed our manpower.

One unfortunate result is that our 2 Squadron report cannot reach us, as both mail and telephone contact is cut. As everyone knows, 2 Squadron involves our nautical element, and one uncharitable comment recently heard suggests that with all the floodwater about someone has "pulled the plugs out and gone sailing." Despite the ambiguity, we think we know what that means.

Happily, 3 Squadron have established contact. Perhaps the stories about their yellow submarine are true. Anyway, here is the news from the land of Bam.

3 SQUADRON, BAMPTON

Old Coaster strikes again

The quote the words of a past correspondent, here is the latest from the Land of Bam.

I, by the grace of Officer-in-Charge, Records, took one more step up the ladder to fame and found myself appearing in front of 'Pronto,' 14th Regiment, and was told to take my newly-gained crowns and thence depart to the Land of Bam.

To arrive at the gates of 3 Squadron in the spring, I would liken to the entrance of Kew Gardens. It is a very pretty site indeed, and the credit should go to the civilian staff who work in all weathers to keep us looking a credit to the Corps.

Thus into the splendour of the O.C.'s office and the briefing that so many of us have been through: "It's a quiet place, S.S.M."—classical words, sir, but even in a small Squadron, many events go on. Onwards to meet the vocal Second-in-Command, **Captain Seymour Howe,** late of 11th Regiment, and our Admin. Officer, **Major Logan,** late of Stafford Regiment, and "Angus," the only beast, or should I say four-legged beast, in the camp.

I was amazed to find I have my own clerical assistant, **Mrs. McNally,** called by the boys "S.S.M. No. 2," but she looks after the boys, and if I have call to reproach a laddie in the S.S.M. manner, gazes at me with sorrowful eyes.

My eyes did then gaze on the ladies of the Squadron Office, and I found that orders in 3 Squadron are soon obeyed, to quote, "Haircuts by 14.00 hours," Janet, our bright young typist, wore her hair upon her shoulders, but three days after my arrival did appear with a Mia Farrow cut!

Our tech. king is **Mr. Prince,** and there isn't anything he doesn't know about Bampton. Sitting on his left is **W.O.I (F. of S.) Len Leppington**—were you talking about me when you said: "He was so thick even the other S.S.M. noticed it." On his right is **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) George Downie,** soon to leave for the glory of 19th Regiment.

Further down the ladder we find . . .

Further down the ladder we find **Staff Sergeant Dave Wilkins,** another ex-Boy, who is a dab-hand with a soldering iron, and then all the numerous technicians, too many to mention by name, but all who do a very good job of work within the hall or on our sports field.

The backbone of the Corps, it has always been quoted, are our "Hairies" who let you know in no uncertain manner that they are not linemen but Aerial Riggers, and I don't envy them the task of climbing 150ft. towers when the wind is roaring around the frame. Headed by **Sergeant Eddie Kingman,** who still hasn't convinced me that he has been up a tower, and backed up by **Corporal Tuplin** and **Corporal Savage,** with **"Bomber" Sharpe,** they do a grand job up the towers or on the ground; they are truly the unsung heros of 3 Squadron.

The 'Q' empire is headed by **R.Q.M.S. Terry Martin,** not often seen in his stores, but each night training on the sports ground, straight past the O.C.'s house and then two pints. **Staff Sergeant Quayle** is to be his right-hand man, when he can be spared by the local fishermen or the shooting team.

Sergeants George Bulman and **Brian Cumming** help to keep the hall running, and we wish **Brian** luck as he "bends the knee" at Caterham.

Our Pay and Accounts "foster," or should it be "fester," under the eagle eye of **Sergeant Brian Carlton,** R.A.P.C., whose only worry appears to be who will pay out next week.

The "Phillip Harben" of Bampton, who, with his merry band manages to produce an excellent selection of food, is **Sergeant Kit Carson,** A.C.C., who is soon to retire into the wilds of Swindon; we wish him well.

These short notes to bring up-to-date friends who have lost touch would not be complete without mentioning **Sergeant Taff Hughes,** of shooting fame, who not only keeps the cleanest fleet of vehicles in the Regiment, but also trains the Squadron Shooting Team when he can find the time to take his gaze away from the *Sporting Life.*

Our Squadron is small, but it must be one of the few left these days that can offer any sporting facilities possible. So, if any of you Technicians or Aerial Riggers want to join a very proud Squadron, No. 3 is for you. We offer you: B.B.C. 2 in the J.R.C., archery to canoeing, 30 metre range on the camp, cut price flowers in the summer or cut your own cabbage if **Mr. Barrett** doesn't catch you.

We are to lose many men in 1968/69. If you can give us loyalty and pride in your work, then No. 3 is for you.

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35



SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF HARD TRAINING
Corporal Jeff Barden receives the Rhine Area Athletics Trophy from Brigadier Glennie. *Standing behind:*—Craftsman "Whip" Richardson

Pot Hunting

A LITTLE optimistically we asked M.P.B.W. to provide us with a new trophy display case in the Junior Ranks' dining room. Somewhat surprised we found it made, fixed to the wall and setting us the problem of stocking it.

Athletics

A major contribution towards filling the display case came from the athletics team's successive wins in the Morrison Cup, Royal Signals B.A.O.R. athletics followed by the Rhine Area athletics. We think this is one of the more difficult ways of collecting pots as the effort of keeping together a fit and full team of athletes is considerable. Much credit goes to **Major Bill Pritchard,** whose management and gamesmanship paid off. All members of the team gave their best and several records have been upset. As we go to Press we are about to represent Rhine Area in the B.A.O.R. finals—results in the next issue.

Swimming

Captain Peter Metcalf and his swimmers of H.Q. B.A.O.R. Troop can usually be found at 06.30 hours waiting for the Rheindahlen Pool to open. Their training and fitness showed in the Rheindahlen Garrison Gala when they won both the team prize, a large and impressive solid silver cup, and the water polo knock-out competition. **Signalman 'Jacko' Jackson** improved on the 100 metres freestyle record in spite of visibility being limited by his hair. The gala is international, Belgian, German, Dutch and British talent participating. The Troop recently showed its ability at marching as well when it won a Dutch international march 45 minutes ahead of the next team. The rest of us are properly impressed.

Tennis



BAOR LADIES' SINGLES CHAMPION
Lieutenant Diana Feaver receives her prize from Mrs. Tuzo

The C.S.O., **Brigadier Pat Mansergh,** was kind enough, once again, to invite us to organise the B.A.O.R. tennis championships. **Major Henry Chapman,** assisted by **Captain Leonard White, Sergeant Carruthers** and **Signalman Bob Baggaley,** did all the work. We would not be averse to taking advantage of our position as organisers but, in practice, there isn't much scope for a fiddle and the successes of **Major Chapman** in the open doubles, and **Lieutenant Diana Feaver** in the ladies' singles were honestly achieved.

Sailing

It is some time since the Regiment entered into competitive sailing, but with our Second-in-Command, **Major Bob Pope,** officer-in-charge sailing, and shortly to be promoted to command the Regiment, this position is changing. Our team in the Royal Signals Regatta at the Mohne See was **Corporals John Vincent** and **Phil Herbert,** R.A.P.C., and **Signalmen 'Chick' Carmichael, Phil Crossland, Ken Bowker** and **Phil Martin.** They gained experience as they went along to the extent that they brought home the team plate, beating 22nd Regiment in the final race.

Farming

Some years ago when taking chloraphyl was the alternative to changing one's brand of soap there was a rhyme which went:

"That smelly goat on yonder hill
Feeds all day on chloraphyl."

It all comes back as a result of **Sergeant-Major Punnett** accepting a kid while on Exercise "Jog Trot." The kid spent a month with the Sergeant-Major and **Mrs. Punnett** at Gutenbergstrasse, 74, before an impending breakdown in diplomatic relations was anticipated by the kid moving to the Regiment's transmitter station. One of these days an alert photographer could get an interesting photograph of a lineman poised indefinitely between a goat and a vertical radiator end fed at 3,000 volts.

Shooting

We still have a little way to go to catch 21st Regiment in competition ability, but we are trying hard. Several faces are missing from the Regiment while our team is at Aldershot and Bisley. Oldest shot is **Captain George Cowsill,** who has tried several dodges to allow him to see the weapon sights and the target simultaneously; currently he is given a compass bearing and range, artillery style.

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire?

Why not do so now?

17th Gurkha Signal Regiment Seremban, Malaysia

EXERCISE "LATH"

The tasks

HAVING recovered from the shock of a front page picture in THE WIRE, Charlie Troop set out again to show their ability in the field. The object this time was the communications for the Control and Umpire H.Q. for Exercise "Lath," the biggest joint Service exercise held in FARELF this year. Another task was the setting up and running of this H.Q. on a sandy treeless site on the East Coast of Malaya, 20 miles south of Kuala Trengganu.

Planning and operations

For planning this task **Captain Mike Backhurst,** from 99 Gurkha Brigade, and Signal Squadron, was posted back to the Regiment for the last two months of his tour to become "G.IV" at Division H.Q., and **Captain Tommy Jones** became Camp Q.M.

To layout a camp for 12 days for 120 officers and 300 men, erecting 250 tents, five mess marquees, operations tents, etc., takes a bit of organising, but with the help of the men of the Pipes and Drums and 25 men from 2 Squadron, the camp rapidly took shape. Despite the intense heat, lack of water (it had to be brought 20 miles by bowser) and sand flies, everything was ready on 23rd June for the Division Staff, R.A.F. and Royal Marines to move in.

This wasn't only a field day for the Quartermaster, but 3 Squadron also produced communications which were not only unique, but worked.

Is this a record?

How far can a C41 radio relay chain work? Well, we don't claim a record, nor was it all our own work, as 249 Squadron helped with 3 Detachments, but the chain from Seremban to Control and Umpire H.Q. was 230 miles long, had three relays sited and one link was 126 miles long! This gave us three speech and one secure teleprinter link back to H.Q. 17 Division Malaya District. No great troubles materialised, but there was one cry of "Help" one night from **Yeoman Heaps,** when, during a tropical storm about midnight, the Comcen tent roof suddenly burst and filled up two live teleprinters with water!

(Any Unit prepared to better this? The length of chain, not the drowned teleprinters.—Editor).

Visitors

An exercise of this kind, when you have a one star Joint Forces' H.Q. brought in by 120 mixed sorties of Andovers and C130s, plus H.M.S. *Intrepid,* two L.S.Ls, four L.C.Ts, 200 (Hovercraft) Squadron R.C.T., and almost the entire helicopter lift of the three Services in FARELF, is quite impressive and brought many visitors. Two early arrivals direct from U.K. were **Major John Stevanson,** Queens, from the School of Signals and **Major Jerry Corden,** of the Corps from S.R.D.E. Neither had served in Malaya before but were soon testing out communications and seeing at first hand what it is like to land on a 8ft. x 10ft. built-out helipad on the side of a jungle clad hill. From here, two C42 R.R.B's stations, batteries and generators, then had to be manhandled 300ft. up a further 1-in-2 jungle covered hill to the top.

Other visitors included the C.S.O., **Captain Morgan,** R.N., Director of Signals Far East Command; C.A.F.S.O. and several others from F.E.C. H.Q.

Cap badges

What is interesting on a exercise of this scale is the variety of signallers of various cap badges one meets. We had our Gurkha signallers, both Gurkha and British, but also seen were Royal Marines signallers from 3 Commando Brigade Squadron, including a Royal Signals Cypher Corporal with a green beret! Amongst other varieties was **Sergeant Panchabahadur Limbu,** of the Independent Gurkha Parachute Company, wearing a red beret, with Parachute Brigade badge, but by Trade a T.11 Radio Technician, and seen sorting out D11. 19th Regiment provided an extra line detachment wearing jungle hats with Air Formation flashes, and others seen were a mixed detachment of

Australian and British radio operators from 28 Comwel Squadron, R.A.F. signallers with KWN 2A SSB sets, and men from 249 Squadron, all wearing plain jungle hats but everyone working together to produce efficient and reliable communications.

Incidents

Twelve Whirlwind R.A.F. helicopters, each carrying an underslung load of two barrels of Avtur, flying from the airhead to J.F.H.Q., mistake Control H.Q. for J.F.H.Q. Start to circle preparatory to landing (they looked like circus ponies going round the ring), but Control H.Q. doesn't want fuel. Up goes red Verey light—Whirlwinds fly off. Result—large grass fire caused by Verey light nearly reaches Control H.Q.'s stock of Avtur!

Congratulations

—To **Lieutenant John Neeve,** Gurkha Signals, in winning the Whistler Trophy for his work in Nepal as Signal Officer and M.T.O., British Gurkha Recruiting Depot, Dharan. Gurkha Signals have produced three out of four trophy winners.

—To **Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Peter Devanney** and **Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Doug Willis** on their promotion to Captain and regular Q.M. Commissions.

—To **W.O.II (F. of S.) John Cooper** on his unique trip to Brunei with **Captain (T.O.T.) D. A. Bowden, Lieutenant (T.F.C.) M. Caplan,** to establish a "Ham" Station and making 3,500 contacts in five days. His efforts and those of his colleagues enabled many ham operators throughout the world to log this very rare country. Call sign used was VS 5 RCS. (See page 303).

—To **Staff-Sergeant John Harvey** on his promotion to W.O.II. Golfers of the School of Signals, look out for some keen competition when he arrives in October.

—To **Staff-Sergeant Mike Morphey** and **Corporal Jed Evans** on their promotion to W.O.II and Sergeant, respectively.

—To **Corporal Dave Hooks** on his keen effort to attempt to sail by R.E. assault boat from the West Coast of Malaya up the River Linggi and down the Rivers Triang and Pahang to the East Coast, unfortunately, the outboard motor failed before he could complete the last part of the journey.

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

Laarbruch station athletics

THE Regiment won the Laarbruch Station Athletics Championships for the seventh year in succession, beating their nearest rival by 41 points.

The Regiment also set new station records in five events **Lance-Corporal Turner** raised the pole vault record to 11ft., **Signalman Gumbs** putt the shot 40ft. 9in., **Signalman Webb** broke the 200 and 400 metres records, each by a fraction, and our 4 x 100 metres relay team, consisting of **Lance-Corporals Fowler** and **Turner** and **Signalmen Webb** and **Gumbs,** won in 45.8sec., dropping a second off the previous best time.

The Commanding Officer achieved a secret ambition by winning the "Carry-the-Can" relay race, well supported by **Signalman Webb, Sergeant Goss** and **Major Hodgson** (which shows he knows how to pick his men as well as how to run!).

Tug-of-war

The tug-of-war team has again had a very successful season, winning the Morrison Cup, Rhine Area, R.A.F. Station, and reaching the semi-final stage of the B.A.O.R. Whilst this has been a good team effort, special mention must be made of **Corporal Dore** and **Signalman Bryar,** two stalwarts of the team, who unfortunately now leave us on posting. Our good wishes for the future go with them.

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 34

IT is several months since our activities have been reported in THE WIRE—our apologies to past and present Franciscans.

Belonging to a multi-national communications organisation, as we do, often presents unusual and interesting problems. This year has been particularly interesting as new techniques and equipments came into service. We see our fellow countrymen "up country" enthralled with Bruin, whilst we only recently backloaded our last continental equivalent of the Fullerphone. Next year, who knows, we may find a reverse flow of visitors to see our new "Imp" equipment.

NORTHAG exercises started earlier this year and even encroached into our already tight individual training season. Even so, we managed to squeeze in two weeks at Vogelsang of enjoyable and concentrated Military Training.

Annual Administration Inspection

Very carefully "jammed" between two exercise periods the Commander Rhine Area, **Brigadier J. B. A. Glennie, C.B.E., D.S.O.,** A.D.C., carried out the inspection, and with his ability to present a problem requiring quick reaction to the unexpected, soon had spare wheels being changed on every vehicle on display—quite amusing for some spectators. Before leaving he promised to visit us a few days later at Vogelsang during our annual military training fortnight.

Vogelsang or Exercise "Fran Buckle"

For this venture we reorganised on an infantry, two company basis with each company having four full strength and properly equipped platoons. All outdoor training was conducted by platoon or sections and consisted of a full variey of training, from digging a complete company defensive position to throwing 36 grenades.

The climax of the training came as we provided enemy for the 2nd Royal Green Jackets and a Squadron of the 13th/18th Hussars over a three-day Company Group test exercise period. They were most surprised to see so many enemy confronting them and made most favourable comments on the enthusiasm, ability and determination of our "Infantry men."

Brigadier Glennie, as promised paid a short visit in time to see us taking part in a full scale A.P.C./Armour battle. He was pleased to see such realistic training being carried out.

The exercise ended with a 50-mile (two-day) march back to a convenient vehicle pick-up point. Two nights of bivouacing and most suitable weather ended a strenuous though very satisfying fortnight.

Shooting

Our enthusiastic shooting team, having started their training at Vogelsang, were soon on form winning the H.Q. Northag Multi-national Shooting competition. This was the last time that **Major Freddie Oakes** acted as team captain before moving on to a new appointment in C.A.F.S.O. Branch, H.Q. 2 A.T.A.F. **Captain Bill Matthews,** last year's Roupell Cup winner at Bisley, has taken over to take the team to Bisley. **S.S.M. Hammond-Haley** and **Staff-Sergeant Rothwell** and **Sergeant Walker** are stalwarts of the team.

Future activities

Our next big venture, which will be reported in full, will be in Bavaria. Over three-quarters of the Regiment will take part in adventure training, mountain trekking, camping and canoeing.

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs!

Why not send us your story?

Plenty of Smiles in 28th Regiment

1. **W.O.I (Y of S) Hayes and his band of desperadoes in an infantry role**
2. **ADMIN. INSPECTION. The C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel Skelly) looking at the camera seems confident**
3. **Sergeant Brooking—the Regiment's foot doctor in action**
4. **Captain Graham (Adjutant) and Captain Parfitt (MTO) actually enjoy 24 hour ration packs**
5. **The Regimental shooting team after winning the Northern Army Group inter-unit event.** *Left to right, standing:* **Major F. W. Oakes, Royal Signals; Staff Sergeant (Y of S) Holmes, Corporal Spencer, Signalman Graham, Captain F. W. Matthews, Royal Signals**

   Kneeling: **Signalman Turnbull, S.S.M. Hammond-Haley, Staff Sergeant Rothwell, Corporal Graham, Sergeant Higgins, Sergeant Walker**











18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. Singapore



MERSING, NEAR SINGAPORE
18th Regiment's base training camp was established on Pulau Babi Besar (an island) off the estuary pictured above

Panorama

JUNE has proved to be a busy month this year, as ever, and has produced more than the usual share of other than day-to-day communicating business:

Firstly, this year's Exercise "Evergreen" base camp was established on Pulau Babi Besar (an island off the east coast of Malaysia near Mersing) between 3rd and 9th June. The Permanent Staff will handle up to 100 trainees each week up to 13th July, when they break camp. You can read about it all in next month's notes.

Secondly, 249 Squadron and the Regiment practised for the Queen's Birthday Parade to the airs of 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment Pipes and Drums. Unfortunately, the parade, which was to have been taken by Brigadier Warren, had to be cancelled at the last moment, owing to heavy and prolonged rain. Our apologies to any of the lady spectators whose hats were spoilt!

And thirdly, we have been heavily committed to the onset of the athletic and swimming competition season, to which the major part of these notes are devoted.

Athletics and swimming

Both the Regimental athletics and swimming competitions were blessed by fine weather—O.C. H.Q. Squadron (**Major M. O. N. Bird**) must have friends in high places. Despite the fact that 249 Squadron deservedly won both the athletics and swimming trophies, there was excellent competition throughout. H.Q. Squadron narrowly beat 2 Squadron for first place in the Regimental inter-Squadron athletics and 2 Squadron narrowly beat H.Q. Squadron in the Regimental inter-Squadron swimming.

The first of the major athletics events was the Royal Signals Triangular Meeting between ourselves, 19th Regiment and the combined efforts of 237 and 249 Squadrons. This meeting was a very close one indeed, and finally resulted in a win by 19th Regiment by one point, exactly reversing last year's result—the decision, as last year, being in the balance until the end of the last race.

The Singapore District Individuals' Athletics Meeting produced some very interesting results, the Regimental star of this event being **Lance-Corporal Che Abdullah,** of H.Q. Squadron, who won the triple and long jumps, and came third in the 100 metres.

The Dover Road Dolphins and Regimental Wives' Swimming Club

W.O.II (C.S.M.I.) France, (A.P.T.C.), ably assisted by **Corporal Fernandez** and **Lance-Corporal Che Abdullah** continue to inspire and instruct the Regimental Children's Swimming Club "The Dover Road Dolphins."

The club caters for children aged seven and over, both from the Regiment and 249 Squadron, and takes all comers from non-swimmers to A.S.A. Gold Award holders. The club now has 97 members and has 67 Bronze, 46 Silver and 25 Gold A.S.A. medallions to its credit.

Club members also put up a creditable performance in the Singapore District Children's Swimming Gala, the most notable of which were: **Valerie Youngjohns,** second, girls 14-15 100 metres backstroke; **Julia Bird,** first, girls 8-9 33⅓ metres breaststroke; **Jean Massie,** second, girls 10-11 66⅔ metres breaststroke; **Peter Garvey,** third, boys 12-13 100 metres freestyle; **Valerie Youngjohns,** third, girls 14-15 100 metres freestyle.

The Regimental Wives' Swimming Club also continues to flourish and meets every Monday to swim under the eagle eye of **C.S.M.I. France,** chat and sip coffee. Their teams beat the W.R.A.C. teams competing in the Regimental Swimming Gala in every event—so training must tell! The ladies can now boast 13 Bronze, 10 Silver and three Gold A.S.A. awards.

There is no doubt that the Regiment's families take full advantage of the Dover Road Pool!

The Pavilion

Those who have served here before may be interested to hear that a pavilion has now been built at the edge of the Dover Road Sports Stadium beside the swimming pool. This will provide two excellent changing rooms, a small store and an excellent bar!

Golf

Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson, who is president of the Warren Golf Club, had pleasure in presenting **Major Colin Pringle** on C.R. Signals Staff with the President's Putter on Saturday, 21st June. The competition between the 147 competitors was fierce and a score of a net 59 was returned by 10 a.m.—just to encourage the rest! **Major Pringle,** who was the last competitor home scored a net 51—needless to say his handicap has been cut from 22 to 15.

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

Exciting Diving North of the Costa Brava

The C.S.M.I. goes to the bottom on Exercise Deep Dive

☆



"ALL ABOARD FOR NEPTUNES CAVES"
The party on Exercise Deep Dive just north of the Costa Brava

By Lieutenant R. L. Windmill of 7th Regiment

IF your geography is not too rusty, part of the Pyrenees drop into the Mediterranean just north of the French/Spanish border, which, for us, meant deep clear water and an ideal diving site. Admiralty charts later confirmed our hopes, and Camping La Girelle was chosen as our base camp.

* * *

When 19th May finally arrived, a party of 30 members of the club from various Regiments and Corps throughout the 1 (BR) Corps Area, with the glamorous addition of **Captain Lorna Windmill,** of 16th Regiment, left Maresfield Camp in one Land Rover and two Bedford 4-ton vehicles.

The party arrived safely and were welcomed with open arms by the French. **Second-Lieutenant B. Hughes** set up base camp whilst the senior divers carried out a preliminary reconnaissance and constructed a dive plan.

C.S.M.I. Dophin was to instruct the dive marshals, **W.O.II Noble** was to marshal the experienced divers and **Lieutenant Windmill** and **Lieutenant Gardner** were to train the beginners for the first five days.

Diving was limited to early morning and evening, as the sea in the afternoon became too rough for diving. It was not long before fish started to appear on the menu, octopus would have been added, only they were far too big and tough to cook, no matter how hard **Private Wilson,** our chef, tried.

Night life was fun when diving was not taking place, and on two occasions beach parties were arranged by **Signalman Curran** and **Signalman Thursfield,** one being the latter's twenty-first birthday party.

Our assault boat, on loan from the R.E. Bridging Corps, Minden, equipped with a Perkins engine and well commanded by **Signalman Stevenson,** saved all of us many miles of tiring finning, and its continuous chugging overhead reassured divers that help was never far away.

Unfortunately the fun, excitement and experience gained whilst we dived day and night, from between 0 and 120ft., and on one occasion to 175ft., can not be recalled in print. The setting requires a beer and, in some cases, a cigarette, in the comfortable club armchairs.

However, for those wondering, we did have one emergency which caused everyone some concern, **C.S.M.I. Baxter** got separated from his diving companions so, instead of surfacing, he sat on the bottom, crossed his legs and waited. His two companions, **S.Q.M.S. Sanderson** and **Second-Lieutenant David-Marks** soon missed him. They held a quick search, without success, and surfaced to see if he had also surfaced, but there was still no sign of him. They re-dived and surfaced every two minutes until calculations showed that **C.S.M.I. Baxter's** air was finished. They came in and gave us the news. The diving area was fixed and a search organised to see what had become of the missing man. Just as everyone was dashing for their kit, a very tired, wet, rubber-clad **C.S.M.I. Baxter** appeared over the rocks. Need we say more.

Whilst the diving was taking place, the air compressors and generators ran, the cook cooked, and the drivers fetched petrol. As current affairs students will know, the French strike was now on, and **Corporal Sharp** soon returned with the news that no more petrol could be obtained. At first we were not terribly concerned, as we felt that the situation would soon case and we could get our petrol.

This was not the case, so **Captain Lorna Windmill,** a talented interpreter, **Lieutenant R. W. Windmill** and **Lieutenant W. Legge,** our admin. officer, went to see the local police to use their 'phone to try and ring the British Embassy—alas, no phones, no mail, no petrol, nothing except the local French Commando unit and perhaps 900 litres of petrol there. Unfortunately they could not help directly, but they tried



OCTOPUS FOR TEA?

Second Lieutenant Hughes holds up a fishy find from the deep.

extremely hard to move bigger wheels. Eventually the situation was resolved when all the petrol pumps were suddenly reopened.

All good things must come to an end. The time to return drew nearer and nearer, and on 4th June, in brilliant sunshine (on the whole the weather had been very disappointing) we left.

We had trouble on the return trip when one of the vehicles was forced off the road into a ditch. Once out, a road test by **Craftsman O'Connor,** R.E.M.E., showed that the vehicle was sufficiently sturdy to knock down a Frenchman's wall and the journey continued with only minor propshaft trouble.

So ended another superb adventure training trip, and once we had convinced everyone that the stores on loan to us could not be made to look like new again after three weeks' continual use, we shelved our file, filed our insurance claims, and started to plan the next trip.

For the record, the following novices managed to obtain their 3rd Class Diving Standard: **Signalman Smith, Signalman Hemingway, Signalman Johnson** and **Signalman O'Regan.** The following qualified as dive marshals: **Lieutenant C. Arthur, Second-Lieutenant Markes, Second-Lieutenant Hughes, S.Q.M.S. Sanderson, C.S.M.I. Baxter.**

☆ ☆ Post Crown ☆ ☆

By Lieutenant David Case

. . . the choice of a site appears to have been done by the ancient, but nonetheless well-favoured method, of closing one's eyes and placing a pin in the map, and there's a lot of Thailand, so you could hardly miss . . .

A view over endless paddy fields

"Sawadi-Crap," the man said in gutteral tones, and drawing back a fist, I was about to thump him when a restraining hand fell on my shoulder and a gentle voice said "Don't do that sir, he's only saying hello." Well, I ask you, what a way to say hello.

The scene is North-East Thailand and the action takes place earlier this year. "What has all this to do with Royal Signals?" you may ask, and it's a good question. Very briefly, four years or so ago, it was decided to build an airfield and a road in N.E. Thailand. Still not enlightened? Well perhaps the clue "Crown" and "Post Crown Force" will help matters, which, although an Engineer project, necessitated the presence of a detachment from HF and Comcen Troops of 249 Signal Squadron. To the uninitiated, the choice of the site at Leong Nok Tha (from now on referred to as L.N.T.), 500 miles N.E. of Bangkok, appears to have been done by the ancient, but nonetheless well-favoured method, of closing one's eyes and placing a pin in the map—and there's a lot of Thailand, so you could hardly miss. As it was, the chappie who did the pin-pricking, if it was done, must have scored an "outer" surely, for at L.N.T. you can gaze out over the endless paddy fields some 120 miles N.E. across Laos to North Vietnam, and similarly, some 170 miles east to the South Vietnamese 'holiday resort' of Hue—"Where are the Americans?" the phrase immediately flashes across the mind. Well, generally, they go overhead at about 30,000ft., though on occasions they're not averse to popping in for a cup of 'cawfee,' and some 'chow.' No more, though, for the British force has just withdrawn to Singapore, on completion of their tasks in Thailand. An orderly withdrawal, one could call it, I suppose, though the Tiger Beer can-collectors will find large quantities of specimens from L.N.T. to Bangkok, following the general line of the last railway 'special,' and, judging by the happy faces on arrival in Bangkok, one would think that the force was destined for somewhere interesting. Well, I suppose Bangkok is Bangkok!

I'm told one can see a fair cross section of life in Bangkok within 100 yards of the dock gates—not very difficult to guess which section, though!

Let us not digress too far, for interesting though the bright lights of Bangkok are, it is in L.N.T. that life in the raw—Thai style—may be seen. Small wooden and tin shacks stand on stilts some 10ft. or so from the ground in the dry season (and probably a couple of feet under water in the wet!).

Kiddies or 'Nik Nois,' as they are known, can be seen eating beetles live, like we eat peanuts—very high protein content, the medics assure me—anyone hungry?

The airfield and road construction projects have been most interesting, and have given quite a number of Signalmen from 249 Squadron an opportunity to gain a wealth of practical experience "away from home."

Small "Hearts and Minds" schemes make their mark

Apart from the major projects of building an airfield and 49 kilometres of road, many small "Hearts and Minds" schemes have been run during the British Army's stay in Thailand. The drilling of water wells in several villages was one scheme. In the dry season, villagers have to carry large and heavy cans of water slung on poles across their backs for anything up to 10 miles or so daily!

As well as main road building, several short 'access' roads have been built, and many villages are now able to receive supplies and such-like by road, which hitherto meant perhaps a two or three-day trek, carrying loads by hand.

Health has been a problem in Thailand for a long time, and the M.R.S. at Crown Camp has done a magnificent job in raising the health standard of the local population. Vitamin pills and aspirins have been distributed by the truck load, and regular inspections of schools has worked wonders on the younger members of the communities. The schemes have even run to teaching English in Thai schools. The children really love the English songs, and very passable versions of "I love to go a-wandering," "Early one morning," "Old King Cole," and several other songs may now be heard wafting out of the school houses in the vicinity of L.N.T.

Within the Signal detachment at L.N.T., we have had much fun producing the usual "Crown Strip Newsheet" (courtesy Reuter, U.P.I., and A.P.) and, of course, the U.K. soccer results for the pools fans.

A vast number of friends

The presence of a British force in N.E. Thailand for the past four years has meant a great deal of liaison with local and government dignitaries, and, as a result, Post Crown found itself with a vast number of friends when the project finished. Following the principle of "when work is done have fun," several final celebrations were meticulously planned, to entertain all the people who had had a close liaison with the force over the past four years. The N.A.A.F.I. organisation swung into high gear, and loads of assorted alcoholic beverages arrived well before the days planned. On 17th April, a cocktail party was held in the Officers' Mess, which seemed to naturally 'flow' on until almost dawn. Then, on the morning of 18th April, the road was officially declared open at a parade which included Thai and British Army detachments, a Thai Army Band, and the Corps of Drums of 54 Support Squadron, R.E. Dignitaries in attendance included H.M. Ambassador to Thailand, **Sir Neil Pritchard,** and the Thai Chief of Staff, **Air Chief Marshal Dawee.**

The parade and the opening ceremonies were a great succuess, and served to raise a raging thirst in the throats of everyone—which was the intention, of course. So it was back to camp for a champagne lunch, which went on, and on, and on. In fact somewhere during the afternoon, lunchtime drinks became sundowners (for some people, anyway), and a number of 'bodies' were 'poured' into their Hercules aircraft for their return trip to Singapore, whilst the remainder continued the festivities.

One week and several more 'wet' evenings later, the last remnants of the British force, including the Signal detachment, left L.N.T., travelling by coach to Ubon, rail to Bangkok, and thence on L.S.L. *Sir Galahad* to Singapore.

We are fortunate in having within the Squadron Major K. H. Olds, who was O.C. H.F. Troop, when the project started and is now O.C. 249 Signal Squadron. Major Olds writes:

Beginning and end of Post "Crown"

For Signals, the start was inauspicious. My neighbour in those days was a major from Engineer Branch, and it was my habit to take an occasional beer with him on the verandah of my bungalow (or his) from time to time. One evening in early '64, I was quaffing quietly, and Allen (the Sapper) was telling me of an exciting new project he was mounting, to build an airfield in N.E. Thailand. At the time, Sapper-style communications were well down on the list of things to jack up. My Troop (HF) had partly disengaged from Borneo, and a few spare bods and C11s were relatively unemployed in Singapore, and so I offered my services. Things moved fast after that, and in no time, **Sergeant Thomas** (a diminutive, but dynamic West Indian), plus two telegraph operators, a radio technician and a cypher operator were on their way.

The operational base was Mukdahan, a fly-blown town on the banks (east of course!) of the Mekong. The detachment lived in the local hotel (no star rating) with the aerial on the roof and the radio, cypher, S.D.O. etc., in **Sergeant Thomas's** bedroom. From here they communicated first to Bangkok and later Singapore. After a few weeks they moved into canvas accommodation on site, and that was the start of Signal Detachment, Post Crown.

On returning to the Squadron, in August, 1967, I was surprised to find we were still in business at Crown. A vastly-improved scene greeted me on my first visit. A well-designed complex which the ingenuity and resources of succesive radio sergeants had constantly improved was in existence. I was proud to see our modest beginnings had blossomed so well.

My final visit was to the closing ceremony, which **David Case** has described so well.

Crown was an outstanding example of the patient hard work that is happening all over the world by small detachments of our Corps. Because they are modest in size and humble in origin, they rarely hit these pages, but the men whom they serve (in this case the Royal Engineers) have good reason to be grateful for such projects that begin "over a glass of beer."

(These are just the stories 'The Wire' wants. — Editor)

Letter from East Africa

Written by Major J. R. E. Cross

Effendi

OH, the trials and tribulations of secondment.

I intended to tell of a recent, rough safari, when it dawned upon me that my most rough one only started in Kenya. To me, long distance air travel is a bind, but my inter-tour leave journey, Kenya to the U.K., was really bound up. Like most people, we are regaled by this-that-and-the-other airline, telling us, via television and newspapers, that theirs is the best, with comfort, luxury and speed surpassing all others. The snag is that I have to use them, where as other people suffer from advertisement-instilled, misplaced envy—give me a troopship any day.

* * *

Being a British military unit (administered by Southern Command) all air passages, to and from, for military persons are fixed by the booking department in the U.K. Normally this is fine, and a booking duly arrives for a B.O.A.C. flight on the day required—but not for this lad! Our daughter had been out for her school holidays, and the idea was to travel on the same day, spend a few days in London, see her off to school, and then proceed on leave. A small complication here—children's passages are booked from this end and they travel East African Airways, but we had applied for a same-day B.O.A.C. flight. Wouldn't you know it, the booking for us fell flat on its face due to a vast exodus of dusky British passport holders who were getting out by any means of transport, from aircraft to camels. The homeland bookers washed their hands on us by sending authority for a booking to be made from this end on any airline at full rates! I have never had a satisfactory explanation as to why one cannot have stop-overs on a government ticket. When on the West Coast and fully seconded, we travelled on Nigerian Government tickets (full price, first class) and had some wonderful stop-over leaves to and from the U.K. On this leave, our final destination was Nice, and we could have left there for Nairobi via a few delectable places, had stop-over been allowed . . . but I digress.

* * *

After a week of panic action and fighting through packed airline booking offices, we managed to get an Ethiopian Airlines flight to Frankfurt, with a B.E.A. connection to London the next morning. Daughter was due to leave Nairobi eight hours after us, and as she, on a direct flight, was due in London five hours before us, we loaded her with instructions as to how to get to the hotel, dumped her with friends who would see her to the airport, and took off in our 'fan' jet for Frankfurt, via Addis Ababa, Cairo and Athens—the best laid plans!

Our scheduled stop at Addis should have been very pleasant, as I had sent a signal to our friend, **Willie Simpson,** the Naval Advisor, to say that we were passing through—the signal never reached him! Out we trooped, noting on the side that a dais, honour guard and red carpet were on the apron, to be followed into the transit lounge by a small army of staff carrying our cabin luggage. It turned out that the Emperor was due to fly off to the Congo for a meeting and his 'fan' jet had engine trouble. I don't know how many of these jets Ethiopian Airlines have, but I think that we had the other one, so they swapped and we were lumbered with Addis airport while the engine was put right. We finally took off in the repaired aircraft three hours later, with our original one still standing at the dais waiting for His Highness!

* * *

The flight down the Nile valley was wonderful, with a clear downward view the whole way. The short stop at Cairo is remembered for being met by the sight of a huge donations box at the entrance to the transit lounge with the words "For The Victims of Aggression" written on it! After a short stop at Athens, we arrived at Frankfurt 3½ hours late, ready for bed, only to find that our lay-over hotel booking had been given up as we hadn't arrived on time, and finally laid our heads down in a back-street pension, for which I had to pay (I am still trying to get my money back). B.E.A. were fine and we arrived, on time, in London the next morning, rang the hotel . . . no daughter! In a panic, and white of face, enquiries were made of E.A.A., who told us that the flight had been delayed eight

hours at Dar es Salam and had left Nairobi three hours ago. So we went to the hotel and returned to meet daughter. One of our four shopping days lost (wife's idea of a start to long leave—see London; spend money; shop; spend money; eat; spend money; see some shows; spend money).

The rest of our leave was most pleasant and the flight back, in a VC-10, on time and uncomfortable. It takes me a good week to unwind from these flights—the wonders of modern travel.

Now I hear that Sebastian the chimpanzee has escaped again from the local animal orphanage—nothing but trouble in the world!

KWAHERI
CRO.

Nairobi.

Living it up to the full in Bangkok

What a Posting!

- **Billeted in a four-star hotel**
- **Honorary members of the local British Club**
- **Their own 100 h.p. motor launch**
- **Palm-fringed tropical bathing beaches with water ski-ing and skin-diving**
- **The night life something to write home about—or possibly not to**
- **And an important and interesting job**

The lads of 649 Troop, in Bangkok, Thailand, reckon they are on to a good thing: we publish, with pleasure, extracts from two most interesting letters written by ex-Harrogate Army Apprentices to Lieutenant Stanley, Second-in-Comand of Phillips Squadron, in which they underwent their original apprentice training.

Lance-Corporal S. A. Rogers writes:

"First I would like to start at 237 Squadron, where I was posted. 237 (which has closed down and now we all come under 249 Squadron) in Singapore was responsible for COMCAN on the island (DCN). At 237, when I went there, were a number of ex-Apprentice Technicians, among them **Lance-Corporal Lindsay**, who has been to Brunei for 12 months. After having been at 237 for five months, I was informed that I had been posted to Bangkok for a unaccompanied tour of 12 months. At the end of January, after a very enjoyable first Christmas in the Far East, I came up to Bangkok.

The Troop relinquished the title of "The Golden Arrow Detachment" and became 649 Troop late last year. We no longer work in field conditions and have our own compound and transmitter site and our receiver at the American receiver site. Off duty, we live at the Grand Hotel, which is a four-star hotel opposite the National Soccer and Athletics Stadium, where the SEAP Games are held. We work in conjunction with SEATO, which has a five-storey building about a mile from the hotel.

The opportunities for sport out here are tremendous. We are honorary members of the British Club and are able to use all the amenities. Among these are swimming, tennis, squash and badminton, to name but a few. We have very fine football, bowling and cricket teams and supply quite a few players for the Royal Bangkok Sports Club Rugby team. We work shifts, and this enables us to go to the sea resort of Pattaya, which is the leading resort of Thailand, and the Cannes of the Far East. Here we have our Troop boat, ably powered by a 100 h.p. engine, with which we go water ski-ing and skin-diving out at the cluster of tropical islands surrounding Pattaya. There are about 30 of us here in 649.

The night life is tremendous . . .

The night-life is tremendous. The local beer is a brew called Singha, which is a lager, and pretty expensive. This is the one drawback about Bangkok. Everything is very dear. The currency is the Baht, which is worth about 5d. A beer costs 20 Baht, which runs nearly into 10s., and almost everything else is dear as well. To combat this, we get £6 LOA and cheap liquor and cigarettes. We don't do too bad, really. I earn a little over £20 clear up here, which I find quite adequate; in fact I'm saving around £10-£12 a week, and this is as a married man.

To stop every Apprentice Technician from trying to get up here as a posting, I should inform you that 649 is due to close at the end of the year, much against the wishes of all of us here.

I might mention that here at the moment are **ex-A/T Corporal Henderson** and **ex-A/T Corporal Whitbread,** whom I'm sure you will remember. It seems Phillips gets the best of everything! Incidentally, I have had correspondence with **ex-A/T Corporal Horner** (Sharjah), **ex-A/T Lance-Corporal Colley** and **ex-A/Ts Brown** and **Collis,** all of Hong Kong. We Phillips, I'm proud to say, do stick together.

Lastly, I would very much like to say how I enjoyed being at Harrogate. This wasn't always obvious, but now I'm a bit older and, I hope, wiser, I realise the advantages that I have had.

I appreciate all that my instructors tried to teach me, and I am very grateful for an excellent start in life."

Yours sincerely,
S. A. ROGERS,
(ex-A/T and proud of it)."

In a follow-up letter, Lance-Corporal P. Whitbread writes:

"No doubt **Lance-Corporal Rogers** has already given you a detailed description of Bangkok, so there is little I can add. As I am an ex-Phillips lad, you may be interested in my progress in the Far East, also. I have now completed one year out here, three months being spent in Singapore with 237 Squadron and the remainder of the time in Bangkok. I count myself extremely lucky to be a member of this Troop, because I have been told that this is possibly the best posting in the British Army.

We are only a young Troop as far as age and experience are concerned, numbering 35 in all. This is a great advantage as far as learning a trade is concerned, because we are all learning together and being on shift work enables us to develop a greater understanding of our job in life because each individual has his own specific equipment and role in the running of this station, therefore individual talents show through. Before I left Harrogate I was extremely dubious about my own capabilities as a technician in the Regular Army, but I need never have worried. Everything we learned at Harrogate clicks into place as soon as you meet, in a working station, the equipment you have done theoretically.

I have recently returned from Singapore, where I successfully completed a four-week Line to Radio Relay conversion course. Passing this course is extremely important to me at the moment, because T2 upgrading courses resume in August, and there will be many Technicians eligible for a position on the course.

One can never feel lost because of the vast number of ex-Harrogate lads who are stationed all over Singapore.

There are many opportunities for sport in Bangkok. The Troop has an excellent football team, of which **Lance-Corporal Rogers, Lance-Corporal Henderson** and myself are all members, thus, in a little way, keeping the Phillips flag flying as far away as this. We have also just started to compete in rugby circles. Another sport in which we participate, but with little success, is ten-pin bowling, but we only do this to let the Americans know that a little piece of Britain exists here also, which surprises them immensely. In addition to these sports, we have our own motor launch, complete with water skis, housed at a small bay along the Siam Gulf. Many people agree that this bay is the nearest one is likely to see to a tropical paradise. The water is crystal clear and always calm. The beaches are like white soap-suds fringed by the ever-present palms of the east.

As you can see, I could never have hoped for a better post than the one I have, but alas, all good things must come to an end, and my tour in Bangkok terminates in about three months. However, I have been one of the lucky ones.

I would like to hear of the successes and achievements of the Squadron, in particular the night-marching.

Yours sincerely,
P. WHITBREAD"

Operation VS5RCS

A "HAM" radio expedition to remote Brunei State brings in no less than 3,350 contacts in four days.

"The Wire" is indebted to Captain (T.O.T.) D. A. Bowden, of Army Forces Signal Regiment, Malaysia, for the following account of a very successful visit to Brunei. (Captain Bowden is known severally as VS5RCS, alias 9M2NF, alias G3PNF, ex-DL2AB—Editor).

Accompanying Captain Bowden were Lieutenant (Tfc.) M. J. Caplan, from 252 Signal Squadron and W.O.II (F. of S.) J. Cooper from 17th Gurkha Division Signal Regiment.

It started from idle chatter



Captain Bowden 9M2NF/VS5RCS the writer of this article

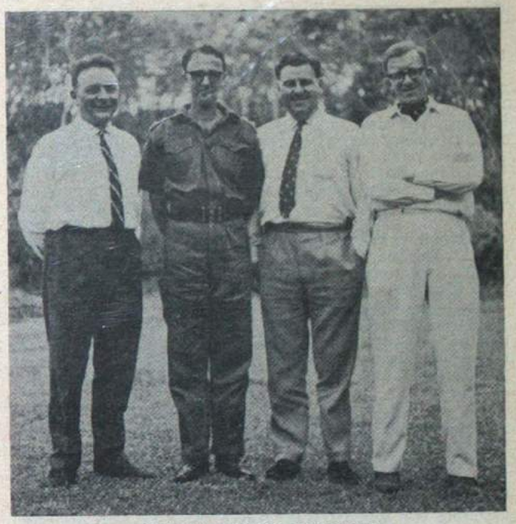
The whole project started really way back in August, 1967. Whilst talking the usual DX gossip with some W6 friends, the country of Brunei (VS5) was mentioned. Laughingly, I said I might go there one day to put in a few days' operating. The idea then lay dormant for some time, during which I found that there were many amateurs throughout the world who did need Brunei for a new country. Early in November, 1967, I wrote to Mike (VS5MH), he being the only station operating from Brunei, though he was not too active on the bands. Explaining my ideas for a dx-pedition to VS5, I sought his aid and, indeed, "blessing" for the trip. He welcomed the idea, in fact . . .we might take some of the weight off his shoulders!

But oh, those expenses!

The planning thus began to shape. Originally, I intended taking four operators for a week's operation. The team was to be **Jack** (9M2XX), **Bernie** (9M2BD), **Don** (HS3DR) and myself. Since we are all, except the wild bachelor of Thailand, family men, we, naturally enough I believe, did not want too large a drain on our pockets. Whilst quite prepared to meet our week's expenses in Brunei, plus the incidental expenses of the trip, we were not really prepared to find the U.S. $1,200, which was the sum necessary for transportation costs for four, including the excess baggage charges. After many enquiries, it became evident that no such sum could be expected from any source. Accordingly, I "trimmed my sails," cut the party down to just Jack and myself, and arrived at a figure of U.S. $400. Even this could not be managed, and at this stage I almost gave up. About this time, my Society had despatched some 5,000 blanks QSL cards to me; **Bill May** (W3RX) wrote volunteering to airfreight the Polyquad antenna to Brunei; **Sako Hasegawa** (JA1MP) offered the use of some of his excellent YAESU equipment, and I received several letters of encouragement for the trip. In view of all these factors, I decided that come what may, I would go over myself, in any case, and worry about finance later.

Preliminary plans are made

The dates for the trip were at this time quite flexible, so I took a good look at my 1967 log to see the dates of maximum propagation on both 15 and 20 metres. April, May and June were the best months of the year. The new Sultan of Brunei was to receive his coronation in June; I was to attend a Regimental Camp on the east coast of Malaysia the first week in May, so the last week in May/ first of June were chosen. We next explored the possibility of Jack going over by military aircraft and taking some of the gear to cut down the expense of excess baggage by commercial airline. The Royal Air Force came up trumps and could see no objections. They were running twice-weekly schedules on Thursdays and Mondays from Singapore to Brunei, so we could plan a four-day operation. **Maurice** (VS6AA) had by this time arrived in Hong Kong and expressed his willingness to join us, if this could be managed.



THEY MADE 3,350 CONTACTS
From Left to Right:—9M2XX W.O.II (F. of S.) J. C. Cooper, VS5MH Mike Heincen, Royal Brunei Police, 9M2NF Captain D. A. Bowden and VS6AA Lientenant Mike Caplan

Help from Japan

The operation was now well under way. The equipment had arrived (by devious means) at my QTH, the polyquad was in Brunei and Mike was busy getting it up on a 70ft. pole. The RSARS cards were overprinted locally, rubber stamps and supplies of envelopes, etc., placed on order. Yaesu had also offered some of their very attractive cards, and to have them overprinted in Japan. A minor catastrophe occurred when the printer's shop burned down in Tokyo, and I had to send another proof in a hurry! I had several offers from many kind people volunteering themselves as QSL manager for the trip. However, since my QTH was OK in the call book, and both my two daughters and I collect stamps, I decided I would do that task myself!

Into May now, and advance publicity in the magazines and news-sheets, plus many QSOs on the dx bands ensured maximum interest in the trip. Frequencies were decided upon, together with timings, etc. One minor problem then arose. What of all the boys in U.K. and elsewhere who owned KW2000s which would not go down to the chosen 21 mc/s frequency? Dividing the time spent on 21 mc/s, both below and above 21,300 should keep everyone happy. Corps Headquaters in Singapore set about arranging our accommodation, both in Brunei and in Singapore, for our overnight stays, outwards and inwards. They also took care of the transport arrangments to and from the airports.

The Collins Radio Co. now agreed to supply a 312B-5 remote VFO, so I could take my KWM2A and 30L1 along, and be able to work 'split-frequency' with them.

A splendid welcome

Early morning, 29th May, en route to Singapore. Pick up **Jack,** who is stationed with Gurkha Signals at Seremban. Arrive Singapore, met by **Maurice,** talk over operating tactics; too excited for much sleep. Next day fly to Brunei, six-hour flight. Met at airport by **Mike** and **Major Frank Stubbs,** also Royal Signals, commanding the Brunei Garrison. See **Cyril Parrott,** the State Controller of Telecoms for licence, proof of presence, etc. To **Mike's** QTH from where we shall operate. Look over the magnificent array of antennas **Mike** has erected for us. Besides the Polyquad for 10/15/20, we have dipoles for 40/80 metres at 70ft., separate no-compromise verticals as well—luxury! Check over and instal the gear, meet **Ann, Mike's** charming XYL, who did so much to make us welcome and keep us supplied with food and drinks during our 16 hours of operating each day.

The contacts come rolling in

11.00 G.M.T., Thursday, 30th May—contact! VS5RCS is on the air. First contact, KR6NR, a good friend in Okinawa. Next, a few of the local South East Asia boys. Will join SEANET at 12.00Z to give all members a contact with Brunei. From here on, when the bands are open, we do not have a spare moment. The noise on our receiving (and sometimes transmitting!) frequency has to be heard to be believed. There must be thousands calling us. QSY to 15, try 10, back to 20, down to 40, and then 80, so it went on through the night. Due to minor troubles the CW rig was not getting out so well the first evening. Thereafter neither rig faltered once. First night's score was 450 on SSB, about 100 on CW. Ten metres yielded very little throughout, 40 metres the same, and not one contact was made on 80. This, despite calling CQ "ad-nauseam" on these three bands in both modes. However, 15 and 20 were nearly always open in some direction.

The total score for the operation was 3,350 contacts of which 2,176 were SSB and 1,174 CW. **Maurice** says I can talk quicker than he can send! But to be fair, the SSB rig always had the Polyquad antenna — and we had a wider range of listening frequencies. The FT DX 100 only has ± 5Kc incremental on its receiver.

The number of 'G' contacts was disappointing. Only 96 on SSB and 44 on CW! Total R.S.A.R.S. members worked, 24. Perhaps the Whitsun weekend weather in U.K. was too good!

Total countries worked on SSB was 96 and on CW 66—but a combined total is 106, and thus DXCC was worked in the four days' operation.

During our short stay in Brunei, we were extremely well looked after by **Ann** and **Mike** during operating hours, and **Major Frank Stubbs** and his staff during our hours at Bolkiah camp. We usually operated from about 3 p.m. local through to 8 a.m. then back to camp for breakfast and bed. Sleep was at a premium, although **Ann** very kindly put down a makeshift bed under the living room fan, so that we could snatch an hour or so each, during the nights.

A wonderful four days

On reflection, we had a wonderful four days of amateur activity. Annoying, frustrating at times, it was nevertheless well worthwhile, a unique experience. One which we would not repeat in a hurry—but one which will always remain in our memories.

Come Monday morning, we closed down the station, re-packed all the gear and made ready for our return flight to Singapore. After farewells at the camp, and a small presentation ceremony for **Ann** and **Mike**, we leave, with the thought that there are now 3,350 amateurs less needing Brunei for a new one!

The hard part now has arrived—QSL'ing. To date (11th June) over 500 cards have been received (and answered). To those who have not yet sent, please, please, get your dates/times bands, etc., correct and in G.M.T.!

Where elephant, tiger and black panther roam.

On leave in the Malaysian National Park

A wealth of things to do

By Lieutenant C. D. Kemp of 18th Signal Regiment

MALAYSIA provides only two holiday resorts for the Serviceman, Penang and the Cameron Highlands. However, if you are prepared to sleep out and be bitten by strange bugs there is a wealth of things to do. One of the alternatives is a visit to the National Park or Taman Negara. The headquarters of the park is at Kuala Tahan. This is reached by travelling to Temerloh (almost in the centre of Malaysia) going to Mentakab to catch a train to Tembeling, and from there by boat to the headquarters. You may stay at the Rest House at Kuala Tahan or you can camp out. There are also lodges situated throughout the park, but the cheapest way to live is in a "bivvy" or "basha." The rules of the park are fairly strict, there is no hunting or shooting except with a camera and even this requires a licence.

Fishing par excellence

The fishing is quite excellent. The main fish found are of the carp variety, "Selah, Sebarau and Tengas." The best way to fish for these is by spinning, and they offer good sport. The fish are very strong and "mahseer" type hooks must be used as the normal section type hooks can be flattened. The fishing is not good during the monsoon season, November to January. There are several rivers to choose from and boats and guides (who certainly know where the fish are) can be hired for a few dollars day.

If you have the patience and the time there is a wealth of fauna to see. Elephant, tiger, tapir, wild pig, black panther, deer, can all be observed with a little patience. There are hides constructed in the clearings and salt flats for this purpose.

As in other parts of Malaysia, butterfiies of many species can be found. Exception is made with these and moths as they may be collected.

Amongst the other interesting features of the park are two mountains, both well worth climbing. They are Gunong Tahan and Guling Gendong. Tahan is quite a climb, and takes two days, but is well worth attempting. The other is a day's climb, and does not have the two-day approach march.

An elephant is sighted

There is swimming ten minutes away from Kuala Tahan and it was here I had my first sight of an elephant, a large male animal who preferred the solitude of the surrounding jungle to my company, and departed for the same at a surprisingly fast gait, huge ears going like wings.

To round a visit off there are some very good limestone caves (much better than the Batu Caves at Kuala Lumpur) at Kuala Kenyam where the air feels old and the bats squeak and blink at the intruders in their home.

A somewhat out of the ordinary holiday perhaps, not by any means exactly a rest either, but well worth the visit and the effort put in.

In the Land of the Young

Adventurous climbing in Skye

Written by Captain E. Pickup of 5 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron

THE last piece of serious climbing I had done before going abroad had been in the Black Cuillins in Skye in March, 1965, so I felt it rather appropriate that the first climbing trip that I should take part in after returning to the United Kingdom should be to those same hills. Looking at Skye from the mainland, it is easy to understand the old Gaelic legends of Tir Na Nog, the land of the young; the fairy isles. The crossing of the five-mile stretch of water from Mallaig to Armadale adds to the feeling of detachment from the everyday world, and the enchantment of the isles seems very real.

Fourteen of us were in the party from 5th Brigade Signal Squadron going for a week's adventure training on the island. Of the fourteen, four of us had fairly considerable climbing experience. **Signalman Waugh** and I are both full members of the Army Mountaineering Association; **Second-Lieutenant R. J. Ebdon** had done considerable climbing at Sandhurst, and **Sergeant Cooper**, from 15th Field Ambulance, had climbed in the Peaks and Wales when younger. So, as an adventure training party planning to climb, we started rather stronger than some previous parties I had known.

The great mass of the Black Cuillin

As we travelled in the bus from Armadale, I thought of the great mass of the Black Cuillin, particularly of the area where we planned to climb—Sron Na Ciche. In the early morning shadows, this great dark cliff appears vertical and forbidding from the far side of the valley, and one wonders where any routes exist on it. Well, soon we would be seeing it. In Carbost we turned on to the narrow Glenbrittle track and soon had our first close-up view of the hills. Snow still lay deeply in the northern gullies of Sgurr Nan Gillean and Bruach Na Frithe, even in late May, but the sun had been shining all day, and it looked as though we were in for a spell of really good weather. As we travelled down the glen, the mountains closed in from the east, giving everyone a much clearer idea of their height as they towered over the road, until eventually we passed the MA hut and turned off to **Willie Sutherlands'** bungalow, where we were staying.



The author of this article, Captain E. Pickup having a bit of lunch on Zig Zag about 600 ft. up

We were soon settled in and bedded down for an early night, having spent the previous night six to a carriage, by courtesy of BR. On the first morning we were up and away fairly early and set out on the three-mile walk to Coire Lagan, an enclosed basin high in the hills. Just below the lake we carried out our initial instruction in rock climbing techniques for our novices, on the lower slopes of Sgurr Sgumain. With four leaders, this was fairly quickly and easily achieved, and in the afternoon we headed for Central Gully, a climb of about 500ft., graded 'difficult' in the guide book, but one I knew that held no real snags for beginners with a competent top rope. To others in the valley, we must have provided a rather amusing sight, with four leaders operating a chain of ropes between pitches. After a couple of hours we reached the amphitheatre, a huge basin of rock set halfway up the cliff, and from there we descended by Cioch Gully and set off on our way back to Glenbrittle. That evening we took a bus to Portree, to find the locals celebrating Skye Week—and what a celebration! Being located some nine miles from the nearest pub, we made the most of our visit and then went on to the local dance—quite a happening!

For the next three days we continued training on the 'difficult' climbs of Sron Na Ciche, with the aim on the last couple of days of taking the most able of the beginners on the longer and more exacting routes.

On the 28th we set off to tackle two of these routes. **Sergeant Cooper** and I planned to climb Cioch direct, a 'mild severe,' with **Signalman Lowery** and **Signalman Walker** as our two beginners on the rope. **Second-Lieutenant Ebdon** and **Signalman Waugh** planned to do Cioch West a "V Diff" on the same group of rocks with **Signalman Madden** and **Signalman Bensusan.**

Cioch Direct, 400ft.

Sergeant Cooper led off up the first pitch and I followed him up to climb on through to the top of the second pitch. The Cuillin guide book is renowned for being fairly vague on routes and lengths of pitches, and this one proved to be no exception. (From shouts and views being expressed around the corner, I gather **Second-Lieutenant Ebdon's** rope was also having some problems in route finding). As the route had now become much more tricky, I decided that I would lead on each pitch, put our two novices in the middle and have **Sergeant Cooper** bring up the rear. The top of my third pitch was immediately below a slightly overhanging crack. Here there were good belays, and I reckoned I wouldn't fall very far even if I came out of the crack, having **Sergeant Cooper** belayed about ten feet below me. In the event, the crack went without any trouble, and I got to the top of the fourth pitch and a good belay stance. When the others had joined me, I had to make a choice of routes, and found the guide book once again of little assistance. Basically, the choice lay between a delicate traverse, mostly by hand over a 300ft. drop, or to continue straight up a vertical crack with few holds and no view of another belay stance. I chose the route straight up and began to regret it as the holds got thinner and no useful belays appeared. Eventually, after about 90ft., I reached an old Hiatt piton hammered into the crack



An airy viewpoint. Signalman Waugh watches the progress of our second rope from the top of central gully

and thankfully put on a running belay. Another twenty feet or so and the angle started to ease and the worst of the climb was over. The others had a fairly long and strenuous struggle up to the ledge I was on and then one more pitch saw us on a wide terrace ledge at the end of the climb.

Cioch West, 400ft.

Second-Lieutenant Ebdon's comments:

Having been thinking about short 'VS' climbs I ran at the start of a 'V-Diff' only to find myself in difficulties at about 80ft. with no running belays. A rapid reappraisal was carried out and the crack and chimney of the first pitch climbed strenuously but with no technical difficulty. **Signalman Waugh** came next and led through the next pitch. The two novices, **Signalman Bensusan** and **Signalman Madden** joined us. **Bensusan** moving through to join **Waugh** on the second pitch. When I reached the second pitch I found **Waugh** had gone off route, and having secured our two beginners on a good ledge which led off the climb, I went up to assist **Waugh.** When we returned to the ledge we found our two novices had seen, or heard, enough and had left the climb by the easy ledge. They sat at the bottom to watch our progress with interest.

I led the next pitch and brought **Waugh** up. He continued on through over a really airy piece of traversing about 200ft. up, the mental crux of the climb. We then trotted up to the top of the Cioch by way of an overhanging wall, steep slabs and a vicious crack. The next problem was how to get down. This was solved by an abseil down over slabs using some fixed ropes which appeared to have been there since the 19th century.

Our final day of climbing was planned to be a fairly gentle day climbing ziz-zag, a 1,500ft. 'difficult' on the main face.



Lunch at the foot of the crag. *Left to right:* Signalman Madden, Signalman Waugh, Signalman Lowery

Certainly the climbing was no more than 'difficult' at any stage in the climb, but the exposure for most of the climb could only be described as sensational, with a clear drop of about 700ft. to the screes below, as we turned on to the final arete. In the end, hardly a gentle day; we started the climb at ten o'clock and finished at five, climbing continuously except for a short lunch break.

On the final day as we planned to leave, the skies turned grey and bad weather set in. We had been most lucky to have a week of really glorious weather giving good climbing conditions. Lastly, a word of sympathy for our one injury, **Signalman Madden,** who gashed his thumb badly — opening a bottle of beer!

Planning has now started for our next climbing trip—Lundy Isle, in September.

19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. Colchester

("The Trouble Shooters")

MAY and June have been busy months for the unit. During May we helped to run an inter-Battalion Recce Platoon competition in Germany. (See full account below). June was taken up with small exercises, culminating in the major Brigade exercise of the year, "Baker's Dozen IV." (An account of this exercise will be included in the next issue).

Farewell to Major-General Deane-Drummond

On 23rd June we were honoured in being asked to provide a quarter guard for **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C.,** during his farewell visit to 19th Brigade. The General was suitably impressed by the guard, and after his inspection, met the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron in the Sergeants' Mess. As the General was flying himself, it was strictly soft drinks only.

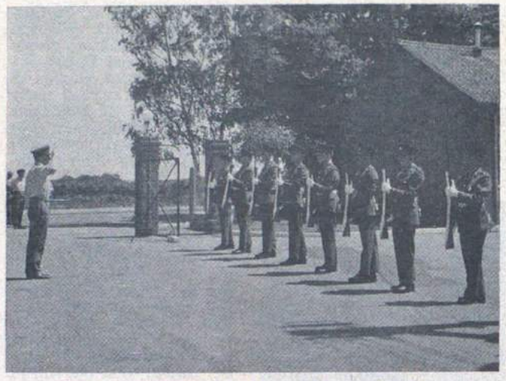
Farewell to Mrs. Bowler

Mrs. M. Bowler was presented with a bouquet following a presentation by **Brigadier W. N. R. Scotter,** Brigade Commander, of a 19th Infantry Brigade brooch to mark her retirement. "Mum," as **Mrs. Bowler** was known to all in Cherry Tree Camp, as well as throughout many military and G.P.O. telephone exchanges, had served as our telephone operator for almost eight years. In addition, she has been a real "Mum" to all who have passed through Cherry Tree Camp during her stay with us. All ranks, past and present, wish her well in her well-earned retirement.

Exercise "May Duke"

Introduction

Exercise "May Duke" was the annual 19th Infantry Brigade Inter-Battalion Recce Platoon and Intelligence Section Competition. The aim of the exercise being to test Recce Platoons in all their skills, i.e., signals, tactics, map-reading and mounted drills. Platoons from four Battalions took part—2 R. Anglians, 1 P.W.O., 1 Green Howards, 1 Staffords.



A SALUTE FOR GENERAL DEANE-DRUMMOND

The quarter guard of 19 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron present a smart salute to General Deane-Drummond on his 'farewell' visit to the Brigade

A large majority of the Squadron was involved as Brigade Headquarters thought that we were the most likely unit to succeed in organising the signals exercise and administering the exercise base camp. No doubt we were . . . but read on!

Being part of the Strategic Reserve, it was thought that a trip to Germany would make a pleasant change. The exercise took place south of Route 1, between Lippstadt and Paderborn, and the base camp was set up in the village of Meerhof, 25 kilometres south of Paderborn.

Move out

Being an airportable untit, it seemed only natural that no aircraft would be available, and that we would have to travel to Germany by sea.

The advance party of fourteen, sailed from Marchwood on 6th May in an L.C.T. bound for Antwerp. Mind you, it was not until they were actually on board the ship that they were sure of how they were travelling. In the two weeks before departure, they were originally told that the boat would be an L.C.T. It was then changed to an L.S.L., followed quickly by a shipping note indicating that the S.S. *Gaelic Ferry* would be pleased to convey them. However, either because there was no money, or the M.O.D. plumped for the "number it first thought of," they finally boarded the L.C.T. *Aquila.*

The journey itself was uneventful, and after a smooth crossing lasting twenty-four hours, the L.C.T. docked in Antwerp at midday on the Tuesday. The party disembarked, and after a short refuelling stop at Grobbendonk, they moved on to H.Q., 20 Armoured Brigade, Detmold, arriving at midnight, much to the surprise of the Brigade Headquarters, who were expecting them twenty-four hours later. However, the host unit reacted quickly and soon provided accommodation. All was forgiven the following morning, when the signal, telling 20th Armoured Brigade of the early arrival of our advance party, arrived!

The main party embarked on an L.S.L., the *Sir Tristram,* on Wednesday, 8th May, two days after the advance party. Forty-eight hours later, they disembarked at Antwerp after a crossing which had only taken an L.C.T. 24 hours! **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Windebank** was invited to describe this "cruise" as part of this article, but, even after a major editorial job, it was still not fit to be published (hence the delay in submission to THE WIRE). It was apparent that the R.S.M. wished to forget his experiences on board, and so, rather than cause an increase in blood pressure, it was decided not to include details of this part of the journey. However, those contemplating travelling on an L.S.L. are strongly advised to contact **W.O.I Windebank** at the earliest opportunity.

After disembarking, a Belgian police escort took the convoy through Antwerp at a thunderous pace—any thoughts of sightseeing were quickly dispelled! On to Grobbendonk for refuelling, and then the last lap of the journey into Germany, to the base camp at Meerhof, arriving during the evening of Friday, 10th May.

Base Camp

The site for the base camp was just outside Meerhof, on a piece of waste ground adjacent to the village football ground. The waste ground itself was only large enough for four marquees, and so the accommodation tents and vehicles had to be squeezed into the pine woods alongside. It was obvious to the advance party, as soon as it saw the location, that with all the rain that had fallen, and with more forecast, that it would soon be churned up into a sea of mud. Who could be blamed for this site, when the original recce had been done when there was snow on the ground! There must be a moral to this somewhere. (Staff Officers, 19th Infantry Brigade H.Q. please note).

The advance party was not allowed to move into this area until Friday, 10th May, and with the main party arriving that evening, there was much to be done in a short time. However, with assistance from 20th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, in the form of equipment, 10-ton and Stalwart load carriers, and a party of M.S.O., the camp was ready when the main party arrived (thank you, 20th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron for all your help).

The Competition

It is worth mentioning here that the weather for the next nine days was not good. We experienced rain, hail, snow, and more rain, with occasional glimpses of the sun, just to remind us that it still existed.

After a weekend of sorting out equipment, final recces, and briefings, the competition started on the Monday, 13th May.

The signals exercise was organised by **Captain Shiner,** with the able assistance of **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Newson** and **Corporal Hawkins** on the typewriter. The aim of the exercise was to test each vehicle crew of the Recce Platoon in operating, voice and TG procedures, set manipulation and basic fault-finding.

The initial assumption that all Recce Platoons are organised as per "The Infantry Battalion in Battle" was quickly thrown out. Only two platoons were equipped the same, and so the competition had to be altered to cater for the remaining two. This posed a problem on marking, but in the end a solution was formulated which satisfied all the platoon commanders. The standard of each platoon varied, but on the whole was good. The usual "howlers" cropped up, and in one case the platoon commander was most surprised to learn that he should really scramble his grid references before putting them into slidex, contrary to the practice of his whole Battalion!

The return

We left Meerhof on 23rd May to return to U.K. Compared with the outward move, the return journey via Townsend Ferries, was at near the speed of light. All went well until we reached H.M. Customs at Dover. Obviously they had been tipped off that we were smuggling 'pot,' Pakistanis and perfume. Our vehicles and personal belongings were examined in minute detail—award to the greatest evader of excise men went to the O.C., who managed to conceal 100 bottles of wine; the wooden spoon went to the R.Q.M.S. who, it is rumoured, has now given up smoking.

Conclusion

Everyone in the Squadron learnt a great deal about the capabilities of an Infantry Recce Platoon, and the administration of a large base camp under adverse weather conditions. The exercise was acclaimed a great success by all concerned, due mainly to the efforts of Royal Signals, both in the fields of administration and communications.

(19th Infantry Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron are keen to recruit ambitious, keen young soldiers in search of a varied and exciting life. Anyone interested should apply for transfer to this unit, through the normal channels, as soon as possible).

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W.O.'s AND SERGEANT'S MESS, 24 INF. BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Back Row—Left to Right:—**Sergeants Purnell, Bamford, Gaughan, Dodd, Jennings, Wilson, Waddingham, Pluck, Welsh, Oswick, McIvor-Jones, Smith, Pennington, Tapp, Davis.**

Centre Row—Left to Right:—**Sergeants Dickinson, Jackson, Hughes; Staff-Sergeants Jenkins, Cooper, Drane, Gardner, Anderson, Stevenson, Gardner (R.M.P.), Roberts; Sergeants Clarke, Tyler, Thomas, Birrell, Elliott.**

Seated — Left to Right: — **Staff-Sergeants Richardson, Geldard; W.O.II's Stoney, Glenville, Croucher; W.O.I's Marston, Saville; Brigadier H. D. G. Butler; R.S.M. Ient; Major P. D. Alexander; W.O.I Chalmers; W.O.II's Briggs, Bell, Crowson; Staff-Sergeants Simmonds, Lynch**

24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (210) Plymouth

WE have managed to pack the two months since our last notes pretty full of activity and should have no difficulty in filling our allotted space and more, without mentioning *any* of the Editor's ' hates ' like Administration Inspections.

Ten Tors

Readers of the June/July WIRE will know all about this annual expedition and the Corps interest in it. This year, for the first time we played a major part in the organisation and communications layout. Despite appalling weather (too bad alas, for photographs) all went very well. As relative newcomers to the game, we will be interested in the reaction of some of the veterans of Ten Tors to this year's arrangements.

The Transatlantic single handed race

We had a particular interest in one entry, *Gancia Girl*, a trimaran, sailed by **Captain Martin Minter-Kemp** of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Our F. of S., **Staff/Sergeant George Geldard, Corporal Bill Heath** helped with the installation of the radio aboard and we were interested to contact **Brigadier Moppett,** late of the Corps, but now with **Messrs. Pye,** who supplied the set. **Corporal Tony Cleary,** our Squadron P.R. expert, appeared to take some photographs of *Gancia Girl* at Millbay Docks before the race, got involved in a Press briefing and ended up with two tickets for the R.N. frigate taking the Press out to see the start. That boy never misses a trick.

Exercises and Visits

Alas, we are not getting an overseas exercise this year, but we are seeing all the most rugged parts of Britain including Northern Ireland, Cape Wrath in North Scotland, Sennybridge in South Wales, and the dreaded Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor, nearer home. In early June, we took part in the 3rd Division C.P.X. " Short Tack III." For once, the sun shone, North Cornwall was at its best and all was well. In case they think we are an unkind lot, we hasten to tell our colleagues in 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment that any comparison between J.F.H.Q. in the field and Royal Cornwall Show is purely accidental. On a more serious note we were pleased to welcome during the exercise **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray,** C.S.O. Army Strategic Command, and **Colonel J. R. Piddington,** C.S.O. 3rd Division.

Later in June we visited Sennybridge for an exercise which included providing an enemy force from the Squadron for an infantry battalion exercise. A fine body of men they were, too. led by **Sergeant 'Nobby' Clarke,** R.P.C., our Defence and Employment platoon expert, and **Sergeant Charles Tapp,** for whom it was a rather unkind change from the cipher office. The only thing to mar the exercise was the weather. We can assure those who don't know that in Wales, when its not raining, it hails! We do not wish to see a repeat of the sight of our Squadron Commander in psychedelic pyjamas and gum boots at 4 a.m. in a torrential downpour. In July we are off to Scotland; in accordance with our amphibious role we are going with our vehicles in a Logistic landing ship and landing across a beach at Cape Wrath. It will be a new venture to leave Plymouth by sea, in keeping with the noble traditions of that port (e.g. the Pilgrim Fathers, Sir Francis Drake—or perhaps the sailing of the Tolpuddle Martyrs would be nearer the mark!).



FOUR L.S. AND G.C.'S IN ONE SQUADRON—AND ALL EX-BOYS TOO!

Left to right:—Squadron Commander and G.O.C. 3rd. Division, R.S.M. John Ient, W.O.II Dave Crowson, Staff-Sergeant Phil Simmonds, Corporal David Hicks

Stop Press

We have managed to get 12 men away to Cyprus for a week for a mobilization exercise. There was great competition for the 12 places!

G.O.C's Farewell

In between exercises, on Monday, 17th June, we had a farewell visit from **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C.,** G.O.C. 3rd Division and Representative Colonel-Commandant Royal Signals. After inspecting the Quarter Guard, the General presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to four members of the Squadron. We reckon it is rare for as many as four to be presented at one time in one Squadron. The other interesting feature of the presentation was that all four recipients were ex-boys. They were **W.O.I (R.S.M.) John Ient, W.O.II (A.Q.M.S.) Dave Crowson,** R.E.M.E., **Staff/Sergeant Phil Simmonds** and **Corporal David Hicks.** The General spoke to the Squadron on parade, and also had a word with the spectators, who included **Colonel J. R. Piddington,** C.S.O. 3rd Division, and his wife.

All work and play makes . . .

We have fitted in a good deal of out of hours activity—not only on the sporting side. During the last two months we have had six marriages (**Drivers Ian Patterson, James Turner** and **David Anthony, Lance-Corporal Geof Read,** R.A.O.C., **Signalmen James Murphy** and **James McAuley**) and four more are imminent. Our congratulations to them all; at the same time we remind them of the fact that single men are either tall or short, but married men are always short.

We have mentioned the Squadron's amphibious role; our sporting activities have centred on the water, too. Our water polo and swimming teams, under **R.S.M. John Ient,** had a great success at the district swimming meeting, winning the Minor Units relay trophy and winning their way to the water polo final, only to be defeated by a narrow margin. Our fishermen are active, too, under **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Ken Glenville,** who has one of the Squadron boats well organised for sea fishing. The canoeists have been active under the Second-in-Command, **Captain Martin Gray** and **Corporal Brian Davis,** both Army colours. The sailors, led by **Corporal George Marshall,** are just getting organised and we have even had some under-water activity in the aqualung section of our very comprehensive, water sports club. On land, our sporting achievements have been modest. The cricket team was knocked out of the Divisional cricket competition, despite the presence of the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier H. D. G. Butler,** in the team. The Brigadier also plays for our hockey team, and we find that his presence has a daunting effect on the opposition! Our shooting team acquitted itself well at the South West United Services and Royal Signals Southern Command Meetings.

Their most notable achievement was winning a magnificent " pot " for a first in the L.M.G. pairs at the South West United Services' meeting. Our tug-of-war team has won its way to the Southern Command final of the 88-stone competition, combining brawn with brain. To finish the account of our spare time activities we must mention our most successful All Ranks' dance on 14th June. This is becoming a six-monthly feature and proves a very popular event, thanks to the hard work of the Dance Committee, led by **Sergeant Thomas Hughes**

Sergeants' Mess

On Friday, 7th June, the Sergeants' Mess played host to their ladies for a formal dinner and dance with over 80 in attendance, The Mess was bursting at the seams. However, with some excellent work by the chef, **Corporal Danny Brown,** and a bottle or two of fine wine, accompanied by a Piper from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a most enjoyable evening. We look forward to many more such occasions.

Comings and Goings and . . .

We welcome **Lieutenant P. Stanley, Second-Lieutenant A. Wallace, Corporals Bill Davis, Bryan Davidson, 'Andy' Anderson, Pete Pestridge, Arthur Bennett** (R.P.C.), **Lance-Corporal Stan Stevens, Signalmen Phil Jones, Ronald Attwood, Malcolm Roebuch, Drivers Barry Metters, Terry Nichols, Privates Charlie Bartell, John Blue, John Williams, Brian Emmott, Roland Cheethan, Charlie Laing, Dennis Fard,** (R.P.C.).

Farewells

Farewell to **Corporals Tom 'Lofty' Nall, Stan Ryde** (R.P.C.), **Paddy Davis** (R.P.C.), **Mike Dixon** (R.P.C.), **Lance-Corporals John Noeken** (Intelligence Corps), **Privates Larry Calliste, Dave Connell, Danny Boddington, Allan Wilkes, Bill Smith** (R.C.P.).

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (212) B.F.P.O. 36

" Heave or sink it, leave or drink it,
We were the masters of the sea!"
—(Rudyard Kipling).

Exercise " June Bug "

THE stage was set for this year's summer camp as early as June last year, when we left Danisch Nienhof after a very enjoyable camp, determined to return: Danisch Nienhof is a small village on the Baltic Coast some 30 miles north of Kiel, and is an ideal location for a Adventure Training Camp.

Apart for the advance party we travelled by train and arrived at the local railway station to be met by the smiling faces of the Second-in-Command, **Captain Paul Webb** and **Sergeant Bob Charles,** both of whom were attired in somewhat avant-garde summer clothing, at mid-day on 8th June.

The camp had been erected about 100 yards from the beach, and all we had to do was to find a space in a tent and have lunch. Nothing was organised for the first day, so the afternoon and evening were spent exploring and renewing old friendships.



"WHERE ARE WE NOW?"
Signalmen 'Jock' McCarthy and 'Mick' Reynolds during the Initiative and Map Reading exercise

Our first task the following morning was to launch our assault boats and canoes, and **Captain Beverley Yates** and **Sergeant Tony Adams** gave us all instruction in watermanship. In the afternoon we did our annual P.E. tests and started off well with **Corporal " Sandy " Nordin** breaking his leg. The following day we spent on an initiative and map reading exercise which certainly found out how good we were at catching lifts in passing cars. We were certainly surprised at one stage when we were faced with changing a Land Rover wheel against the clock. The winning team for the exercise was led by **Corporal Dave Newbery.**



OF COURSE THERE IS ALWAYS SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT FV 432's

CCR Signals, Captain Bev. Yates, Lieutenant Ian Pattison and Major John Stevens discussing problems of FV 432 Command Vehicles

We played two football matches against local teams but unfortunately, the competition was a bit stronger than we had expected, and we lost both matches. Other off duty activities included swimming, fishing, boating, canoeing, badminton and sunbathing. Several of us went out for cruises in 100 metre yachts from the Royal Kiel Yacht Club.

Saturday, 15th June, saw feverish activity in the local woods collecting wood for a fire on the beach alongside which we were to have a barbecue. Unfortunately, one truck load slipped into a ditch and **Corporal Tony Evans** will never get over the embarrassment of having to be recovered by the German Navy. The barbecue was a great success, and the rest of the evening was spent round the fire drinking ale and singing some of the more favourite Army songs.

Captain Ken Adrian, our M.T.O., ran a very successful Hare and Hounds with the whole route signed with our Brigade exercise route signs, borrowed from the R.M.P. The hare was **Signalman Vic Thompson,** and the winning hound was **Lance-Corporal John Taylor.**

On the last afternoon, **Lieutenant Ian Pattison,** our new "A" Troop Commander, organised a Potted Sports Meeting, which was won by a team from the Brigade Flight Army Air Corps.

All good things all too soon come to an end, and after 10 days of very hot weather, during which time there was no rain, 140 very brown and very fit members of the Unit arrived back in Osnabruck. Without doubt, we shall re-live Exercise "June Bug" over many a pint of beer in the various Messes for some time to come.

Visit from C.C.R. Signals

Two days after our return from the Baltic, we were visited by **Brigadier J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** C.C.R Signals 1 (BR) Corps. During his morning with the Unit he met as many of its members as possible and had coffee with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, a pre-lunch beer in the Corporals' Mess and lunch with the Squadron Officers in the Brigade Officers' Mess.

Exercise "Summer Sales"

The weather has certainly been with us lately, for during Exercise "Summer Sales," the temperature broke all records. To practice our local air defence, we asked for photographic reconnaissance missions to be flown by the R.A.F., and it was with pleasure that we could not see anything but trees on their photographs. Maybe our camouflage is far better than the R.S.M. tells us it is!

Internal Courses

By the time these notes are published we will have completed a M.P.C. II and be well into a F.V. 432 drivers' course. Many of us, including your scribe, will have managed to snatch some well deserved leave before the autumn exercise mania catches up on us.

223 Signal Squadron, Barton Stacey

One year old

THE Unit is now one year old and therefore we think old enough to appear in print. To date we have had a few growing pains but our health and vitality have seen us over the humps and slowly but surely order and form have appeared.

At the time of writing we are still occupying our temporary accommodation at Barton Stacey. Coming from the fleshpots of Europe and points East, many new arrivals have looked with something less than pleasure at the rather bleak aspect of 'B' Camp. However, everyone seems to have adapted rather well and we are making the best of things while hoping for more gracious living when our permanent home is ready at Bushfield, Winchester.

The Squadron's growth has been sure but hardly steady. Rumour had it at one time that this was to be a Unit in which the officers would out-number the rest. That rumour lasted until further postings-in suggested that in fact the Sergeants' Mess would command a majority. Officers and Senior N.C.O.s have now been overtaken by events and Records have redressed the balance.

No small impression in the local sporting world

While still in its infancy the Squadron has made no small impression on local sport. Last summer under the captaincy of our Q.M., **Captain Jack Needham,** the cricket team won the Aldershot District Minor Units Cup and finished the season without losing a match.

The hockey team with the O.C., **Major John Heyes,** at the helm won through to the final of the Minor Units Cup but had to be content with the runners-up medals.

In a somewhat protracted season the football team has always been near or at the top of the local league table. Most of the team's goals (58 in 12 games) were scored by the captain and centre-forward, **Sergeant Ted Appleby.** He is now out of the game recovering from a broken collarbone, and while his advice from the touchline is appreciated (by some) his goal scoring ways are sorely missed.

One of the hardest worked members has been **Lieutenant Dick Drew,** who, as Unit Families' Officer, has the job of finding accommodation for our many married personnel. His journeyings around the Hampshire countryside in search of empty houses have well earned him his abbreviated title of "U.F.O." His labours are illustrated by the fact that our hirings and quarters are now spread over an estimated 530 square miles. A busy man, our Dick!

Kindly neighbours

Our neighbours here at Barton Stacey have been very kind to us, birds of passage though we are. We owe a special vote of thanks to **Lieutenant-Colonel Garnett** and all ranks of 16th Light Air Defence Regiment, R.A., who housed us, fed us, and generally looked after us during the Squadron's first weeks of existence.

Our R.E. Cousins of 42 Survey Engineer Regiment and the other local Sapper Units have also lent many a helping hand. We hope we can return some of their hospitality when we are "At Home" in Bushfield.

225 Signal Squadron in the Baltic

A Sailing-Mad S.I.O.

A COMBINATION of factors—*Petasus,* based on Kiel for the 1968 season, plus the appointment of a sailing-mad S.I.O.—led to the formation of a plan, i.e., the Squadron must charter *Petasus* for up to three weeks, with three different crews and see salt water. The problem, as always, was how to pay for it. "Adventure Training" was the answer, and the magic wand was waved by H.Q., R.A., 1st Division, who very generously allowed us £80 out of their Divisional slice. The correct forms were filled in, the boat was correctly booked through **Major Finch,** of 1st Division Signal Regiment and we were off. On 18th April, the first crew, consisting of **Major Bird, Sergeant Irving, Signalmen Moseley and Weir,** and **Signalman Johnson,** who joined the ship at Kiel and without delay set sail for Sonderborg in Denmark. We were joined on this first cruise by the boat's hand **Corporal Sedgbeer,** who contributed handsomely to the fun.



SEA DOGS AT REST

At Samso island a little relaxation is the order of the day. *Left to right:*—Corporal Plaskitt, Major Bird, Sergeant Parry, Lance-Corporal Phillips



SEAGOING SIGNALMEN

Skipper Mosely at the helm. Unidentified body not feeling the motion but unravelling a fishing line!

Sonderborg, Assens, Faaborg, Soby, Aeroskobing, Marstal and Kiel. All too soon the week was over and we were on our way back to Brunswick, full of sun, wind and Watneys Pale Ale (in tins).

We shall do the same next year

The next two weeks, from 4th to 18th May, were equally successful, with no thanks to the weather, which was cold, wet and either too windy for comfort or altogether windless. In addition to **Major Bird,** the two crews were **Sergeant Parry, Corporals Kinnar, Plaskitt, Westwell** and **Holmes, and Signalman Seaword, Phillips, Colley, Bottomley** and **Mitchell.** Most of them were new to sailing and the sea, and the greatest credit is due to them for the way they kept their spirits up, even when losing the last meal or two over the side!

We broke no records, either for distance or speed, but we can say that we learnt a lot, both about ourselves and about the sea. For the record, we went north as far as the Island of Samso and sampled a good few of the harbours of the Islands of Fuen, Langeland, Aero and Als.

If fortune smiles (H.Q., R.A., 1st Division please note!) we shall do the same next year.

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227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

By way of a re-introduction

IT seems a very long time since we last "hit the print" in this magazine, and a very, very long time since we moved out of France. We have had three shots at THE WIRE in the last 18 months, one to tell you we were terminating many happy years of life in Margival, France, and moving to Maastricht, the Netherlands. The second to tell you we had arrived in our new location and inviting you to come and join us, and in the November/December, 1967, issue we reported on the visit of the Represenative Colonel Commandant at that time, **Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson, C.B.E.,** E.R.D.

Now we are back again with more news and views with the intention of bringing you up-to-date with our movement, and also to convince ourselves that we are still very much alive despite all the threats of disbandment and the "penny-packet" ideas on "integrate to disintegrate."

In the last eight months we have donated much of our time to re-building component vehicles of the AFCENT Mobile Communications Centre, and preparing for and taking part in no less than seven exercises, which averages out at one nearly every four weeks. And we have still found the time to enjoy numerous visits and inspections, parades, military training, sports and social evenings.

Visits, Inspections and Parades

The Squadron was pleased to receive a visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Anderson,** on 6th December, 1967. The General met the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.'s in the N.C.O.'s Club and **Mrs. Anderson** was entertained by members of the Wives' Club in the Officers' Coffee Room. Lunch was arranged in the Dutch Officers' Mess, and in addition to **General** and **Mrs. Anderson,** our guests included **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.,** C.S.O., B.A.O.R., **Colonel D. M. Haslehust, Colonel W. W. Cock** and **Colonel H. H. Kassels,** the Dutch Garrison Commander.

On 16th January, **Colonel T. H. C. Grigg,** Officer-in-Chief Royal Signals Records, visited the Squadron and gave a lecture on redundancy and promotion within the Corps. Our Annual Inspection was carried out by the Commander British Army Element, **Brigadier J. R. Cave-Brown, M.C.,** on 9th February. Everything very satisfactory. International visits have included **Colonel Russell M. Heller,** U.S.A.F., our new Headquarters Commandant, fresh from Vietnam, on 28th March, and **Lieutenant-General F. A. Palm,** N.L.A. Chief-of-Staff, AFCENT, on 2nd May.

A detachment of 30 men, under **Sergeant R. Bates** and commanded by **Lieutenant P. J. Walls,** represented the Squadron on the Queen's Birthday Parade, held at H.Q. AFCENT, Brunssum, on 8th June. The March Past was taken by **Air Chief Marshal Sir Augustus Walker, K.C.B., O.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C.,** Deputy CINCENT.

L.S. and G.C. presented to W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) C. H. Surch



A WELL EARNED L.S. & G.C. MEDAL
W.O.II C. H. Surch receives the medal from Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh

W.O.II C. H. Surch, enlisted at Coventry in August, 1949, and on completing his trade training at the old 2 T.R., was posted to Singapore District Regiment in 1950-53. The next four years was spent in A.A. Regiments, 2 A.A. and 46 H.A.A., and then in 1957, he was posted to 236 Squadron, Nairobi. In 1960, **W.O.II Surch** was back in Catterick as S.S.I. at 12th Regiment and later 8th Regiment. Before joining this Squadron he served with the Junior Leaders' Regiment at Newton Abbot. His exemplary character during his service has earned him the award of the L.S. and G.C. Medal, and the Squadron were all



IMPORTANT OCCASION
Air Chief Marshall Sir Augustus Walker, Deputy Cincent talking to Lance-Corporal D. Blackall, on the Queen's Birthday Parade

on parade when the presentation was made by **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.,** C.S.O. B.A.O.R. on 16th May **W.O.II Surch** is shortly to leave us on promotion to W.O.I (R.S.M.) of 37th Regiment (V).

Attachments

Several officers and one senior N.C.O. from the 33rd Regiment (V), the AFCENT Reserve Signal Regiment, have spent several fact-finding days with the Squadron as their Annual Camp training, with a good deal of information, news and views passing in both directions to the mutual benefit of both Units. We look forward to meeting the entire Unit later this year when they take part in an AFCENT exercise.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Exercise "Pig's Trotter"

Since our last write-up there seems to have been an increase in activity on the operational side. As we approach FALLEX '68, there is a joint effort by all sections to ensure our high efficiency is maintained. Towards this we have had several training exercises during the sunny months and our Belgian neighbours are now getting used to the spectacle of our huge vehicles roaring through their sleepy villages at all hours of the day and night. Rather like old times again. Whilst not seeming to prove anything to the bulk of the operators our Chiefs seemed to be quite satisfied with the end product and at least one Sergeant was heard to be moaning the fact that he had to leave his crypto vehicle (with all mod cons) whilst one of our two Yeoman caught up on his beauty sleep. Anyway, he didn't seem to mind roughing it with the "lads."

Our biggest headache is keeping active between exercise periods and it was to do just this that Exercise "Pig's Trotter" was organised. This was a map reading, marching and initiative exercise with the whole section, Americans, Germans and British taking part. The word SNAFU was heard coming from our American friends on several occasions during the exercise (no prize for interpretations) and there was a mad scramble towards the direction of the M.I. Room for "chits."

However, the exercise got off to a good start. We marched over various courses being controlled by **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Giles,** and this idea of swanning was scorned, however, by **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Adcock** and **Captain Gautsch** (our German Chief), who preferred to participate, and were quick to point out later to everyone that they finished the course in the fastest time, (a fact that seems to have escaped everyone's notice). Everybody somehow managed to finish the course and Specialist 4 Brumit's (U.S. Army) blisters seemed to die somewhat when he spied the crates of beer being consumed in the reception area. The *pièce de rèsistance,* however, was the barbecued pig ably prepared by **Oberbootsmann Preis,** German Navy (ex-submarines). This was consumed with gusto by all, and at least one American Sergeant was seen to be rather "ill" after his several portions. The whole thing went off rather well and

(*Continued on page* 313)

the organizers were satisfied the lesson was well learnt. Whilst the German organized the refreshments, the Americans the barbecue, it may well be asked what the British did towards the exercise. Well, we organised the route march, didn't we.

Battle Efficiency Training

The month of May saw the commencement of this year's Battle Efficiency Training programme. During the programme, each soldier completes a course consisting of four days under canvas. During which time, all aspects of battle training are covered, with emphasis on fieldcraft, unarmed combat, and, of course, marching, approximately 60 miles are covered during the four days.

Many sore feet are to be seen at the end of each course, but everyone enjoys themselves, nevertheless.

Feet were not the only things that suffered, and one unfortunate soldier sat in a bed of nettles. All took their turn on night sentry duty. One sentry came rushing heroically to the rescue one night when loud cries of horror came from one of the tents. A "wild beast" had invaded the tent and the occupant sat gazing at it as though hypnotised.

You can imagine the S.S.M.'s comments when the "horror" was revealed as a mole, which had emerged through the floor of the tent. It was a pity it was a German-speaking mole or we might have persuaded it to give us a few tips on tunnelling.

However, the gallant British soldier got his revenge. No. 1 Section was cautiously patrolling a road, when one member of the patrol fell on his hands and knees on the verge, shouting "I've got it, I've got it" . . . yes, you've guessed, another mole. Alas, revenge was bitter-sweet, and triumph turned to anguish when the mole promptly bit its captor.

Next camp, we are taking a qualified mole-catcher with us. Of course, 227 is full of nature lovers, including a member of the same patrol who took time out to pick a nosegay of flowers.

Don't let it fool you, the lads of 227 Squadron are just as tough as any other unit, as was proved at the unarmed combat sessions, when everyone *volunteered* to attack the S.S.M.

The marches were quite arduous, too, and a lot of ground was covered during the fieldcraft sessions. One regular daily chore was a foot inspection, when the S.S.M. got his own back on the over-enthusiastic unarmed combatant by liberally annointing everyone's feet with meths. Who said the S.S.M. is a sadist—it's just not true.

Squadron Indoor Games Tournament

A very successful series of games evenings have been staged in the Squadron games room.

The team knock-out competition was won by the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, led by the O.C., **Major Hickman.** The evenings were organised by **Sergeant Hardman,** with the S.S.M. in attendance as barman.

The games room was loaned to the Sergeants' Mess, when they challenged the members of the German Support Unit Sergeants' Mess, who share the same camp with us.

This resulted in a win by a narrow margin to 227's Sergeants' Mess, after a very enjoyable and successful evening, which we hope will be the first of many similar events.

Hockey

During the 1967/68 season, thanks mainly to the efforts of **Sergeant J. Hurn** (now with 30th Regiment) we got hockey off to a good start here in AFCENT. The Squadron entered a team in the Minor Units League, B.A.O.R. Being without a pitch of our own, we had to hire one for each game during the season, which arrangement worked reasonably well, except on one occasion when the civil police turned us off the pitch due to some misunderstanding. The odd game had to be cancelled due to non-availability of a pitch.

During the season we had to travel long distances to play some of our games. The longest being to Dortmund, which is some 300 kilometres from here. Despite having to make long journeys, and the ground problem here, we all enjoyed our hockey last season and were jolly pleased to finish fourth in the league.

This season we again hope to enter a team from the Squadron, but will miss one or two of the stalwarts of last year's team. **R.S.M. P. Catton** is leaving us on posting, **Corporal Dearman** and **Lance-Corporal Pointer** are also scheduled to leave before the season starts. However, we have one or two new arrivals to take their places and we hope to have a reasonably strong side to take the field.

Comings and Goings

We wish to welcome the following: **W.O.II R. G. Postlethwaite, B.E.M.,** from 15th Regiment, **Sergeant Hide, Signalman Greenbank, Signalman Jones-Ward,** from 225 Squadron, **Corporal Jeffery, Corporal Anderson, Lance-Corporal Stevens, Signalman Lynch, Signalman McLaughlin** from 9th Regiment, **Signalman Snailman, Signalman Johnson** from 7th Regiment, **Corporal Loney, Signalman Boddis, Signalman Brown,** from the School of Signals.

We say farewell to the following and wish them luck in their new Units: **Staff-Sergeant Driver, Corporal Lidbury, Signalman Hollands,** to 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, **Corporal Craig, Lance-Corporal Mace, Lance-Corporal Stone, Signalman Kirkwood,** to 9th Regiment, **Sergeant Hurn, Corporal Dearman, Corporal Snape,** to 30th Regiment, **Signalman Green, Signalman Probert,** to 249 Squadron, **Sergeant Mawson,** to 223 Squadron, **Lance-Corporal Fox,** to 10th Regiment.

229 Squadron (Berlin) B.F.P.O. 45

Exercise "Sea Wind"

FOR the first time in its history, the Squadron moved out of Berlin for a period of training in the Federal Republic of Germany. It is hoped that this will now be an annual event. It was made possible by the kind co-operation of 22nd Regiment, who detached a party to Berlin to cover for us over this period.

Squadron Events

On 10th June, the Squadron was honoured by a visit of **Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.,** and **Lady Scott,** and on 17th June, **Lance-Corporal Spence** was awarded the Queen's Commendation.

Berlin Infantry Brigade Championships

In our last notes we promised news of athletics, and we are proud to record the following results:

Minor Unit Shield winners, 229 Squadron.

Results: 200 metres, **Signalman Sheehan,** 3rd; 400 metres, **Corporal Quinn,** 2nd; 800 metres, **Corporal Harrison,** 1st; 1500 metres, **Corporal Lunn,** 1st; 4 x 100 metres, **Corporal Lunn, Corporal Butler, Lance-Corporal Burton, Corporal Harrison,** 1st; high jump, **Signalman Ballantyne,** 3rd; javelin, **Lance-Corporal Mather,** 1st; long jump, **Corporal Butler,** 1st; discus, **Lance-Corporal Burton,** 3rd; weight, **Lance-Corporal Ford,** 3rd.

What a wonderful performance our team put up, and a special mention must go to: **Signalman Sheehan,** for an excellent first-time appearance in the 200 metres; **Corporal Quinn,** for a wonderful performance in the 400 metres; the 4 x 100 team, for one of the best team races of the day.

Everyone was pleased to "wet their whistle" with a grateful pint in the Corporals' Club that evening.

STOP PRESS

Births.—To **Staff Sergeant** and **Mrs. Cook** a son, with a new Berlin Infantry Brigade record of 10lbs. ½oz., and to **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Burton,** a daughter, on the 4th July.

Promotions. — Congratulations to **Staff Sergeant Cook** on promotion to W.O.II (S.S.M.) (all things are happening to the cooks); and to **Sergeant Morgan** on promotion to Staff Sergeant.

Arrivals.—Welcome to **Lance-Corporal Witchard** and **Corporal Adams** and their families. We are sure your stay will be enjoyable.

Departures.—We say goodbye to an old stalwart of the Squadron and of Comcen Troop, **Corporal Jennings** who, through unforeseen circumstances has had to leave the Corps. Our best wishes go to him in "Civvy Street," with all good fortune.

Cricket.—Good news from the cricket field—three wins in a row, with the Squadron beating, Ord., R.E.M.E., 62 Squadron R.C.T., and Berlin Brigade H.Q./B.M.H. Wait for news of the Annual Squadron Knockout Competition.



A FULL TURN OUT BY COMCEN TROOP, BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

Rear Left to Right: **Sergeant Atherton, Signalman McKnight, Signalman Shaw, Lance-Corporal Skells, Corporal Lunn, Corporal Dungworth, Corporal Jennings, Signalman Sheehan, Corporal Harrison, Signalman Rooney, Signalman Hughes, Sergeant Featherstone, Signalman Holmes, Lance-Corporal Burton, Corporal Liversidge, Signalman Barker, Corporal Robinson**

Front Sitting Left to Right: **Mrs. McKnight, Mrs. Atherton, Mrs. Brown, W.O.II (YofS) Brown, (OC Troop), Denise Brown, (Ian McKnight), Mrs. Featherstone, (Aiden Featherstone), Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Liversidge, (David Liversidge)**

Front Squatting: **Stephen Atherton, Ian Featherstone, Peter Brown, Cindy Brown, Laura Atherton, Lynne Atherton, Robin Featherstone, Bernard Liversidge, Robert Liversidge, Angela Liversidge**

Inserts: **Sergeant Hall, Mrs. Hall, Caroline Hall, Natalie Hall, (Wire staff query to Mrs. Hall—hope we got the twins right?)**

249 Signal Squadron
c/o G.P.O. Singapore

WE note with pride that we buy more WIRES than any other Squadron. It can't be because we are always writing our praises—we haven't been mentioned for more than a year. The trouble is that this new bloke rarely lets us back to camp for long enough to collect our thoughts before we are off again. Anyhow, WIRE, your compliment has urged us into the mood, so here we go.

Where yo bin? For those old members of 249 who may have been asking the question, we apologise for our absence.

Our days have been long and the nights an eternity, almost. Meanwhile, back at base, a one-legged, two-fingered blind scribe compiles THE WIRE notes.

Would you believe it: January was full of inspections and included the annual one. February/March Exercise in Thailand and April/June Exercises in North Malaya.

Squeezed amongst these few items were: Athletics, swimming, soccer and hockey—all of which we won, of course. Throw in about six V.I.P visits this year and you have 249 Squadron in business as usual.

Episode 1. Annual Inspection

From the air it looked like a staff college dream. Dinky Land Rovers, one and three-tonners lined up as if by string and spirit levels. A sand table model of a self-contained communicating fighting force. Blueland, all ready for a T.E.W.T.

Alas no, down below sweating in full kit lined up ready for inspection in their operational state stood the 249th (U.K. log based) Squadron. Our C.R. Signals, **Colonel Tonry,** in tank suit, clambered in, over and under vehicles with a gusto and zeal normally displayed by youthful visitors at a recruiting display. His verdict—well done.

Episode 2. Communication is fun

You read about "Ramasoon" in last month's WIRE. That's where we were in February and March. The Squadron was airlifted to Thailand except for Radio Relay and Air Troop (whose vehicles you saw on the deck of an L.S.L. last month—contributed by 28 Brigade Squadron!).

Once in Thailand we scattered in all directions to our various exercise areas. Some went to large cities (Bangkok, Korat), some to small towns (Khon Kahn, Roi Et, Yasathon and Leong Nok Tha). Some worked with Americans, some with Thais, some with Australians and some with the R.A.F.

Wherever we were we worked hard, learned a lot and enjoyed ourselves (did we enjoy ourselves!).

The hub of our fine machine was at Korat, and here life revolved around **Lientenant Aubry Howie's** (Message Parlour) Comcen. Way off in the distance, too far to visit without a reason, our Radio Troops (H.F. and 646 Troops) transmitter and receiver sites looked like a miniature Droitwich. We communicated to four other S.E.A.T.O. nations using standard procedures without national rules or preferences rearing their ugly heads. 646 Troop, our rear link to Singapore, provided an excellent circuit with a minimum loss of circuit availability time. The minor tribal chiefs, **Staff-Sergeants (Y. of S.) (Onion Rings) O'Donoghue** and **(Tiny Tim) Martin, Sergeants (A.C.P.) Adam Patterson, Harry Hemstock** and **(Legs) John Lawless,** cracked the whip as D.S.O.s taking in their stride I.W.C.S. (Integrated Wide Band Communications System), our own HF FSK Circuits and R.A.F. Circuits and R.A.F. voice links. 'Onion Rings' is still looking for the A.C.P. which might contain the first message from our U.S. friends. The text read: "Good morning, good morning dear British, good morning to U."

We had our language problems. A D.S.O. who wanted a local number was offered any extension he liked in Bangkok, Hawaii. Manila, Okinawa, or Washington. Our quaint expressions "laying lines," "knocking up a few friends," caused some Americans to smile.

The hospitality and generosity of our American and Thai friends is now a legend in the Squadron—they couldn't have been kinder. We returned their hospitality in part at the end of the exercise by converting our "Message Parlour" into a "Massage Parlour," and introducing our bewildered friends into the savage British pagan art of drinking Tiger beer—many a tough Vietnam veteran fell that night to a subtler form of subversion.

Episode 3. Out again

With scarcely a pause we were out again, this time in North Malaya, practising another of our varied roles. Three locations were set up, at the sharp end two fully tactical Comcens, and at the blunt end a base sometimes called "Bandy Berts Holiday Camp." Reports were exchanged between each location via a mass circulation media, locally produced newspapers. The *Gonk Dust Herald* from the sharp end, and the *Surf Ski Bugle* from the blunt end. The latent talent which these dailies brought to life will not be wasted. We have a waiting list of WIRE note writers—most of whom seem strangely dormant in base location.

Lieutenant Tony Woodhouse, O.C. Radio Relay Troop, was left in the lurch when previously promised helicopter help, to lift a generator atop a 1,000ft. not very accessible peak, failed to arrive. True to form, the radio relaymen, with volunteer assistance from H.F. and Comcen Troops, lumped the generator up the hill. First news that the link had been established was delivered by a dishevelled out of breath Troop Commander. Unable to speak, he thrust a cleft stick bearing the message at the editor of the *Surf Ski Bugle*. The following report was then rushed via our private wire service to *Gonk Herald*, quote:

"Stop Press — Eye witness account of the Mountain Beaters"

Tuesday started like any other day, hot, humid and nerve wracking. 12 pressed indigenous porters assembled under the crack of **Sergeant (Happy) Joe O'Brien's** whip. Dipping his hand in the salt barrel, "Happy" gave each a friendly pat on on the back. At his command of "Hup-hup-hup," 12 backs strained to their load. For six long hours they staggered, pushed and pulled. Finally, base camp at 900ft. was reached. Here the snow cooled aching feet and low cloud hung like a blanket of wet hairies socks. Suddenly, out of the mist, loomed a large, fearsome figure. To the cries of "Yeti, Yeti, Yeti," 12 figures scrambled and fell down the mountainside. As the sun broke through, the clouds of wet "hairies" socks lifted to reveal **Horse (Lieutenant Woodhouse),** gaily singing the freedom song "We Shall Overcome."—Unquote.

Later reports that the haste was due to a private contract deadline were denied by "Horse." He said he handn't even thought of hiring out his spare speech channel to a private radio company.

Sergeant (Bandy) Bert Bowe's Holiday Camp, which functioned like an R. and R. Centre, was visited by those seeking a change of routine from Stand To's and as a balm from trench fever. Along with assorted officers, two seniors, The Ugly Phozz **(F. of S.) Webb** and **Onion Rings,** took the cure. Neither broke the production record set up by the Handsome Grey-haired Phozz **(F. of S.) Dave Thornton,** who, by soldering two pieces of wire in one day, beat our previous best of two bars of soap issued in one day by Molar **(R.Q.M.S. Brian Fisher).**

At the sharp end a notable amount of cable was laid, dug in and camouflaged by **Sergeant (Tiger) Morrisey** and his hairy crew. A Comcen operator who volunteered to help lasted a few hours. The M.O. wanted to know which chain gang he had escaped from.

Being tactical sometimes stretches resources, on this occasion our elasticity was taut. Many thanks to those stalwarts of 237 Squadron, D.C.N., who emerged from their air-conditioned palace, to brave the dust, heat, scorpions, and many greater dangers of true communicating tactically in the field.

Sporting

We have had our usual run of sporting success so far. We were runners-up in the Singapore District Hockey Cup (beaten in extra time by H.Q. FARELF), we swept the board in the Army Cross Country Championships, won the Regimental Athletics, Boxing, Soccer and Swimming, and our Radio Relay Troop won the Regimental Inter-Troop Soccer. We won't elaborate on the extent of these victories as it's starting to get embarrassing, even with the Squadron away, **Major John Hall** and his rear party manage to drag in the odd trophy or two, and these are the medically excused ones!

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Name it in South East Asia and you will find 249 Squadron there

— Wherever we were, we worked hard, learned a lot and enjoyed ourselves





1. An HF Troop detachment pauses, somewhere in Thailand. Signalmen Daly, McPartlin and Lance-Corporal Baines

2. Comcen Troop relaxes in North Malaya. There's no real reason for it, its just a policy they have!

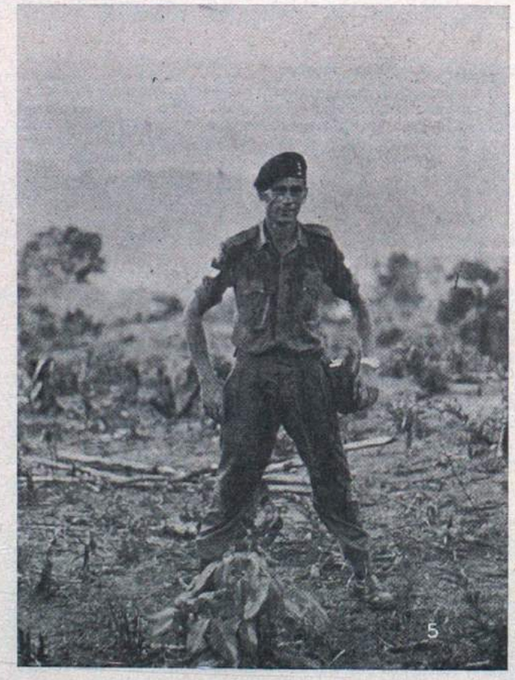


3. Even the tech storemen get tactical. Corporal Johnson digs in

4. Radio Relay Troop hump their generator up that mountain

5. Tired but triumphant. Corporal Stewart at the top of Radio Relay mountain







SOCCER CHAMPIONS

The soccer team of 252 Signal Squadron which won the Division II Championship.

From left to right:—Back row: **Lieutenant (Tfc) M. J. Caplan, Corporal Jasiok, Corporal Edwards, Lance-Corporal Andrews, Lance-Corporal Higgins, Corporal Greatbanks, Sergeant Boyle (Captain), Signalman White**

Front row: **Signalman Chui Kwong, Lance-Corporal Hayes, Corporal Wong Pak Keung, Corporal Cadman, Corporal Edwards, Lance-Corporal Barker.** *Sitting:* **Master Boyle.**

252 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 1

- **Winners of Three Athletic Competitions**
- **Athletics Records Broken**

Preparing for the long hot summer

SINCE our last entry, life here in Hong Kong (derived from "Heung Kong," the Chinese name meaning "Fragrant Harbour"), has been full, interesting but pleasant during the past few months as we enjoyed the drop in temperature.

We are attired in O.G. again and preparing for a long, hot summer, hoping there will be *no* more water shortages. As events move so quickly in this most densely populated corner of the earth, we recently had a "Shake up" session, just to make sure new arrivals know the drills and the "old hands" were still "with it."

Despite the popular belief to the contrary, the usual aspects of Army life go on in this "Pearl of the East," i.e. P.E. tests, range classifications, orienteering, inspections, trade upgradings and conversions at Singapore. Those leisurely "palmy" days in Hong Kong are a thing of the past as evidenced by the streamlined figures of **Captain J. R. Selby, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Norris,** and **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Anderson,** being now mere shadows of their former selves. Do stop that lamp swinging, please!

SPORT

We have easy access to a fine swimming pool in the barracks, volley ball pitches and a helicopter pad that doubles as a basketball and mini hockey pitch, but regrettably we do not have our own sports field. However, thanks to one of many of H.K, **S.S.M. Chin Ten Loy's** contacts, the Squadron was kindly given permission to use the South China Association Sports Stadium for a couple of training sessions, for which we were most grateful. Under the "fatherly" eye of **W.O.I (F. of S.) Kimber,** our team manager, our talent emerged, and we had a most successful athletic season.

Athletics

Sterling performances from several of our athletes ensured that the 51 Brigade Minor Units Athletics Cup has come to rest in the Squadron trophy case after the Brigade meeting in April. We had already won the Colony Royal Signals Trophy.

The Brigade meeting was followed by the Land Forces' Individual Championships in which **Corporal Cook, Signalman Ness** and **Corporal Jasiok** competed. All three acquitted themselves and the unit most creditably. **Corporal Cook** won the shot-putt event and **Corporal Jasiok** was third in the 400 metres. The most exciting event of the meeting was the 1,500 metres in which **Signalman Ness** was narrowly beaten by **Private Carlisle,** R.A.M.C., the Colony champion. **Ness** had beaten **Carlisle** at the Minor Units meeting and the R.A.M.C. man was obviously determined to have his revenge.

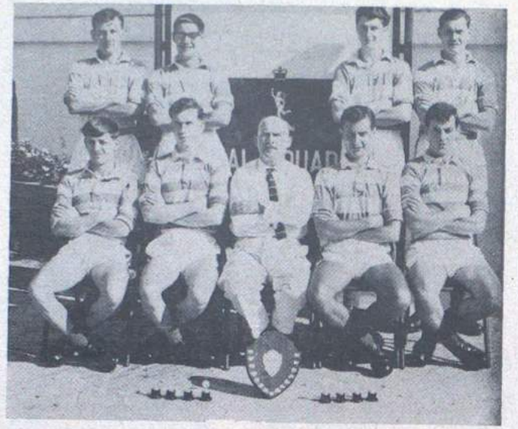
The final event of the athletics season was the Land Forces' Major and Minor Units Championships in May. After a great see-saw struggle the Squadron tied for first place with "B" Squadron, The Life Guards. Our team again pulled out maximum effort, none more so than **Corporal Greatbanks,** who was second in the long jump after coming in as a last minute replacement; and with three days' experience as a long-jumper.



AFTER MANY A FINE SEE-SAW STRUGGLE THE ATHLETICS TEAM SWEPT THE LOCAL BOARD

Standing—Left to Right:—Corporal Cook, Lance-Corporal Hooley, Lance-Corporal Higgins, Corporal Gould, Lance-Corporal Pickles, Corporal Jasiok

Seated—Left to Right:—Corporal Andrews, Signalman Ness, W.O.I (F. of S.) Kimber, Lance-Corporal Bailey, Sergeant Summers



THEY PULLED THEIR HEARTS OUT

252 Squadron tug-o-war team winners of the 51 Brigade Minor Units Competition and finalists in the H.Q. Land Forces Competition

Standing—Left to Right:—Corporal Hayes, Corporal Wardle, Lance-Corporal Chalmers, Lance-Corporal Roberts

Seated—Left to Right:—Corporal Edwards, Corporal Dewey, W.O.II (SSM) P. Gill, Lance Corporal Hooker, Lance-Corporal Allan

Signalman Bailey had a fine win in the 200 metres as did **Corporal Jasiok** in the 400 metres. **Corporal Cook** again took the shot prize, beating competitors from 1 Welch and 4 R.R.F. **Signalman Ness** won the mile and set up a new Land Forces' Minior Units record. **Sergeant Summers** ran well to finish third in the 800 metres and the relay team of **Signalman Bailey, Signalman Ness, Corporal Jasiok** and **Lance-Corporal Higgins** was just beaten by "B" Squadron. Congratulations to **W.O.I Kimber** and his team on a very good season which resulted in:

Competitions:

Royal Signals, Hong Kong: Winners
51 Brigade Minor Units: Winners.
H.Q. Land Forces' Minor Units: Joint winners with "B" Squadron Life Guards.
H.Q. Land Forces' Individual Competition: Winner shot event; second 1,500 metres; third 400 metres.

Tug-of-War

The Squadron team, trained enthusiastically by **W.O.II (S.S.M.) P. Gill,** won the H.Q. 51 Brigade Minor Units competition and were finalists in the H.Q. Land Forces' competition and really "pulled their hearts out."

Soccer

Our football team duly received their medals as the Division II Champions from **General Sir John Worsley, K.B.E., C.B., M.C.,** at the Government Stadium on Wednesday, 10th April. **Lieutenant (Tfc.) M. J. Caplan,** our officer in-charge football, will no doubt miss the hard-working player/organiser, **Sergeant Boyle** next season, as he is posted to Berlin.

Ten-Pin Bowling

The Squadron Bowling League got off to a good start this season with a fine 202 game by **Lance-Corporal Cooper,** of the Alf Hall team which helped his team to a resounding victory over the All Stars. Hats off to the W.R.A.C. of Op. Troop (Amazons), who are playing extremely well and are currently in second place in the league.

The Knock-out Competition has realised a record number of 58 entries. Credit for organising this popular sport on his own initiative goes to **Corporal Adams,** of Radio Troop.

All games are played in the very modern, fully automated ally in the Royal Navy China Fleet Club, which is a short walk from the Squadron.

W.R.A.C.

We simply have to admit that our W.R.A.C. members of Operating Troop do an excellent job in the Comcen and also obtain very good results on their trade upgrading in Singapore. Led by **Captain M. C. Younge,** with **Sergeant Robertson,** our senior W.R.A.C. supervisor, the girls work hard and also keep the visiting R.N. ship's crews busy playing hockey and other sporting activities. Some sailors were heard to say at a recent Fleet Communicators dance at H.M.S. *Tamar* attended by some of our W.R.A.C. that they had applied for a posting to H.M.S. *Victoria.* (Victoria Barracks is our location).

Personalities

It is a job keeping our talent; being young in heart and adventurous, they do volunteer for things, e.g., our latest ones: **Signalman Ness,** for the S.A.S.; **Lance-Corporal Pickles** for helicopter pilot training.

Our ex-Harrogate Apprentices are settling in and finding out what the real world is all about. In their spare time, **Lance-Corporals Copeland** and **Teanby** have started sailing the Heron dinghy, and **Teanby** played the part of Mars in the Hong Kong Singers' first-class production of "Orpheus in the Underworld" at the magnificent City Civic Centre.

One of our most versatile, but unassuming sportsmen is **Lance-Corporal Higgins.** He is a natural and good sportsman in every sense, and plays soccer, water polo, athletics, hockey for the Squadron and rugby for the Garrison.

Departures

It is almost like the old days of National Service with so many goings and comings. Even our stalwart chief clerk, **Staff Sergeant Jewel** has departed for U.K. Also **Sergeants Boyle, Summers** and **Harris.**

We hope they and their families enjoy their leave and their next posting.

Arrivals

We welcome the following N.C.O.s and their families to the Squadron and wish them a pleasant tour in Hong Kong: **Staff Sergeant Hamilton,** our new chief clerk, **Sergeant Chaloner, Sergeant Rock, Corporals Mellor, Dewey, Cook, Carter, Whall, Hacket and McKellar, Lance-Corporal Croft** and **Signalman Cooper.**

260 Signal Squadron (SAM) Shoeburyness

"Lull before the storm"

WITH the majority of the Squadron enjoying the fruits of life on exercise in B.A.O.R., life in Shoeburyness is now one of "taking stock" or the "lull before the storm," as it has often been described.

With the return of the Squadron on 5th August, which will be followed by block leave, we then prepare our rolling stock once more for the foray, this time into the mountains of North Wales, where we shall be spending most of the month of September.

For our notes this month we can do no better than to give space to our "foreign correspondent" who sends us the report on the Squadron's move to B.A.O.R. and its subsequent settling-in.

The story of the move to B.A.O.R.

Reveille at 03.30 hours was followed by a faltering 05.00 hours start on the short road journey to Tilbury Docks, where we embarked for Antwerp and all points east and two-and-a-half months free from the domestic worries associated with soldiering in England.

The passage across on the 'Landing Ship Logistic' *Sir Tristran* was a new experience for nearly everyone, and after a hair-raising descent to the quayside, we moved on.

With the aid of seemingly half of Belgium's extremely efficient Military Police, looking disturbingly familiar, we successfully negotiated the hazards of Antwerp's pavé to the autobahn. There then followed the usual monotonous drive to Aachen, where we were refurbished with the necessities of life, i.e., gelt, bockwurst and a drop or two of petrol.

Early next morning, we saw what remained of the Squadron's vehicles, which, due to circumstances beyond their control, had arrived safely. Metallic intestines of the automotive Behemoths (two ten-tonners, one three-tonner and one launcher, plus one other) festooned the autobahn from Antwerp to Dortmund, telling the story of those that tried and failed unaided.

The next day we started the usual routine of maintenance and repair, days being comfortable, and evenings being spent comparing the merits of Dortmunder Union, Actien, Thier and Kronen. The sorrowful countenances of the more affluent Corps elite of the Squadron bore evidence to the truth of the old maxim "Virtue is it's own reward." The bored faces of the penniless remainder gave rise to some doubts as to its veracity. A precious few, including the author of this saga of olive drab woe, found the happy balance between these two extremes.

After a week of 'X' Troop and 'W' Troop, elements moved out on exercise "First Flight" to the Paderborn area (arena), leaving behind the comforts of foam beds, running, water and the anguish or hangovers many and horrible. There followed a night's rest (for the privileged) and a move next day to the first location. Apart from the dust and three-ton mosquitoes, things are running smoothly, except for a certain 27KVA generator that rebelled violently, but not for long, against a diet of water unwittingly fed by a person or persons unknown in the dark.

This brings us up to date—muddy, grubby and hungry, but not without good cheer. In spite of there being only two cans of beer, per man, per day.

We would like to pay tribute here to **Corporal Boney Graves** and **Signalman Terry Aveson,** who were our stalwarts on the advance party and looked after our requirement at base camp to perfection.

Back at Shoeburyness, we glady announce the arrival of our first S.S.M. (sounds ominous) **W.O.II P. R. Foster,** who is already busy familiarising himself with the Squadron and sharpening his sword in readiness for the return of the "wanderers."

Arrivals/Departures

There are no arrivals to report, but we have said farewell during the month to **Signalman Farrow** to 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment; **Signalman Roebuck** to 24th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron; **Lance-Corporal Stevens, Lance-Corporal Smith, Signalman McMillan** and **Signalman McArdle** to civilian life.

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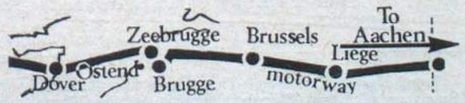
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261 Signal Squadron (Air Formation) B.F.P.O. 53

Mainly comings and goings

SINCE our last appearance in print, a number of changes have taken place in the personalities of the Squadron. We welcome **Captain Tony Gatward** from CAFSO Branch, 2 ATAF, who has taken over the Airfield Troop at Akrotiri, the largest element of the Squadron. We also greet **Corporals Ian Gilbert** and **Ron Robertson.**

Farewells have been said to **Sergeant Peter Perrin,** our Chief Clerk, who has gone to suffer the rigours of a Catterick summer and the Chief Clerk's Course; to **Corporal Chalky White,** who has gone on a resettlement course, and **Corporal George Errington,** on posting to 21st Regiment.

Later this month we will say goodbye to **W.O.I Stan Barrett,** who is going to U.K. to spend the last six months of his service with 14th Regiment. During his spell in Cyprus, **Stan Barrett** has been a tower of strength in the Squadron, both on and off duty. In addition to commanding the very busy Airfield Troop at Akrotiri for some considerable time, he has organised, played and umpired cricket and hockey, and has filled the appointment of Rear Commodore of the Limassol Services Sailing Club. Stan will be missed very much by the Squadron, and we all wish him and his family the best of good fortune in the future.

Congratulations are in order for **Lieutenant (T.O.T.) John Jupe,** on being granted a regular commission and being promoted to Captain, and for **Second-Lieutenant Peter Bonser** on his promotion to Lieutenant. John marked the occasion in the usual manner at the bar, but Peter is hibernating in El Adem and probably thinks he is getting away with it! The point is, however, noted in the Admin. Officers' forecast of events.

After a short period, when the chair of CAFSO was vacant, we were pleased to welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel W. Bell,** who has taken up the appointment. Our new CAFSO settled in very quickly and lost no time in getting round our widely-dispersed sub-units to see things "on the ground."

Descent on the Bingo Stall

Lieutenant Hugh Bennett has been in the limelight of the parachuting world again. He was recently runner-up in the Novices 'C' Class of the Army Parachuting Championships, 1968, held at Netheravon. He also made a name for himself when, during a 'display jump' for the 9th Signal Regiment's Fete, he landed on the bingo stall. Fortunately there was no game in progress at the time so there was no need to shout "House-a-Bogey."

Despite a great deal of hard work put in by the Squadron Athletics Team, under the management of **Staff Sergeant Dave Tryner,** we did not manage a team place in the Army Cyrpus Minor Units Competition, but we did have two individual firsts, **Signalman John Lochrie,** won the pole vault and the triple jump was won by **Lance-Corporal Malcolm Collins.**

Signals Wing, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

THE Signals Wing's last contribution to THE WIRE was mainly in the form of **Mrs. Smith** recollecting her many years of service in the Signals Wing. This month's contribution fills the gaps about past successes and plans for the future.

The C.I. gets his pilot's licence

Firstly, congratulations must go to our Chief Instructor, **Major F. C. Lockwood,** who has recently gained his Private Pilot's Licence—and in record time at that. Along with his many other duties, additional to C.I. Signals, R.M.A.S., he has been appointed Officer-in-Charge of Flying for the R.M.A.S. **Major Lockwood** is already a keen sailor and he frequently skippers the Academy yacht *Wishstream.* He is now examining the problems of buying an aeroplane on behalf of the Academy, and rumour has it that it could well turn out to be a "flying boat!"

R.S.M. F. M. Orr, is leaving us in July for the warmer climate of the Far East. He will be greatly missed for his good work in the Wing and for his organising of the various Cadet Balls on behalf of the Academy, which have been so successful under his planning. We all wish **R.S.M.** and **Mrs. Orr** every happiness in the future.

Anything from philately to fencing

We shall also be sorry to lose our S.Q.M.S., **Staff Sergeant Bill Gwynne,** who is emigrating to Cornwall! Although his plans for the future are still somewhat obscure, our S.Q.M.S. designate, **Sergeant Dennis Connell,** believes him to be going into some kind of surplus business! Perhaps this position will be clarified by **Sergeant Pete Franklyn,** when he returns from his pot-holing expedition in Cornwall. Pot-holing is only one of the many activities open to all members of the Wing. In the Academy, one can take part in anything from philately to fencing. Fishing rates high among the outdoor activities of instructors, and under the watchful eye of **Sergeant Fred McMillan,** they leave at the crack of dawn on expeditions to Southampton to fish for 'flatties' off the end of the pier. However, from the various stories circulating, it is not possible to state the true success of these trips, but as usual, you should have seen the one that got away! It is, however, possible to confirm the success of our Signalmen. Just in case anyone thinks we do not keep up the Corps reputation in sport, we had six Royal Signals playing in the Academy Permanent Staff Football Team last season. Considering the number of different Regiments and Corps represented at the Academy, from whom players can be selected, this is quite an achievement.

Flying around in the Land Rover

Corporal Girvan found one of the advantages of C.I. Signals being in charge of Flying Training here, when he exchanged the cockpit of his Land Rover for the cockpit of a T21 glider on a week's gliding course at R.A.F., Bicester. We now have **Corporal Girvan** trying to do circuits and bumps in his Land Rover, and generally flying around at 2,000ft.

Most of our junior N.C.O.s and Signalmen form the M.T. Section of the Wing. Although graded initially as Drivers, a tour at Sandhurst stands them in good stead for a Radio Operator BIII rating. At Sandhurst, being a driver means more than driving and cleaning vehicles, and during the Officer Cadet's course, the cadet tends to rely on his driver during mobile exercises, especially those who have difficulty in remembering set operation and voice procedure.

With the ever-decreasing choice of overseas postings, members of our M.T. Section find themselves in the unique position of being guaranteed two overseas trips a year. **Signalman Peters** sums up the situation when he says this is his first posting in the Army and he is guaranteed to go abroad at least twice each year during the cadets' overseas training periods in B.A.O.R., Cyprus or North Africa, not to mention exercises in France during the autumn term. They all agree there may well be a lot of exercises to take part in, but the married men can certainly plan their family holidays during our three block leave periods at Christmas, Easter and summer recess.

Talking of families, our congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Gray** and his wife in producing a daughter, **Jayne Susan.**

A good family posting

Sandhurst is an excellent family posting, and many spend their weekends in the spacious grounds, where the children can play away from the busy streets or take advantage of the very fine heated indoor swimming pool.

Sergeant Ron Mathieson (the Communicator) uses his spare time training to be a parachute man, yet another activity open to the Wing. After a short course on the techniques of 'soft landings,' he will attempt to leap from an aeroplane, A41 and all. If successful, he will accompany the cadets when they parachute into France during their exercise with the French Officer Cadets from St. Cyr Academy next term. We will endeavour to bring you a report in our next notes and should be able to give the results of the team we are entering in the Skill at Arms Competition.

Royal Signals Canoeing.—Please note that the address of the Secretary of Royal Signals Canoeing is now: Royal Signals Canoeing, H.Q., School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Twenty-Third Annual General Meeting, held at Catterick Camp, on Sunday, 23rd June, 1968

Present

Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., Chairman; **Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E.,** Vice-Chairman; **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** General Secretary; and some 130 members of the Association.

Brigadier Tucker opened the meeting by welcoming all who had travelled to Catterick for the Re-union weekend. All told, some 750 members and their wives were attending and 30 Branches were represented. He was pleased to see a number of younger members present and hoped this trend would continue. He particularly welcomed **Major-General J. E. Anderson,** the S.O.-in-C., who, although he was taking a well-earned period of leave, had gone out of his way to be present for the weekend. He had received apologies from **Colonel F. E. B. Jones,** one of the two Vice-Chairmen, who greatly regretted his inability to attend and wished everyone a very happy reunion.

Finally, he warmly thanked **Brigadier Frank Clarkson,** his staff and the Regiments of the Training Brigade for all that they had done to make the weekend such a resounding success.

The Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting were put to the meeting and having been duly proposed and seconded were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman then reported on Association affairs as follows:

Branches

The Reading and Nottingham Branches have had to close due to lack of local support, but I am glad to report that a vigorous Branch has now opened in the Blandford-Dorchester area called the Dorset Branch. Also, two old Branches that were closed have now re-opened—Northampton and Sheffield—and they show every promise of doing well, thanks to the devoted work of their committee members. Most of our old established Branches are very active and in spite of some pessimism regarding the future, a number have succeeded in increasing their membership. This is, of course, due to the devoted work of individuals, particularly on committees.

Membership

During 1967, 83 Life Members joined the Association, and there was also a steady influx of Annual Members. Up to date this year no less than 87 Life Members have joined of whom 39 are regular soldiers who have qualified under the Day's Pay Scheme for Life Membership. I would particularly draw your attention to this aspect of Association Membership. Due mainly to redundancy there is an increased run-out of regular soldiers now going on—many of them W.O's and senior N.C.O's with long service. Practically all have been contributing to the Day's Pay Scheme. In response to the Association leaflet included in their discharge papers many have been writing to Association H.Q. in order to register as Life Members and to make inquiries about the Association. **Mr. Stead** has given them full details of their nearest Branch, if there was one reasonably close, and has also alerted the local Branch Secretary to these potential new members. In addition, the General Secretary has urged all these new Life Members leaving the Service to take full advantage of the Association and its Branches in the editorial columns of THE WIRE. Here, now, is a unique opportunity for all Branches to strengthen their membership with an influx of mature and responsible ex-regular members of the Corps. Much will depend on how Branch Committees tackle this opportunity, in particular by going out of their way to give a special welcome to these potential new members. From the point of view of the ex-regular coming out of the Corps, often after long service, membership of an Association Branch will help to keep him in touch and provide that comradeship which is so often missed on return to civilian life. Branch members, too, are often in a position to help the ex-regular with practical advice and assistance in settling down in the local community. I cannot over-emphasise the importance of what I have just said and I feel, if we can but take full advantage of this increased run-out from the Corps over the next few years, we can do a great deal to strengthen even more our Association and bring in some new blood which is much wanted.

Welfare

The Day's Pay Scheme is now fully established and all officers and a large proportion of serving soldiers of the Corps donate one day's basic pay of rank to Corps funds. From this, three-quarters is allotted to the Association for benevolent purposes. This amounted to some £13,000 in 1966 and nearly £18,000 in 1967.

This, of course, has given us a tremendous shot in the arm from the point of view of our benevolent work.

Before the advent of the Day's Pay Scheme our benevolent assistance could be likened to first-aid only. Now we can go much further than this and can often proceed a long way towards affecting a complete amelioration of difficult circumstances. I would remind everyone that although there is a welfare state it is a large and rigid organisation bound by set rules that cannot penetrate into all the nooks and crannies where poverty and human suffering exist. This is where we and the other Service charities play our part.

All welfare cases are, initially, investigated on the ground by experts such as S.S.A.F.A., Forces' Help Society and the British Legion, who report to us on a standardised proforma. Our Welfare Committee sits every week. It is presided over by a retired Senior Officer and has as members—a serving officer and two senior serving N.C.O's. The Committee is advised by our two Welfare ladies, **Miss Hyde-Parker** and **Miss Cook,** who have had many years of experience on welfare work. Thus all cases are carefully screened before aid is given and you can be assured that our money is spent to the best of our ability to provide help only to really deserving cases. I might add that we have been able to come to the help of quite a few serving soldiers who have found themselves in difficulties for various reasons.

During 1967 we disbursed some £10,200 to 530 cases so that our average grant was nearly £20 a head. At Christmas, we made just over 100 special grants averaging £3 each to needy families, so bringing a little extra Christmas cheer to them. In addition, we were able to send out nearly 600 clothing parcels during the year and I would point out that this is an important part of our welfare work, made possible by generous donations of clothing sent in by many serving and retired members of the Corps. Finally, we were able to advise or find employment in a number of cases outside those mentioned above.

In May, 1967, we made a grant of £5,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund. This was really in respect of a surplus left over from 1966. Later, in 1967, we made another grant of £5,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund from the surplus we foresaw that would accumulate in 1967. It is an important element of the Day's Pay Scheme that any money accruing from this Scheme, which is not required for domestic Corps benevolence, should be passed on to the Army Benevolent Fund for the general good. We have been doing our best to live up to this bearing in mind how much the Army Benevolent Fund have helped us in the past as indeed they still do in cases requiring major rehabilitation. The Army Benevolent Fund, of course, also gives substantial support to S.S.A.F.A., Forces' Help Society and many other Service charitable organisations who do so much good work on our behalf.

The Wire

The new price of 2/- per copy has put it on a sound financial footing—at any rate for the foreseeable future. Despite the increase in price there has been no diminution in sales—in fact, some Units have increased their standing orders and the sale of individual copies goes on steadily upwards. The new picture cover has proved popular amongst a very large proportion of readers.

Honour Membership

You will recollect that Association Rules were amended to permit the granting of Honour Membership to ordinary members who render *outstanding* service to the Association which it is felt merits special recognition.

A special proforma is available on application from Association H.Q. to be filled in by the Branch Chairman *personally* in respect of such nominations which then go before the Central Committee for its approval. The Central Committee are anxious that a high standard should be maintained. They, therefore, will normally look for *outstanding service over a considerable period*, and it is most important that when an individual is written up specific details are given of the actual outstanding service rendered.

1970 Celebrations

A Committee has been sitting and much thought and discussion has been given to the possible venues for and scope of the celebrations in respect of the Corp's 50th anniversary.

There are certain points that tend to make Blandford the more attractive venue, although there are certain administrative difficulties that might be awkward to overcome. At present the feeling is that the Annual General Meeting of the Association should be held at Blandford but that on a different date, not too far removed from the Blandford gathering, a re-union should also be held at Catterick for those who could not attend Blandford or preferred to go to Catterick. The matter is still very much under discussion and no final decisions have yet been reached.

Staff

Our staff continues to soldier on with the exception of one change. **W.O.II Greenbrook,** who is shortly due to leave the Corps, will be taking over from **Miss Bentley**—who has left to get married—as Assistant to the General Secretary. We are very glad to obtain the services of an ex-Corps man in this important job. The rest remain unchanged. e.g.:

Welfare: **Miss Hyde-Parker, Miss Cook.**
Accounts: **Mr. Evenden, Mr. Shelbourne.**
Association Records: **Mr. Stead.**
"Wire" Despatch and Mail: **Mr. Walsh.**
Assistant Editor, "The Wire": **Mr. L. Wood.**

Conclusion

I would say that in spite of a few difficulties our Association is in good heart and we have only to look round at the large gathering this weekend to see visible evidence of this.

A number of Branches are increasing their membership and we should, if we are sensible about it, obtain a number of new members from serving members of the Corps going out on redundancy. Although we may lose a Branch here and there new Branches seem to spring up to take their place. Our finances are sound and our welfare work goes from strength to strength.

Accounts

You should have in front of you, in abbreviated form, our audited accounts for 1967 in the balance sheet and the income and expenditure account.

From the balance sheet, you will see that we are worth £117,463, taking into account our investments at cost price (£106,170). In fact the market value of our investments at the moment is in the order of £135,000 to £140,000.

On the income and expenditure side you will note that we have split our funds into General and Benevolent Sections, so that we can quite clearly differentiate between income given with benevolent intent as against income derived from other sources such as investments. In the same way we can differentiate between purely benevolent expenditure in contrast to expenditure on general items such as publications and reunions.

You will see that on the general side we had an excess of income over expenditure of £1,865, but on the benevolent side we overspent by £1,922—the overall effect on Association funds being an overall excess of expenditure over income for the year 1967 of £57. However, it should be remembered that we made two donations of £5,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund in 1967—one of these was really against a surplus of nearly £6,000 in 1966, but not paid until 1967—so that we are really in a sound position financially.

Looking ahead, your Central Committee has authorized a donation of £5,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund for 1968, against an estimated overall surplus of some £7,000 plus. We are adopting a policy of building up capital against a probable falling off in income from the Day's Pay Scheme as the Army shrinks in size, and, of course, there is the continual erosion in the value of the pound and the increasing cost of living, so that where £15 would have alleviated a welfare case some years ago, it takes perhaps £25 to achieve the same result today.

The accounts for 1967 were then put to the meeting, and there being no questions, having been duly proposed and seconded, they were passed by a show of hands.

Amendment to Rule 11

A amendment to Rule 11 of the Rules of the Association was put to the meeting, under which para 3 of this rule should be amended to read: "He (the General Secretary) is limited to the expenditure of FIFTY pounds in any one transaction without previous authorisation by the Chairman"—the word "FIFTY" being substituted for "FIVE." The present limitation of five pounds was quite out of touch with present-day conditions, and there were from time to time urgent welfare cases that required an immediate grant of more than five pounds to ameliorate a pressing situation.

The amendment having been duly proposed and seconded, was carried by a show of hands.

Election of Officers

The meeting was asked to approve the election or re-election of the following to the Central Committee: Chairman and Treasurer, **Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E.;** Vice-Chairmen, **Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., O.B.E., Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.;** T. & A.V.R. Representative, **Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D.;** Branch Representative, **Captain E. T. G. Waite, M.B.E.,** Hartlepools and District Branch) **Vice-Captain A. F. Wiggins** (Leeds Branch).

The elections or re-elections, having been duly proposed and seconded were carried by a show of hands.

Any Other Business

Mr. A. V. Ient (Aldershot), asked if a new recording of the present-day Corps Band could be made. **Brigadier Clarkson** said that this was under active consideration, but the question of financial viability had to be carefully studied.

Mr. T. Black (Liverpool), asked if T. & A.V.R. C.O.s could be given early notice of the dates of reunion weekends and if they could be asked to avoid holding exercises on these dates, so that members were not prevented from attending the reunion, as had happened this year. The General Secretary said that he would take this up personally with the three T. & A.V.R. Group Commanders. **(Note: The Reunion Weekend for 1969 will take place at Catterick on 28th/29th June).**

Mr. W. Craythorne (N. London), asked whether the venue for the 1970 celebrations could not be determined by seeking the views of the various branches, and that as far as North London were concerned, they preferred Catterick for sentimental reasons. This proposal received considerable support from the floor.

The Chairman pointed out that Blandford had certain attractions, e.g., Salisbury Cathedral was reasonably accessible for a fine service of re-dedication; the excellent new Corps Museum was now well established at Blandford; Blandford was a new home of the Corps, which many had not seen; we had gone to Catterick for our reunions for many years and there was not much more that could be done to make the 1970 reunion stand out from what had been happening at Catterick over the past twenty years. These and other considerations had tended to point towards Blandford as the place for the Association to hold its Annual General Meeting, but nothing was final yet, and the views of all parties would certainly be considered.

(Note.—A questionnaire about the possible venue of the 1970 celebrations was sent out to all branches on 25th July, 1966. Very few branches answered, and of those that did, the majority voted for celebrating in both Blandford and Catterick on different dates).

Welfare needs Clothing!

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1967

1966 £	£		£	£	1966 £	£		£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUND (including Minor Trusts):			4,626		CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		226
104,521		Balance at 31st December, 1967 ..		113,682	5,279		SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS ..		2,446
		Add: Excess of expenditure over income for the year (1966 excess of income over expenditure)	(57)		1,253		INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE		1,675
	6,119				431		STOCKS IN HAND		543
		Excess of income of minor trust over expenditure for the year	17		31		LOANS TO ASSOCIATION BRANCHES ..		9
	21						INVESTMENTS AT COST (per schedule attached)		
	3,021	Profit on sale of investments	1,532			103,708	Quoted (market value £124,423,—1966 £98,134)	106,166	
9,161				1,492		4	Unquoted	4	
113,682				115,174	103,712				106,170
2,178		SUNDRY CREDITORS AND ACCRUED CHARGES		2,289	528		OFFICE FURNITURE—AT COST LESS DEPRECIATION		394
		NOTE: There is a contingent liability to refund life membership subscriptions to certain serving soldiers of the Corps on retirement.					BRIGADIER W. GUISE TUCKER, *Chairman* BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, *Secretary*		
£115,860				£117,463	£115,860				£117,463

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

In our opinion the above balance sheet and annexed income and expenditure accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Fund at 31st December, 1967, and of the deficit for the year at that date. Lloyds Bank Limited has certified that it holds the securities representing investments, which were registered in the name of The Royal Signals Association Trust Limited.

(Signed) HOWARD SMITH THOMPSON & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

3 Frederick's Place,
Old Jewry, London, E.C.2.
May, 1968.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1967

GENERAL

1966 £	£		£	£	1966 £	£		£	£
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:			325		SUBSCRIPTIONS		296
		Salaries, National Insurance, Superannuation contributions	684		70		RECEIPTS FROM BRANCHES		47
	833						SUNDRY INCOME:		
	1,216	Gratuity to retired secretary ..	—				Income from sales of Corps clothing, badges, records of Corps music and diaries	85	
	1,189	Other administrative expenses ..	1,282			161			
3,238				1,966		5	Sundry other income	5	
		AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF:							90
	—	Stocks in hand	25		166		INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS—GROSS ..		5,172
	59	Furniture and fittings	44		4,850				
59				69					
492		COST OF ASSOCIATION REUNIONS ..		743					
1,415		LOSS ON PUBLICATIONS		961					
		INCOME TAX DEDUCTED FROM INVESTMENT INCOME NOT RECOVERABLE ..		1					
72									
135		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ..		1,865					
£5,411				£5,605	£5,411				£5,605

BENEVOLENT

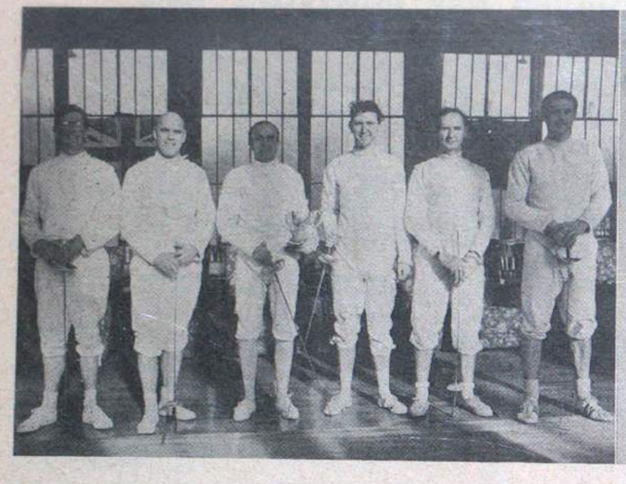
1966 £	£		£	£	1966 £	£		£	£
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:				354	DONATIONS:		
		Salaries National Insurance Superannuation contributions	2,309			1,750	Individuals and local branches ..	480	
	2,170				2,104		Regiments and Squadrons Royal Signals	1,226	
	157	Postage of welfare parcels	232						1,706
2,327				2,541		2,000	RECEIPTS FROM CORPS FUNDS:		
7,699		BENEVOLENT GRANTS		10,653		11,150	Officers	2,500	
		DONATIONS:			13,150		Soldiers	15,341	
	—	Army Benevolent Fund	10,000						17,841
	160	Star and Garter Homes	210			820	GRANTS REFUNDED:		
	220	Shaftesbury Homes	180			406	Benevolent	1,202	
	90	Others	99				War Memorial Fund	1,012	
470				10,489	1,226				2,214
5,984		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ..		—	—		EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME ..		1,922
£16,480				£23,683	£16,480				£23,683

SUMMARY

		EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME (1966 EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE) ON BENEVOLENT ACCOUNT ..		1,922	135		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL ACCOUNT		1,865
(5,984)		OVERALL EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE TAKEN TO ACCUMULATED FUND		—	—		OVERALL EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME TAKEN TO ACCUMULATED FUND		57
6,119				—					
£135				£1,922	£135				£1,922

Investment Summary for the Year ended 31st December, 1967

	Cost		*Income*	
	1967	1966	1967	1966
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	14,976	19,501	788	886
CORPORATION AND COUNTY SECURITIES	14,768	7,408	580	1,015
DOMINION AND COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	5,034	5,034	—	—
BANK DEPOSIT INTEREST	—	—	7	3
EQUITIES	71,388	71,765	3,821	2,972
	£106,166	£103 708	£5,196	£4,876
INCOME RELATING TO MINOR TRUST			24	26
OTHER INCOME			5,172	4,850
			£5,196	£4,876





☆ ☆ Masters of the Foil ☆ ☆

The 4th Division H.Q. and Regiment Fencing Team. By Some brilliant fencing they won the Army Team Fencing Championships and later only missed by a very narrow margin becoming the fencing supremos of the three Services. On the right, the trophies won: left to right, the B.A.O.R. Team Trophy, the Army Team Trophy and the 4th Division Trophy. (These trophies are now in the custody of the R.S.M.—no photo!). The team from left to right: Lieutenant R. M. L. Collins (Sabre); W.O.I (S.M.I.) R. E. Mobbs (Foil); Major R. A. King (Team Captain) (Epeé); Sergeant M. S. Fraser (Epeé); Major H. J. Millman (Foil); Major J. A. G. Moore (Sabre).

'Fencing' . . .well, it is just synonomous with the fencing team of 4th Division H.Q. and Regiment. Their performances have been brilliant, and they are certainly the talking point down Herford way. They won the Army Championships by meeting and beating many old and 'deadly' rivals. In fact, several members of the team fought some magnificent battles and several of the top Army fencing 'guns' were silenced.

Later at Earls Court in the Three Services' Championships they again put up a magnificent show — only two points separating them from the eventual winners — the Royal Navy.

The notes below on the Army Championships are written by Major R. A. King, Team Captain, prior to the Inter-Services Championships.

The Event: The Army Team Fencing Championships.

The Place: The Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot.

The Opposition: The best four Unit Teams from U.K.: R.M.A. Sandhurst; H.Q. R.C.T. Training Centre; 1 R. I.R. F. and 8th Regiment, together with our old opponents from B.A.O.R.; H.Q. Regiment 1 (B.R.) Corps and ourselves.

The Atmosphere: Electric !

The Result: A win for 4th Regiment who were undefeated throughout the competition.

The Human Aspect: A quick drink and a sigh of relief from the Team Captain who had been given quite clear instructions throughout the fencing season by the C.O. (who was present) and, who had spent quite some time before the Army Event, working through the provisions and exceptions to Section 34 (2) of the Army Act—(was it really a 'lawful' command . . . .).

The Competition

It was clear from a quick glance at the opposition warming up that every hit would count and there would be no time for coasting or waiting for a second wind. Each of us would have to fight ten opponents, most of them well-known to Army fencing, some with 'national' reputations and all of whom had fought their way up through a series of hard competitions to the Army finals.

Our first impressions were proved correct. Each match produced its setbacks and surprises which drew heavily on our reserves of team spirit, coaching and determination and at no stage during the day were we sure of victory.

The highlights of the competition were our very close victories over H.Q. R.C.T. Training Centre, who fielded two internationals epeeists, R.M.A.S., supremely fit, well coached and well supported, and H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps, who fielded **Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson** and **S.M.I. Talkington,** both Inter-Service sabreurs.

Throughout the series of competitions leading up to the Army Event, we have had our individual 'ups and downs,' but on this day special mention must be made of **Major John Moore** and **Major Harold Millman,** of the Headquarters, and of our Messing Officer and youngest member of the team, **Lieutenant Richard Collins,** who fought magnificently throughout the day and who silenced some of the biggest 'guns' in the Army.

Now on to the Royal Tournament.

This competition is slap in the middle of Exercise "Summer Sales," the major CPX of our training season, but we have all been given a firm assurance from C.R. Signals that as long as we bring back a Gold Medal and Trophy, not one word will be said about our absence: (The team captain is now looking up Section 38 (a) . . . .).

Whatever the results at Earls Court, we feel we have achieved our original aim. We set our sights at the Army Championships at the start of the season, and as a team, we have managed to remain undefeated throughout all phases of the competition—so far so good.

We now 'do battle' with the pick of the Senior Service and the Royal Air Force, and will do our best to bring the Inter-Service Trophy back to the Army.

Very hard luck indeed not to have carried this off as well.

Bowling in Singapore

By Corporal B. Black of 249 Signal Squadron

SINCE the first bowling alley was opened in Singapore, in December, 1964, the sport of bowling has become tremendously popular. Now, less than four years later, there are six bowling alleys in the country, two of which are run on Service establishments. One is on the R.A.F. base at Changi and the other is run by the Army Kinema Corporation at Dover Road.

Servicemen and their families provide a very large percentage of the bowlers regularly enjoying this sport in Singapore. It is hardly surprising, therefore, to find that a considerable number of Royal Signals personnel are amongst them, as the A.K.C. bowling alley is built almost on the front doorstep of 18th Regiment, 237 and 249 Squadrons.

A Royal Signals League

Bowlers from the Corps play in different teams, in different leagues on many different nights of the week. It was proposed that a Royal Signals League should be started on a Sunday morning and this met with a good response. On the first Sunday in August, 1967, the Signals League was formed and sanctioned by the the Singapore Ten-Pin Bowling Congress, under the Presidency of **Corporal Brian Black,** assisted by **Signalman Frank Murphy, Corporal Johnny Fullelove, Corporal Alec Leigh** and **Corporal Tony Mortimer.**

The exercise commitments of 249 Squadron and the shift working in 18th Regiment and 237 Squadron made it difficult to play off all the matches. After eight weeks, however, the main "Jackies Bowl" in Singapore started an Inter-Unit League, comprising sixteen teams. It was then decided to disband the Signals League and enter two teams of ten in the Inter-Unit League.

Two Corps Teams

The P.R.I. of 18th Regiment (**Major Bird**) was approached, as it was rumoured that both he and his wife were enthusiastic bowlers. It was hoped that he would lend a sympathetic view towards sponsoring the teams, a mere $1,600. This, not unexpectedly, was not forthcoming, but we did manage to get two complete sets of bowling shirts paid for from P.R.I. funds. Thus equipped, "Jimmies Click" and "Mighty Mouse," sallied into a thirty-week league, which started last October.

"**Jimmies Click**".—**Sergeant Chas. Hall** (237 Squadron); **Corporal Brian Black** (249 Squadron); **Corporal Alec Leigh** (249 Squadron); **Corporal Dave Price** (249 Squadron); **Corporal Alex McDonald** (18th Regiment); **Corporal Pete Higson** (237 Squadron); **Lance-Corporal Ken Thompson** (249 Squadron); **Signalman 'Tiger' Edwards** (249 Squadron); **Signalman Frank Murphy** (249 Squadron); **Corporal Johnny Fullelove** (249 Squadron); **Corporal Tony Mortimer** (237 Squadron); **Lance-Corporal Stu Thorburn** (237 Squadron); **Signalman Frank Thomson** (18th Regiment); **Signalman Mick Pettis** (249 Squadron); **Lance-Corporal Tim Hawkins** (646 Troop); **Signalman Woggy Taylor** (249 Squadron).

The decision as to who should play in what team was decided by handicaps, i.e., the highest handicapped bowler went into Team 'A,' the next highest in team 'B,' and so on; then, with one or two adjustments, we fielded two teams of about the same strength.

At the start both teams bowled well, with "Jimmies Click" staying on top for the first nine weeks, and "Mighty Mouse" alternating between fourth and seventh; but unfortunately the "Mighty Mouse" were again hit by shift and exercise commitments, which continued until the end of the league, in May this year. It was a different tale for "Jimmies Click": **Corporal Alec Leigh** left us to join the police force; **Corporal Pete Higson** was posted to Brunei; and **Signalman Edwards** was posted to Thailand. However, they were lucky enough to get **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Eric Hurnell** (18th Regiment), **Sergeant Alan Winstanley** (237 Squadron) and **Corporal John Color-Dak** (237 Squadron) to replace them

Star players

It was hardly surprising that "Jimmies Click" should continue to do well with their new line-up, as **Eric Hurnell, Alex McDonald** and **Brian Black,** were all invited to roll-off amongst

(*Continued on page 326*)

CYPHER VACANCIES

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Vacancies exist for Men and Women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work in Cheltenham and London. Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting duties is desirable.

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The Recruitment Officer (CY. OP./6),
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JIMMIES CLICK!

Left to right:—Lance-Corporal John Color-Dak 237 Squadron, Staff Sergeant Eric Hurnell 18th Regiment, Sergeant Alan Winstanly 237 Squadron, Sergeant Chas. Hall 237 Squadron, Signalman 'Tiger' Edwards 249 Squadron, Corporal Alex McDonald 18th Regiment



"MIGHTY MOUSE"

After the 'end of the league' presentation. *Left to right:*—Lance-Corporal Stewart Thorburn 237 Squadron, Lance-Corporal Tony Mortimer 237 Squadron, Signalman Frank Murphy 249 Squadron, Corporal Tom Terras 237 Squadron

the country's top forty bowlers to select a team to represent Singapore in the Malaysian National Championships, earlier this year. **Eric Hurnell** bowled well and finished first in the field, and was asked to captain the Singapore side. **Alex McDonald** just failed to spare his last frame, a ten-pin, and that cost him sixth place in the team. **Alex** was asked to represent the team in the Chinese National Championships in Taiwan, but was unfortunately not available at that time.

A further member of the Corps, **Lance-Corporal Peter Shepherd,** of 19th Regiment deserves mention. Although not in one of these two teams, he is a leading figure in Singapore bowling circles. He came fourth in the roll-off and also represented Singapore.

More and more people began to take an interest in the team as their toll of victories increased, and in December last year, the team made bowling headlines in the national press, when they succeeded in taking the league high game and series.

Throughout the league the team never dropped below fourth place. Two teams from G.H.Q., FARELF—the "Buccanneers" and the "Phontons"—the "Weird Mob" of the Royal Australian Army, and the "Vikings," furnished by the R.A.O.C., were at the top of the league. Indeed, the "Jimmies Click" were one point behind "The Vikings" going into the last game, but the team was unable to hold their opponents and lost all the last four points, to finish second to the R.A.O.C. team by five points.

"Mighty Mouse" did well to finish in eighth place.

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Association Notes

HULL BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: G. A. Soar, 164, Park Avenue, Hull.

Death of Mr. Frank Eglen

The past few months have been overshadowed by the illness and eventual death of one of the branch's staunchest members—**Mr. F. R. Eglen**—a Life Member of the Association.

His loss to the branch is a very severe one indeed. Frank gave his wholehearted support in every possible way, both at branch meetings and in social events. He joined the Service in 1927, and during his service spent four years in India. During the war he was captured and spent four years as a prisoner-of-war. Leaving the Service in 1945, he joined the G.P.O., Hull, and had a wide circle of friends. **The Rev. J. V. Dearden** (ex-Major of the Corps) officiated at the funeral service and there were a great many friends and sympathisers, including representatives from the Hull and York branches of the Association.

To **Mrs. Eglen** and family we extend our very sincere sympathy.

We have certainly lost a great pal in **Frank Eglen.**

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. Gillibrand, 21, Falklands Avenue, New Southgate, N.11.

More about THAT dinner

Now about the dinner—what a DO! Much better than ever before and that's really saying something. The menu was a winner. This was more by luck than judgement because we had to change it at a very late date. However, we accepted the advice of Mr. Stanbrook, of the Cambridge, in this matter and certainly had no regrets about it.

The hall looked extremely inviting, and each table was adorned with a nice pot plant which eventually went to the ladies who had the lucky menus. (Every other lady received a single flower by way of consolation). These had been purchased on our behalf by **Pam** and **Wally Reynolds.**

As is our usual custom, we had only two speeches. First we let the Colonel welcome the guests and tell them what a cracking good branch we are, then **Harold Hardy,** whose short speech was tinged with R.A.F.-style wit, agreed with **Ken** saying for all the guests present that there was no place they would sooner be than in the company in which they found themselves that night. Toasts and speeches were ably handled by **Mr. A. C. Bartlett** and with the meal over, **Wally Craythorne** took over as M.C.

Since the dinner we have had a happy evening with the ladies and have one more branch night to which we can look forward before we take off for the mammoth event at Catterick. Arrangements for the reunion are complete, and we shall have a record number going. Happy to say that we have more new numbers coming into the branch, and so it goes on —progress, progress all the way.

Probably the biggest moment of the evening came when the ladies' headdress competition was judged by no less a personality than **Cliff Jones,** of Spurs, who proclaimed **Mrs. Z. Hill** the winner.

(Extracted from the June issue of "Inter-Com," the newsletter of the North London Branch).

Sport

CRICKET

Lance-Corporal Worrell hits two centuries for the Corps

The Corps Cricket eleven has been putting up some fine performances in recent weeks. Against R.E.M.E., and then against Royal Engineers, **Lance-Corporal Worrell** (see "Special Mention" Column) hit centuries.

Result:

v. R.M.A. Sandhurst

R.M.A. 118. (**Lance-Corporal L. R. Worrell** 5 for 32, **Corporal M. G. Kilvington** 3 for 42, **Corporal R. Gipson** 2 for 38).

Royal Signals 119 for 2 wickets. (**Lieutenant S. A. Coltman** 59, **Corporal H. G. Taylor** 24).

Result: Royal Signals won by 8 wickets. This was the Corps third successive victory over R.M.A., the only Corps side to achieve this.

v. Royal Marines. Abandoned without a ball being bowled.

v. R.A.C. At Bovington Camp.

R.A.C. 180. (**Captain S. R. Carr-Smith** 4 for 34) and 97, (**Corporal Kilvington** 6 for 27, **Lieutenant Coltman** 2 for 3).

Royal Signals 154. (**Lieutenant Coltman** 53, **Corporal Kilvington** 27) and 116 (**Lieutenant Coltman** 34, **Corporal Kilvington** 30).

Result: Royal Signals lost by 7 runs.

v. R.A. At Aldershot.

Royal Signals 230. (**Lance-Corporal O. G. S. Butler** 60, **Corporal Kilvington** 52, **Lance-Corporal Worrell** 29).

R.A. 160 for 5 wickets. (**Lance-Corporal Worrell** 3 for 48).

The Gunners, losing the wickets of two of their three Army batsmen after a sound start, played out time; last year's Army captain, **Captain D. G. Williams** was unbeaten with 59.

v. R.E.M.E.

R.E.M.E. 128. (**Lance-Corporal R. Gibson** 5 for 36, **Captain S. T. Carr-Smith** 2 for 5) and 115 (**Corporal M. G. Kilvington** 5 for 27, **Lance-Corporal Worrell** 4 for 26).

Royal Signals 297 for 8 wickets dec. (**Lance-Corporal Worrell** 109, **Corporal H. G. Taylor** 80, **Major S. G. Clive-Lowe** 51 n.o.).

Result: Won by innings and 51 runs.

Brilliant batting by **Taylor** and **Worrell,** who put on 129 runs in a third wicket partnership, was the outstanding feature of the match. The Corps run rate was five runs per over.

v. R.C.T.

Royal Signals 193 (**Lance-Corporal L. R. Worrell** 38, **Corporal M. G. Kilvington** 35 n.o.) and 150 (**Lance-Corporal Worrell** 49, **Signalman G. Williamson** 29).

R.C.T. 175 (**Corporal R. Gibson** 5 for 20, **Corporal Kilvington** 3 for 45) and 96 for 6 wickets (**Lance-Corporal Worrell** 6 for 42).

Match drawn.

v. Royal Engineers

R.E. 214 for 4 dec. (**Lance-Corporal Worrell** 3 for 58).

Royal Signals 207 for 7 (**Lance-Corporal Worrell** 117, **Lieutenant Walters** 41, **Captain Carr Smith** 30).

Inclement weather restricted play to one day.

After a slow start, **Lance-Corporal Worrell** began to score freely, ably assisted by Lieutenant Walters and **Captain Carr Smith.** When victory seemed certain, a needless run-out wasted the valuable time needed to secure an additional over in which to knock off the remaining 8 runs.

Result a draw.

HOCKEY

The following represented the Army (Cyprus) in the Inter-Service match against the Royal Air Force: **Captain R. Hutley,** 261 Squadron; **Staff Sergeant J. Angell** and **Corporal J. A. N. Green,** of 259 Squadron. The following represented the Army (Cyprus) on its tour of Malta: **Major (Q.M.) J. V. Harding** and **Signalman D. B. Cooper,** of 9th Regiment.

TENNIS RESULTS

v. Staff College, Camberley: Won 5—4.
v. Welbeck College: Won 9—0.
v. R.A.P.C.: Lost 5—4.
v. R.E.M.E.: Won 6—3.
v. R.C.T.: Won 9—0.
v. R.A.O.C.: Won 7—2.

FOOTBALL — ARMY APPOINTMENT

Major G. S. (Pat) Massey, H.Q., Army Strategic Command, has been re-appointed Manager of the Army Association Football Team for the 1968/69 season.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 1968

Vol. 22 *(New Series)* **No. 9**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We feature this month an unusual but cheerful subject as the theme of our front cover picture—a team of Harrogate Apprentices' winning the Knaresborough Bed Race.

This lighthearted event won by Harrogate against considerable opposition, led on to more "bed" exploits culminating in a 100-mile "bedwalk" from Harrogate to Jarrow.

The result of this was that the sum of £340 was raised towards the construction of a hydro-therapy pool in a local hospital for the disabled.

Leading spirit behind this venture was **Sergeant Escott,** of the Corps and all the Apprentices concerned are to be congratulated on their sporting and original way of doing good for somebody else—a sharp contrast to the dreary creatures who shuffle round Berkeley Square in protest of a Sunday.

A full account is on page 330.

Front Cover Photographs

As already notified several times in THE WIRE, potential front cover photographs are welcome from any source—they do not have to be unit sponsored. They must be really good, clear photographs on glossy paper, and the subject should be as striking and original in concept as possible.

The dimensions of the photographs should, if possible, be the same as those of the actual space available on the cover of THE WIRE or, if not, they should be in proportion, bearing in mind that small photographs will not always enlarge up as effectively as one would like.

It may also be necessary to trim the edges of photographs to make them fit, and so essential elements of the subject matter should not be too close to the edges.

Generally, THE WIRE has several photographs in hand at any time which are earmarked for subsequent issues, and so it is advisable to choose subjects that do not date quickly, as three or four months may elapse before they can be printed.

Errors in "The Wire"

We are all too conscious of errors that occur from time to time in the columns of THE WIRE, and it is our aim to eliminate these as much as possible. Unfortunately, proof-reading is a wearisome process which generally has to be carried out in a hurry. At present, two pairs of eyes read proofs, but with the best intentions, mistakes still slip through. Another pair of eyes will shortly be available to assist, and we are also contemplating sending galley proofs to contributors in the U.K. and B.A.O.R., so that they can check their own contributions. However, if this is done, corrections will have to be sent back by return of post or telephoned through. We shall have to see how it works out.

BURSTING AT THE SEAMS . . .

"The Wire" normally runs to 40 or 44 pages of reading matter between covers. Occasionally we reach 48 pages, and once we went to press with 52 pages. Anything over 44 pages shows a loss financially. This month's contributions would have added up to a 62-page "Wire." Your Editor has, therefore, been forced to cut RUTHLESSLY and TO HOLD CERTAIN ARTICLES OVER in order to reduce to 48 pages. The operation has been far from pleasant. We hope those correspondents who have been "savaged" will understand and forgive.

Harrogate Apprentices fine effort

A bit of fun turns into a remarkable fund raising exploit for Charity

It started like this . . . .



[Photo: Sergeant B. A. Hulme, Royal Signals.

and finished like this . . . .



[Courtesy Yorkshire Post

THE KNARESBOROUGH BED RACE

By Lieutenant D. W. Stanley

What it's all about

THE Bed Race is organised by Knaresborough Round Table in aid of local charities. First held in 1966, it now has such added attractions as a beauty competition, sideshows and fun fair. In the first two years, the number of "beds" competing rose from nine to fifteen, and over £1,000 was donated to various charities. This year the number of beds was limited to 23, and the sum raised has still to be counted.

The race is run, or pushed, over a testing course through the streets of Knaresborough and finally across the River Nidd to the finishing line. Teams of six compete, each propelling throughout the race a bed, mounted on four wheels with a strict maximum diameter of nine inches, on which reclines—or clings for dear life—a lady passenger clad in her night-dress.

Phillips Squadron, having won the first race and come second in 1967, this year entered a team determined to win the barrel of beer and cup offered as first prize.

Preparations

Preparations began early in the term to get the bed ready and the team fit for the big event on 8th June. The NAAFI helped greatly by giving the Squadron an unserviceable trolley which had good wheels. This was taken to a local black-smith, who kindly provided facilities for **Sergeant H. Escott** to cut and weld the trolley to form our "racing bed." Mean-while, back at the ranch, or somewhere, the members of the team were getting fit.

Two weeks before the race, the bed was ready for its first trials, and after some minor alterations to its polystyrene mattress, the time came to test its aquatic performance. This proved pretty competent, as four young apprentices were on board at its launching.

After the "bed" had been decorated on the theme of "Flower Power," all was ready for a timed trial. It was decided to hold this on Sunday, 2nd June, and to use the occa-sion to sell more programmes. The "vehicle" was paraded around the Married Quarters in the morning, and after lunch, the team set off with the "bed" for Knaresborough, via Harro-gate, selling programmes en route. On arrival at Knaresborough, as well as a number of small boys, the "bed" had collected a police escort. Publicity was now assured, and the team required further supplies of programmes. After a short rest for the team, the trial began. This went very well, apart from such minor troubles as cars and people getting in the way. On arrival at the river it was decided, because of the number of pleasure boats, not to cross; after all, you can't sell tickets to people who are floundering about in the water. The time taken to the river had been 13 minutes 30 seconds, which was an extremely good time, in the conditions—although there had been no competition from other "beds."

On Whit Monday, the team captain (**Sergeant Escott**) de-cided to make one more trial. This, including the river-cross-ing, was timed at 16 minutes 30 seconds.

The Big Day Comes

So came the day. The team, in sympathy with the "bed," were dressed in flowered mini-skirts, as were our six-strong advance party, whose job was to make sure of a clear run for our bed, and dissuade any saboteurs. One hour before the race, our Apprentices were still selling progammes to the crowds assembling in Knaresborough. In all, over 630 pro-grammes were sold at 2/- each, a very fine effort.

In the "best-decorated bed" competition we came nowhere. That was one of the two prize barrels of beer gone, so the team now knew they had to win the race to get the other.

It's beds away—and success!

On the inspection of "beds," it was found that one of our wheel hubs had twisted and that the distance between the wheels was ½in. less than it should have been. We were "awarded" one minute penalty time. Worse was to come. Our strongest rivals were drawn first away: ourselves, 21st. At 16.00 hours the race was started by pop star **Joe Brown**. Two beds were set off every minute. We started with a team called "The Hermits," and as **Sergeant Escott** forced a fast pace, we left them from the line. By the half-way mark we had already passed eight beds and were going extremely well. We reached the river just behind the Young Conservatives, and passed them in the water. By our own timing we had taken 16 minutes 8 seconds, with our penalty to be added. As last year's winning time was 18 minutes 30 seconds, we were still inside the record. Then, at last, the announcement of the results. The team's hard work had paid dividends, and Phillips had won!

The team would like to thank the NAAFI Manageress, the College Painter and Carpenter, and **Mr. Mathews,** the black-smith, without whose help we could not have had such a splendid "bed." One other item is well worthy of note: the young lady who was to have been our "passenger" declined 30 minutes before the race, and the girl friend of **Lance-Corporal Adkins** kindly agreed to stand (or lie) in. Our thanks to **Miss Jean Wilkinson,** of Knaresborough—although we still wonder how she came to have a nightie in her handbag!

The Team.—Sergeant H. Escott, A/T S.S.M. Russell, A/T Sergeant Parry, A/T Lance-Corporal Beattie, A/T Lance-Corporal Adkins, A/T Stockton.

The Advance Party.—A/T Sergeant Mann, J/Corporal Barron, A/T Lance-Corporal Geary, A/T Siddle, J/Signalman Packman.

Then — a wonderful effort for Charity

"Bed-Race Champions" in 100-mile "bedwalk"

Like "Felix," the cat, the "champion bed-pushers" of Phillips Squadron "just keep on walking."

Spurred on by success

Following their victory in this year's Knaresborough "Bed Race," the team—accompanied, inevitably, by their bed—car-ried out a twenty-mile road walk, sponsored by the Harrogate Lions, a local charitable organisation. In this they started last and finished first.

Spurred on by this success, **Sergeant Escott,** coach, guide and mentor of the team, determined to attempt a 100-mile walk, again in the cause of charity. This time the purpose was to raise funds for the building of a hydrotherapy pool for St. George's Home for the Disabled, in Harrogate. Sponsors were readily forthcoming: The Lions, as always, were unstinting in their support; a Yorkshire brewery "commanded" by General Tetley (Retd.) offered a £1 a mile; a local coal merchant and a chain of shoe-shops donated handsome sums, as did the local Dunlopillo factory. Apprentices and members of the College Staff also lent valuable support.

"Coronation Street" Star plays her part

The well-known actress **Eileen Derbyshire,** who plays the part of Emily Nugent in "Coronation Street," chanced to be playing at Harrogate's repertory theatre, and, to ensure a rousing send-off, kindly consented to pose on the bed for photo-graphs. She was busily doing this, when, somewhat to her alarm, the team set off at a fast trot, en route, as she thought, for Jarrow. To her great credit, the main cause for concern seemed to be that she had no handbag, but she was under-standably relieved to learn that her "progress" was confined to a "lap of honour" round Harrogate, negotiated with com-plete safety if little comfort.

At 6 p.m. on Friday, 26th July, a large crowd, among whom the Lions were prominent, cheered the bed and its "pro-pellers" on its way from the middle of Harrogate. Setting a cracking pace, the boys quickly covered the first stage of their journey—22 miles to Thirsk, where they arrived at 9.30 p.m. and camped for the night.

The team consisted of 20 apprentices, pushing and pulling in relays and resting between stints in a 3-ton lorry. **Sergeant Escott** led the party, while **Sergeant George Dawes,** of The King's Regiment, and also of Phillips Squadron, followed in his private car in case of emergency.

Pushers are really tired

Afoot and awheel again at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, the party pressed on through Northallerton to Darlington, where they enjoyed a fortuitous cup of coffee at a Student Nurses' Home. They were invited to a party that night, but the hills of Co. Durham had taken their toll and for once, even the willing "pushers" had to confess themselves too tired. However, they did find the energy to put the boot on the other foot and, for a change, give a couple of nurses a ride in bed.

And so, on through Bishop Auckland, some 52 miles and 11½ hours later the bed reached its second encampment at Durham.

Jarrow at last

At 9 a.m. on Sunday, 28th July, the final 27-mile trundle began. On reaching Houghton-le-Spring, just before 11 a.m., the party was refreshed by a grand spread of sandwiches, tea and coffee, kindly prepared and provided by the mother of one of the apprentices, **A/T S.S.M. Keith Hedley.** Thus fortified, the party pressed on through Sunderland and South Shields until, tired but triumphant, they arrived at 3.30 p.m. in the town centre of Jarrow, greeted by loyal supporters from the North-East—including no fewer than four police squad cars!

One of the features of the marathon was the team's unfailing punctuality: they kept entirely to schedule throughout, and for this express their thanks to the various police forces en route who so willingly produced escorts for them.

The venture succeeded in raising the splendid sum of £340; of this, some £40 came from small-coin, unsolicited contribu-tions along the 101-mile road.

G.O.C's Commendation for Royal Signals Corporal

Corporal M. Sulley, then serving with 262 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 53 has received the commendation of the General Officer Commanding, Near East Land Forces, Major-General D. D. Lloyd Owen, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., for praiseworthy conduct.

The citation reads:

"**Corporal Sully** was in charge of the signals element of the Near East Land Forces expedition to Murzuch, which took place between 1st March and 1st June, 1968.

His responsibilities were to organise daily communications with Headquarters, Near East Land Forces, in Cyprus, by way of a relay station at R.A.F. El Adem, and to supervise the work of a second radio operator and a signals technician at the expedition's base camp and also a rear link operator at El Adem.

Cpl. Sully worked with singular dedication and efficiency, transmitting an unbroken sequence of daily signals, averaging 400 words a day. The conditions were technically difficult, and to establish good communications over the 800 miles, seven changes of aerials were required. This was accomplished in a Fezzanese gale of unusual severity. This might have deterred a soldier of average ability. Throughout the entire three months' period, **Corporal Sully** uncomplainingly maintained a tireless devotion to meeting his expedition leader's requirements. His expert ability to work patiently from 06.00 hours, with inter-mittent intervals, until late at night did much to maintain the expedition's competence and morale. This was achieved in a constant temperature in excess of 100°F., where facilities were non-existent, and where there was no recourse to an officer or senior N.C.O. with technical ability.

Corporal Sully also contributed much to the success of the expedition's project, to cross the 200-mile wide Edeyen of Murzuch, by training the field party in the use of the A13 radio and controlling the net which operated up to a range of 180 miles. The expedition was able to remain in continual communication with Base Camp and H.Q. NEARELF. For his efficiency and total dedication to duty, **Corporal Sully** de-serves the highest praise."

Corporal Sully is now serving with the Briefing and Liaison Team, El Adem, B.F.P.O. 55.

Will all Units please note!

In order to avoid the usual postal diffi-culties just before Christmas, the December issue of "The Wire" will be published on 16th December.

This means that final copy MUST be in the Editor's hands by MONDAY, 11th NOVEMBER.

☆ ☆ BAOR visit of the Master of Signals ☆ ☆

WE PUBLISH BELOW, SHORT DESCRIPTIONS OF THE VISIT OF MAJOR-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM SCOTT, MASTER OF SIGNALS, AND LADY SCOTT, TO VARIOUS UNITS IN B.A.O.R.

1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment

Ship to shore

AFTER crossing by ferry from England, the **Master** and **Lady Scott** were met at Bremerhaven on the morning of 5th June by the Commanding Officer and **Lieutenant Mayne,** who accompanied them back to Verden, and was to act as A.D.C. to the Master during his visit to B.A.O.R.

The curl in the elephant's tusk

During the afternoon they visited the thousand-year-old Dom, or Cathedral, of Verden and the Verden Museum. It was in the latter that an erudite discussion between the Master and the Commanding Officer took place on the likely origin of the large skeleton of a mammal. Further research and correspondence have now established that the creature was an elephant which roamed these parts about 100,000 years ago.

"My Boy Willie"

This was an unwitting tribute to the perennial youth of the Master, paid by the Band of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment. It is the title of their Regimental March, which they played at the end of the dinner in the Officers' Mess. At this dinner we were delighted to entertain the ladies and take them horse racing afterwards. Somewhat later in the evening, a few venturesome ladies could be seen riding the "Otto" Cycle—side-saddle, of course. No easy feat on a scooter!

On parade

Next morning, punctually at 09.00 hours, the Master arrived at the barracks to inspect the quarter guard, commanded by **Sergeant Payne,** which was drawn up in his honour. After coffee and discussion with the C.O., he called on the G.O.C. and then took to the woods.



"TALL STORY?"
Left to right: R.S.M. Turner, The Master, The Commanding Officer, Staff Sergeant Cobb, Sergeant Wyness, Staff Sergeant Bland

The bear garden

We believe that we had the honour of being the first to show BRUIN to the Master in the tactical setting, for which it was designed. He saw Comcen Delta, from 1 Squadron, and Comhd. Echo, from 3 Squadron, set up in two woods, the natural habitat of these particular bears.

Wireless world

With an urgent appointment at the Sergeants' Mess drawing near, there was only twenty minutes in hand for the Master to visit the VHF and 'steam' radio of 2 Squadron, drawn up on the Square.

Workers' playtime

In the convivial atmosphere of the Sergeants' Mess, anecdotes and reminiscences were soon being exchanged as throats were lubricated. A buffet lunch was served and then it was time for us to take leave of the Master, as he set out for Bielefeld.

Meanwhile . . .

The ladies of the Regiment had also been busy guiding **Lady Scott** through a full programme. First, a visit to the Medical Centre to see and hear at first hand of the problems involved in doctoring for a Regiment and its scattered family. Then a visit to the baby clinic to meet mothers-to-be and proud mothers with new babies.

At the Thrift Shop, Mrs. Edwards explained the management side and market trends of this voluntary-staffed business that provides S.S.A.F.A. and other charities with a welcome and steady income. After thrift, Toc H, coffee and chat with the wives of senior N.C.O.s, followed by lunch at the C.O.'s house with the wives of the officers. This was the finalé to the programme, and **Lady Scott** left with the Master for Soltau.

We are grateful to them both for the great interest that they took in our Regiment and for giving us such a generous share of their tour. We look forward to their next visit.

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment

AFTER due military ceremony on the Master of Signals arrival, when he inspected the quarter-guard, commanded by **Staff Sergeant Nook,** the Regiment showed the Master the sporting and extra mural side of Regimental life.

After coffee and a briefing on the Regiment by the Commanding Officer, the Master saw first the small gymnasium which is permanently laid out with a ground ring and training circuit. He met a number of the Regimental boxers under training, and also saw circuit training in progress, including the 'Bullworker' and other physical training aids now in use.

On his way to the helicopter, flown by **W.O.II Watson,** Royal Scots Greys, which took the Master to the Canoe Training Camp at Lohne, he met members of the Regimental cricket team at practice.

At the Canoe Traning Camp the Master saw the Regimental canoe team under the tutelage of **Second-Lieutenant Theodorson,** and met **Signalmen Wink** and **Pawlow,** who had recently won the K2 Class long distances and slalom races in the French Army Canoe Championships.

Although the river at Lohne is not ideal for dinghies, we took the opportunity of inviting the Master to name the Mirror 16 Dinghy, built from a kit by members of the L.A.D. during

(Continued on page) 333

(Continued from page 332)

the winter, *Mercury*. This he kindly consented to do with the champagne provided. Sufficient, however, was saved to refresh the builders.

On his return to Birdwood Barracks, the Master met the Officers of the Regiment in the Mess before lunch. The lunch was the last official appearance of **Staff Sergeant Woolgar, M.M., B.E.M.,** as Mess Steward, a position he has very ably filled for the past eight years. To mark **Staff Sergeant Woolgar's** service in the Officers' Mess and also upon his retirement after 37 years' service, past and present officers of the Regiment had subscribed to a gold wrist watch which the Master kindly presented after lunch.

During the Master's visit, **Lady Scott,** accompanied by **Mrs. Sturge,** visited the three Married Quarters areas in Bunde, and met a number of the Regiment's families.

In the evening the Master returned to attend a dinner night in the W.O's and Sergeants' Mess.

Dinner Night—Sergeants' Mess

The W.O.s' and Sergeants Mess had the honour of dining the Master of Signals, together with the C.C.R. Signals, G.S.O. I, H.Q., Royal Signals 1 (BR) Corps, Commanding Officer of this Regiment, and the R.S.M.s of 1st Division, 7th and 22nd Signal Regiments, on the night of 12th June.

A memorable evening was enjoyed by all, the Master revealing untold stories of long ago and producing by his presence, an air of Corps supremacy, fully appreciated by all Royal Signals in attendance.

The Mess sincerely hopes that a time may come when once again we may have the pleasure of the company of the Master of Signals.

7th Signal Regiment

Both the **Master of Signals** and **Lady Scott** arrived in the Regiment at 10.00 hours for separate tours of the Regiment.

The Master inspected the quarter guard and, after a visit to R.H.Q., where the Commanding Officer outlined the role and organisation of the Regiment in the Bruin era, **General Scott** saw a demonstration layout, on the square, of the various groups of vehicles that form the present-day Corps Headquarters and the Bruin Communication Head, which serves them. He then walked across the square the representative 30 km. to where a Corps Comcen was laid out, again diagrammatically. On his way to see the Telecommunication Workshop, he saw the L.A.D. recovery team transfer a Bruin container body installation off a 3-ton flat platform. His tour then took him to North Camp where, at the Regimental Training School, he presented colours to Regimental sportsmen for hockey, rugger, cross-country and motor-cycling. After a brief look at the courses currently in progress in the Training School, the Master was driven to the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess to meet the members before moving on to the Officers' Mess, where he was joined by **Lady Scott** and met officers and their wives at a buffet luncheon.

Meanwhile, **Lady Scott's** tour had started in the W.R.V.S. lounge, where, for an hour, she met wives of the Regiment during coffee. She then visited the Services' Shop and the "Way-Inn" Club, before touring the Regimental Restaurant, where she met our Specialist Messing Officer, **Captain P. Quigley,** A.C.C., and saw the mid-day meal being prepared.

From there she went with **Mrs. Sherratt** and **Mrs. Sawers** to visit three married familes in their homes. She called on **Signalman** and **Mrs. Spencer** in a mobile home, **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Todd** in a caravan, and finally **Mrs. Cleaver** wife of **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Cleaver,** in a flat in nearby Herford, before joining her husband for lunch in the Officers' Mess.

Immediately after lunch, the **Master** and **Lady Scott,** accompanied by **Brigadier** and **Mrs. Sawers** and **Miss Janet Sawers,** left for Berlin. At the Helmstedt check point, the Master spoke over the Bruin automatic telephone system from a TEV liaison vehicle, provided by 22nd Regiment to the Commanding Officer, who took the call in the Regimental Command Post vehicle, which was part of the Corps H.Q. layout on the Regimental square.



R.S.M. Laycock of 7th Regiment never revealed what the joke was

229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)

On 10th June the Squadron were honoured by a visit of **Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.,** and **Lady Scott.** The Master was greeted by a Squadron quarter guard and then taken on a conducted tour of the Squadron, after which the Master was entertained in the Sergeants' Mess for lunchtime drinks and then the Officers' Mess for lunch. Meanwhile, **Lady Scott** had coffee with the Squadron Wives' Club, after which she was conducted on a small shopping tour, before being entertained by the officers' wives for lunch.

Altogether, the Master and his wife spent four days in Berlin as guests of our C.S.O., **Colonel Holifield.** The visit was of interest to the Master, as it brought back memories of his last visit to Berlin, ten years ago, and the changes during his tour of the city were noted with interest.



A SMART QUARTER GUARD GREETS THE MASTER
Left to Right: Lieutenant-Colonel Holifield, Captain Barrett 2 i/c, Captain Bayfield (Guard Commander), Staff Sergeant Cook (head only), The Master, Corporal Butler, Lance-Corporal Cole, Corporal Bevan, Corporal Quinn, Lance-Corporal Coates, Corporal Copley

11th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn. (211)



GENERAL SCOTT GETS DOWN TO IT ON A F.V. 432
Sergeant Peacock (head), The Master, Lieutenant D. McLean

THE **Master of Signals** and **Lady Scott** arrived on the Berliner Express in Brunswick at lunchtime. They were met by the A.D.C. and the Squadron Second-in-Command, **Captain Paul Stamp,** who then travelled with them to Minden. On arriving at the Vennebeck fly-off, the staff car was met by two of 11th Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron despatch riders (**Corporal Ross** and **Corporal Devine,** both ex-members of the Royal Signals Display Team), who led the staff car through Minden to the O.C.'s house. Here the **Master** and **Lady Scott** met the O.C., **Major Peter Davis,** the **Hon. Mrs. Leuchars,** wife of the Brigade Commander, **Anne Davis** and **Mrs. Joan Pearce,** the wife of the R.S.M.

On arrival at Kingsley Barracks, the Master was introduced to the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier P. R. Leuchars, C.B.E.,** and then, accompanied by the O.C., and **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Pearce,** started his tour of the unit. Time for the visit was very short, but he did manage to see 'Alpha' Troop G complex laid out as for an exercise and met detachment commanders **Staff Sergeant Loveday, Sergeant Peacock, Corporals McGurk, Sainsbury, Crouch** and **Lance-Corporal Smith.** The highlight of the afternoon was watching the Master of Signals commanding an FV 432 on a tour of the barracks. He was driven by **Sergeant Peacock** and accompanied by O.C. 'A' Troop, **Lieutenant Derek McLean.** The Master then visited 'Bravo' Troop, where he met **Lieutenant Jerry Barrett** and **Sergeant Stacey,** who, with the help of **Corporals Cunningham, Folkes** and **Signalman Young** explained the intricacies of a BRUIN Comhead mounted in FVs 439.

After a brief visit to the Foreman of Signal's workshop, where he met **Staff Sergeant Paul, Sergeant Page** and technicians, **Corporals Johnson** and **Herbert,** he went to the Minden Message Centre to see **W.O.II Boughton, Signalmen McCarthy** and **Lilley,** and **Mrs. Turnbull** (wife of **Signalman Turnbull**). He was then taken to the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess for tea. The **Master** and **Lady Scott** chatted to a large number of members of the Mess and their wives and representatives from the Squadron Wives' Club. Much too soon, they had to leave for Bielefeld, escorted by our two despatch riders, but we were delighted when the Master again met some of the Squadron two days later, to present the Minor Units Morrison Cup for the third consecutive year to athletes **Lieutenant McLean, Corporal McGurk, Lance-Corporal Berry** (Int. Corps), **Signalman Freeman, Captain Wakely** (Queen's), **Lance-Corporal Chapman, Signalman Learoyd, Lance-Corporal Thompson** (1 B.W.) and **Driver Plaskitt.**

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Special Mention



Lance-Corporal McAlpine in the front of the lead canoe at Hildesheim. It's St. Helens, Lancashire, here we come!

— *Lance-Corporal McAlpine of 1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 102*

for being the lead canoeist, with a party of seven others from the 32nd Heavy Regiment, who set off from Hildesheim to canoe to St. Helens, Lancashire. The party left on 21st June, arrived at Margate on 14th July, and reached their final destination on 20th July.

(Lance-Corporal McAlpine is writing the full story of this remarkable canoeing adventure for THE WIRE.—*Editor).*

— *The Canoeists of 2nd Regiment*

for admitting their embarrassment when entering the Divisional Canoe Championships, where 17 first prizes were allotted and winning the whole lot!

— *4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment*

for raising the record sum of £700 for charity at their Anglo-German Fete—an amount which surely must be a record, and for the hard work they put into it, and the ingenuity and imagination displayed thrilling hundreds of youngsters—both young and old.

— *Lance-Corporal D. Blackall, 227 Signal Squadron*

for gaining second place in the AFCENT Inter-Nations 7 Km cross country race held recently at Brunssum, in the Netherlands, against some very tough and highly rated opposition.

— *Signalman Dave Siegel of 260 Signal Squadron (S.A.M.)*

for his dedicated hard work and determination to put himself into the Army Cycling Championship class. In his spare time he is never out of the saddle, and averages some 300 training miles a week. At the age of 19, success is now beginning to come his way. But it has not been easy and only achieved after a long and hard build-up of his obvious potential. In a very experienced field he finished third in the Army competitors in the Inter-Services' 25 miles time trial, and a week later came second in the Army section in the Inter-Services' 50 miles time trial. Now he is going on to harder things and hopes to take part in the Inter-Services' 100 Km race and then go down to the West Country for a two-day road race covering a very large area, against top class opposition. (See photo, page 367).

— *The Motor Cyclists of 7th Regiment*

for winning the B.A.O.R. section of the Berlin Brigade Motor Cycle Trials. Eighty contestants took part. The winner of the Expert Class was **Sergeant Fayers,** and the runner-up was **Second-Lieutenant Davies,** both of 7th Regiment.

— *21st Signal Regiment*

for celebrating their 10th anniversary at R.A.F., Laarbruch—ten years spent in very close and harmonious co-operation with their R.A.F. comrades.

— *The athletes of 16th Regiment*

for following up their successes in the Morrison Cup and Rhine Area Competitions with some very excellent performances at the B.A.O.R. Athletics Finals. In the 4 x 880 yards, the relay team knocked 6.2 seconds off the B.A.O.R. record, and in the mile **Corporal Cotham** and **Lance-Corporal Hyett** finished first and second respectively. **Corporal Cotham, Lance-Corporal J. Kirby** and **Lance-Corporal Hyett have** all been selected to run for B.A.O.R., and **Lance-Corporal Turvey** has achieved third place in the Army 440 yards and represented the Army against the other Services.

— *W.O.I (R.S.M.) E. Gibson, of 10th Regiment*

for being justly proud of the unique compliment paid to him on the eve of his retirement from the Corps, after 23 years' service, when the Road Safety Committee held a party for him and **Mrs. Gibson** at the Regimental Club, as a mark of their appreciation for the assistance he had given them on road safety matters in the London Borough of Hounslow. The Mayor and Mayoress of Hounslow were present and the Mayor, on behalf of the Committee, presented **Mr. Gibson** with a very handsome engraved tankard. Earlier the W.O.s' and Sergeants dined-out the R.S.M., when the Commanding Officer, on behalf of the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants, presented to him and **Mrs. Gibson** a pair of silver candlesticks.

UPGRADING/CONVERSION COURSES TO BE HELD IN CATTERICK, 1969

1/28 (E)	Tech TE Class II-I ...	7 Jan.	31 July
1/22	Tech RR Class II-I ...	7 Jan.	31 July
2/37 (TG)	Tech Te Class III-II ...	7 Jan.	29 May
45	Tg Op Class II-I ...	7 Jan.	18 Apr.
70	Radio Op Class II-I ...	7 Jan.	21 Mar.
71	Radio Op Class II-I ...	21 Jan.	4 Apr.
35	Comcen Op Class II-I ...	7 Jan.	4 Apr.
36	Comcen Op Class II-I ...	14 Jan.	11 Apr.
1/21	Rad Relayman Class II-I	8 Jan.	20 Feb.
33	Dvr R Signals Class II-I	7 Jan.	14 Mar.
1/47	Lineman Class II-I ...	7 Jan.	15 May
53	Tg Op Class III-II ...	7 Jan.	18 Apr.
54	Tg Op Class III-II ...	14 Jan.	25 Apr.
46	E.D. Class III-II	14 Jan.	7 Mar.
47	E.D. Class III-II ...	21 Jan.	14 Mar.
19	Clerk Tech Class III-II	14 Jan.	14 Mar.
19	Draughtsman Class III-II	21 Jan.	7 Mar.
1	Comcen Op Class II-II ...	7 Jan.	7 Mar.

From our "In" Tray

WERE YOU ONE OF THESE GOOD SAMARITANS?



Sir,

On Friday, 14th July, 1967, I was travelling along the A.645 Goole-Welland Road, in the direction of Knottingly, when I was involved in a head-on collision with a lorry. The occupants of a Royal Signals vehicle, travelling in the direction of Goole, came to my assistance, and then disappeared from the scene before anyone could get their names and addresses.

I am anxious to trace one or more of the persons concerned for, indeed, I owe the saving of my life to each one of them for extracting me from the blazing wreckage. Could you please assist me through your magazine, as I want to pay them some worthwhile token of my gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

Robin H. Job.

The Old Parsonage,
Wentbridge, Nr. Pontefract.

Volunteer Band Carries On

Sir,

To many who have served in the Royal Signals since it was formed, The Middlesex Yeomanry will be remembered as the first Cavalry Division Signals Regiment to be formed at the same time as the Royal Corps, and its various changes, and activities will have been noted with interest.

The information below concerning the Regimental Band of the Regiment will no doubt also be of interest, as it exemplifies the true volunteer spirit the unit has shown since 1797, when it was first formed at Uxbridge.

* * *

As from 1st April, 1968, due to the reorganisation of the T.A., the Regimental Band of the 31st Greater London Signal Regiment (late Middlesex Yeomanry) had to be disbanded. It was first formed as a Mounted Band in 1800, and paraded with the Household Cavalry on the Horse Guards Parade Ground.

The Old Comrades' Association of the Regiment, and the band members have arranged that the band will remain a military band of the Old Comrades' Association. This is a voluntary band of experienced musicians, who will retain their military bearing, parade drill and be uniformed. The band has earned for itself a reputation for smartness, and a very high standard of musicianship. It has won several prizes against other T.A. bands, and gained second place in the recently-held All-England Band Festival at Reading.

Among its other achievements was taking part in the filming of "A Stitch in Time," and "The Dirty Dozen." It has also been engaged by the Belgian and Norwegian Embassies for their National Day celebrations in London.

Other engagements included the Burma Reunion, Royal Tournament at Olympia, and performances at Scarborough, Folkestone, and various fetes, etc. The band also plays for church services, carnivals, garden parties, and gives complete musical concerts by arrangement.

Applications to join the band, or to engage the band, should be made to the Band President, whose address is given below.

Yours sincerely,

S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D. (Lt.-Col.)
(Band President)

88, Hornsey Lane, Highgate,
London, N.6.

MR. G. F. PAINTER

Major F. Smith, of A.T.P. 25, Ministry of Technology, Bromley, Kent, writes :

Sir,

"The retirement of **Mr. G. F. Painter** took place at the Ministry of Technology, A.T.P. 25, Bromley, Kent, on 31st July, 1968, with a small ceremony during which he was presented with a multimeter and cards of best wishes from his fellow technical authors and friends.



GORDON PAINTER
Writer of over 50 user handbooks

After 31 years in the Civil Service, Gordon Painter (Peter to his friends), has an outstanding record of association with the Corps. Prior to his starting a career as a technical author in 1955, Gordon was employed as an inspector of electronic equipment. He saw service during the war with the R.A.F., where he gained a wide knowledge of ground and airborne communications equipments. In 1955, he transferred to S.R.D.E., Christchurch, Hants., where he started writing handbooks. After four years at S.R.D.E., he moved to Bromley, where he continued as a technical author with E.I.D. and A.T.P. 25 until his retirement.

During his service Gordon Painter has inspected and tested a wide range of electronic equipments prior to acceptance into service. He clearly remembers the No. 1 Set! As a technical author, he has written over 50 User Handbooks, mainly on V.H.F., net and radio relay equipments. Most of his handbooks are still in current use, his final contribution, before retiring, being the writing of handbooks for the Bruin Radio Relay and associated equipments.

Having held an amateur radio transmitting licence (G3CFO) since 1947, he intends to remain active in this field."

GOLDEN WEDDING

Many will wish to join in the congratulations to **Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Elsmore, M.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Elsmore,** of Ridgeway Road, Farnham, Surrey, on celebrating their Golden Wedding recently. They were married in 1918 when **Colonel Elsmore** was then a Sergeant in R.E. (Signals). Before his retirement in 1955, **Colonel Elsmore** from 1911 had served in every rank. He served on the Western Front in both World Wars and saw service in Mauritius, Ceylon and Palestine. He was awarded the M.B.E. in the first Honours List after the D-Day landings in Normandy when he was then a Staff Officer at 21 Army Group H.Q. There are three sons—one of whom was **Major B. D. Elsmore,** who retired from the Corps in 1966—and a daughter.

BRITISH LEGION VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. D. J. Cadman, who is the National Vice-Chairman of the British Legion, was a war-time Sergeant in Royal Signals.



THE THINGS THESE W.O.'s GET UP TO!
W.O.II (S.S.M.) Steve Bresloff and W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Terry Martin recently took part in the ancient Bampton Shirt Race. This entails running three miles through Bampton on a 'means of transport' as well as stopping at 11 public houses where a half pint has to be drunk. Although they did not win the race they were awarded a shield each for their humorous entry of a Loomobile complete with number plate LOO 1 and all appropriate fittings. So now we know how they pass the time away at 14th Regiment

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in July		**42**
Number of clothing parcels sent ...	...	**36**
Amount spent in grants and loans	...	**£823 6 4**

One of the Month's Cases

CORPORAL, serving overseas. His wife died very suddenly, leaving him with six young children. Relatives flew out from U.K. to help look after the children until other arrangements could be made, involving the Corporal in a great deal of expense. The Association made a grant of £100 to help him over this tragic crisis.

One of the Month's Letters

"THANK you for your kind letter and help. The rates and electricity have already been paid via S.S.A.F.A. on your behalf, and I have also had a letter from the local branch of the Association to say they are coming to visit me regarding my employment problem. We did pride ourselves on the Signals motto in war-time, but this "speed and accuracy" is quite fantastic, and very much more than I had ever hoped for. Please accept my heartfelt thanks, not only for the excellent financial assistance, but also for your very kind letter and the sentiments expressed."



224 SIGNAL SQUADRON
On Thursday, 25th July, 1968, the N.A.A.F.I. Families Shop at 224 Signal Squadron was opened by Mrs. W. H. Robotham, wife of the Commanding Officer. This fulfilled a much needed requirement for the wives of the Squadron stationed at Garats Hay Barracks, Nr. Loughborough. It is unique in that it is Great Britain's smallest N.A.A.F.I. Families Shop and serves the 38 soldiers families living in this isolated part of the country. The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. D. J. Sizmur, the N.A.A.F.I. District Manager. In the small space of 20ft. x 10ft., N.A.A.F.I. have managed by much skilful shelf arrangement to crowd 1,000 items, plus two deep 'freezes' and even room for a goodly amount of customers as well

Royal Signals Diary for 1969

Arrangements have been made for the same firm as last year to produce the Corps diary for 1969.

The 1969 diary will be similar in format to the 1968 diary. There will be a special to Corps section, which will consist of notes on the Association and the Institution, a short history of the Corps and a record of outstanding Corps sporting achievements, amounting in all to just over eleven pages, plus nearly five blank pages for notes. The general section contains useful information such as weights and measures, metric conversion tables, public holidays for 1969, lighting-up times, phases of the moon, road map of the U.K., street plan of London, Underground railway plan, telephone numbers and locations of London railway stations, coach stations, air line offices and theatres and calendar notes for five years ahead. There are also a further seven blank pages for notes and seven pages for addresses.

Prices, **including postage,** will be:

	U.K.	Ex-U.K.
A. Wallets complete with refills	**17/6d.**	**13/6d.**
B. Refills only (for wallets previously issued)	**4/6d.**	**3/6d.**
C. Leather bound diaries	**6/3d.**	**5/0d.**

The firm have contracted to have overseas diaries ready for despatch by 15th October, so that overseas purchasers should receive diaries in time for Christmas.

A firm print figure, based on previous years' demands, has been placed with the manufacturers. If there is a heavy demand, it may not be possible to satisfy all customers. Orders will, therefore, be dealt with on a strictly first-come, first-served basis, and late orders may only be partially met or not met at all.

All orders to:

The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
R.H.Q., Royal Signals,
Cheltenham Terrace,
Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

Tel.: 01-730-3477.
Ext. 143

Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the Cenotaph, Sunday 10th November, 1968

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 the 7th to the 11th November (inclusive).

The Field will be opened at 12 noon on Thursday, 7th November, with a short service conducted by Canon Stancliffe, assisted by the Dean, at which members of the Corps and 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 Corps or Association is likely to be in London on 7th of November and would like to attend the opening, he or she will be very welcome.

The following are available from the British Legion Poppy Factory and can be planted on behalf of branches or individuals by the official representatves at the opening ceremony:

12in. x 24in. Badge Cross	21/-
12in. x 24in. Field Cross	15/-
12in. x 6in. Poppy Cross	10/-
12in. x 6in. Wreath Cross	5/-
Personal Remembrance Crosses ...	6d.

It is felt that ALL branches will wish to be associated with this central act of remembrance on behalf of fallen members of the Corps. Crosses will each bear a card with the name of the donor branch pinned to it, and while the badge crosses at 21/- are particularly appropriate, the poppy crosses (10/-) and wreath crosses (5/-) are perfectly adequate for the occasion.

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 ask for a card with the branch name to be attached.*

Please send in your orders as soon as possible, but in any case, by not later than the 25th October, and *please also ask that the orders be delivered direct to the Field of Remembrance and NOT to this Headquarters.*

Any member wishing to parade with the Royal Signals Contingent should apply at least one week prior to the date to 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.

Thank You!

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were most gratefully received during July, 1968:

	£	s.	d.
St. Martin's Church, Catterick Camp (collection at Reunion Service) ...	47	17	0
St. Joseph's Catholic Church (collection at Reunion Service) ...	8	4	1
224 Squadron ...	8	0	0
Army Apprentices' College ...	3	15	7
3rd Regiment (Regimental Weekend) ...	25	0	0
83rd Regiment (V), W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess ...	2	0	0
18th Regiment (Regimental Funfair) ...	102	0	10
237 Squadron ...	50	0	0
C.S.O., H.Q., British Troops, Malta ...	7	0	0
Various individual donations ...	8	13	9
Total Receipts	£262	11	3
Expenditure during July, 1968 ...	£823	6	4

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

Promotions

Regimental Duty Roster

			Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Cowe, A. J.	1310	2490	
	A/W.O.I	Wood, D.	1340	2360	
To W.O.II	A/W.O.II	Jennings, H.	4450	4120	
	S/Sgt.	Heyes, A.	4460	3850	
	S/Sgt.	Howie, G. A.	4470	3590	
	S/Sgt.	Chalmers, W. N.	4480	4100	
	S/Sgt.	McCartney, D. G.	4490	3820	
	S/Sgt.	Morphey, M.	4500	3990	
	S/Sgt.	Ayres, W. G.	4510	3640	
	S/Sgt.	Harvey, J.	4520	2470	
	S/Sgt.	Matthews, W. T.	4530	4220	
	S/Sgt.	Cook, B.	4540	4170	
	S/Sgt.	Thompson, R. T.	4550	4230	
	A/W.O.II	Punnett, G.	4560	4150	
	A/W.O.II	Neill, S. G.	4570	4130	
	S/Sgt.	Brewer, B. L.	4580	4210	
	S/Sgt.	Dale, K. H. R.	4590	4160	
	S/Sgt.	Judge, R. J.	4600	2590	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Davis, G. C.	4814	1940	(Admin.)
	Sgt.	Jones, J. F.	5104	8700	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Daniels, D. R.	5106	4150	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Lee, S. H.	5244	2970	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Mathieson, R. J.	5260	9700	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Kinrade, M. J.	5270	8840	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Vasper, R.	5280	9520	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Dunnett, J. A.	5290	7430	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Quayle, J.	5300	2230	(Admin.)
	Sgt.	Curtis, A. G.	5310	5360	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Freeston, P. J.	5320	9070	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Frost, J.	5330	9360	(Op.)
	A/S Sgt.	McGregor, R. A.	5340	3330	(Fd.)
	A/S Sgt.	Magowan, T.	5350	3380	(Fd.)
	A/S Sgt.	Harding, C. G.	5360	3420	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	McMahon, M. D.	5370	9910	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Stirling, A. J.	5386	3280	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Meredith, C.	5390	10040	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Abbott, A. E.	5400	2580	(Tech.)

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	W.O.II	Thomas, B. W.	1330	1640	
	W.O.II	Hughes, G. F.	1340	1650	
	W.O.II	Lane, D. J.	1350	1670	
	W.O.II	Wood, R. J. R.	1370	1620	
	W.O.II	Hutley, P. G. D.	1380	1150	
To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Timson, D. R.	1980	1630	
	S Sgt.	Norton, A. G.	1990	1640	
	S Sgt.	Kirton, J. C.	2000	1650	
	S Sgt.	O'Connor, D.	2010	1660	
	S Sgt.	Nixon, E. D.	2020	1670	
	S Sgt.	McKay, R. A.	2030	1690	
	S Sgt	Keeton, G.	2040	1700	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Edwards, R. J. A.	3130	4145	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Clifton, P. C. A.	3150	4310	(Sgt. Tech.)

Yeoman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Durrant, P.	630	860	
To W.O.II	S Sgt.	French, R. G.	1400	1510	
	S Sgt.	Tasker, A. C. T.	1410	1410	
	A/W.O.II	Coxon, W.	1420	1340	
	S Sgt.	Bassett, D. L.	1430	1290	
	A/W.O.II	Glenville, K.	1440	1490	
	S Sgt.	Rayner, V. W.	1450	1280	
	S Sgt.	Phillips, D. C. W.	1460	1294	
	S Sgt.	Beasley, J. P.	1470	1310	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Storie, E. S.	1800	8950	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Kelly, L. J.	1810	9410	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Botham, R.	1820	9840	(Op.)
	Sgt.	O'Mahoney, H. J.	1830	9930	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Kendall, F. W.	1840	11960	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Daniel, P. J.	1850	12360	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Powell, G.	1860	12440	(Op.)
	Sgt.	McLoughlin, F. C.	1870	12642	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Lile, G.	1880	13090	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Baker, R. A.	1890	13250	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Creevy, J. M.	1900	13470	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Green, T. G. L.	1910	14020	(Op.)
	A/Sgt.	Harkins, A. O.	1920	32130	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Graham, J. B.	1940	9220	(Op.)

Chief Clerks Roster

To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Pearce, R. C.	1460	3150	(Admin.)
	A/S Sgt.	Carroll, A. J.	1470	3030	(Admin.)
	A/S Sgt.	Abberley, T. A.	1480	2510	

Technical Roster

To Sgt.	Cpl.	White, P. R.	6594	13648	
	Cpl.	Worsley, W. M.	6609	12950	
	Cpl.	Cameron, C. D.	6620	13315	
	Cpl.	Gorton, J. D.	6635	12500	
	Cpl.	Harper, A. B.	6670	13221	
	Cpl.	Payne, C. W.	6730	13334	
	Cpl.	Evans, J. E. D.	6735	12265	
	Cpl.	West, R. J.	6740	14588	
	Cpl.	Butlin, R. G.	6750	13482	
	Cpl.	Welch, A. K.	6755	13775	
	Cpl.	Downie, J. M.	6758	12575	
	Cpl.	Rusling, J. S.	6759	12863	
	Cpl.	Williams, C. E.	6760	12895	
	Cpl.	Woodley, E. M. J.	6770	12910	
	Cpl.	James, R. A.	6780	12915	
	Cpl.	Barry, P. M.	6790	12960	
	Cpl.	Clarke, D. B.	6800	12999	
	Cpl.	Houston, T.	6810	13020	
	Cpl.	Hide, W. P.	6820	13118	
	Cpl.	Thurston, D. C.	6830	13417	
	Cpl.	Valentine, N.	6850	14639	
	Cpl.	Clutterbuck, R. V.	6860	13000	
	Cpl.	Hinton, C. A.	6870	13637	
	Cpl.	Smith, J. M.	6890	13228	
	Cpl.	Anderson, G. R.	6910	13515	
	Cpl.	Rose, M.	6930	13264	
	Cpl.	Cook, J. S.	6940	13582	
	Cpl.	Morrison, J. J.	6950	12176	
	Cpl.	Roberts, R. P. H.	6980	13338	
	Cpl.	Truscott, K.	7030	13675	
	Cpl.	Proctor, L.	7050	13898	
	Cpl.	Elkerton, D. M.	7080	13100	
	Cpl.	Shields, C.	7110	13070	
	Cpl.	Larkman, D. I.	7140	13479	
	Cpl.	Longstaff, J. R.	7150	13085	
	Cpl.	Wadley, C. J.	7190	13527	
	Cpl.	Harvey, J. B.	7200	13989	

Operating Roster

A/Sgt.	Young, A.	14310	25610	
Cpl.	Millitkin, C. M.	14320	21768	
A/Sgt.	Foody, T.	14330	22420	
A/Sgt.	Lees, P. W.	14340	22470	
A/Sgt.	Baldock, M. S.	14350	22550	
Cpl.	Lee, J.	14360	22920	
A/Sgt.	Kettell, D. L. W.	14370	23920	
Cpl.	Moorhouse, T.	14380	24766	
A/Sgt.	Cheetham, A.	14390	26606	
Cpl.	Lewin, M. B.	14400	24894	
A/Sgt.	Gledhill, C. S.	14410	25046	
Cpl.	Bott, A. A.	14420	25990	
A/Sgt.	Batkin, J.	14430	26100	
A/Sgt.	Cain, P.	14440	26420	
Cpl.	McLoughlin, P. J.	14450	26640	
Cpl.	Brown, E. H.	14460	26900	
A/Sgt.	Sleightholm, I.	14470	27170	
Cpl.	Davis, T. D. A.	14480	24640	
A/Sgt.	Leake, G. F.	14490	27034	
A/Sgt.	Beer, P. J. A.	14500	27440	
Cpl.	James, G. W.	14510	18350	
Cpl.	Roberts, M. M.	14520	23540	
Cpl.	Steinhoff, D. A.	14530	25580	
A/Sgt.	Parry, W. J.	14540	26450	
Cpl.	Morpeth, A.	14550	27840	
A/Sgt.	Chudleigh, S. J.	14560	26568	
Cpl.	Pentland, D. M.	14570	27450	
Cpl.	Stevens, R. A.	14580	27470	
A/Sgt.	Haslam, A. E.	14590	27490	
A/Sgt.	Zimmer, V. T.	14600	28130	
A/Sgt.	Stubbs, R. J.	14610	28204	
A/Sgt.	Chaloner, M. L. N.	14630	15010	
A/Sgt.	Heyes, D. R.	14650	28394	
A/Sgt.	Harvey, A. J.	14660	27210	
Cpl.	Lee, R. A.	14670	27350	
Cpl.	Eastland, C. M.	14680	28100	
Cpl.	Burrows, O. J.	14690	28150	

Field Roster

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Mackinnon, J.	5080	2740	
	A/Sgt.	McManus, I. D.	5130	6030	
	Cpl.	Derbyshire, A. C.	5140	4694	
	A/Sgt.	Johnson, V. S. B.	5150	4740	
	A/Sgt.	Davenport, E.	5160	3200	
	Cpl.	Ryan, J.	5170	3330	
	A/Sgt.	Foggo, G. A.	5180	4340	

INSERTIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.II	W.O.II	Kingham, A. E.	1730	3050	(W.O. II RD)

Yeoman of Signals Roster

To S Sgt	S Sgt.	Morrison, J.	1502	4600	(RD)

Administrative Roster

To Sgt.	Sgt.	Hammill, T. A.	2014	3190	(Tech.)
	Sgt.	Winning, J. P. C.	1364	1680	(Tech.)

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	170	540				
W.O.II	1319	1710	1900	1960	3250	3880
S Sgt.	534	2550	3630	3790	3890	3900
	4050	4270				

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I	770	820	860	1300
W.O.II	1240			

Yeoman of Signals Roster

W.O.I	270	330	440	590

Chief Clerks Roster

W.O.II	900	930
S Sgt.	870	

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

W.O.II	350	840	1050	1300	1450
S Sgt.	420				

Technical Roster

W.O.II	400	680	730			
S Sgt.	600	1004				
Sgt.	3716	4700	5358	5360	5420	5525
	5785	5840	6005	6462		

Operating Roster

Sgt.	2700	3010	5130	7900	8080	8120
	9460	10600	10740	11950		

Field Roster

Sgt.	94	390	620	1600	1730	2424
	2810	3290	3980	4160	4630	4710
	4890					

Administrative Roster

Sgt.	1804	1920	2140

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 22

A Full Month

'HE' said: "After the CPX we should be able to take the pressure off a bit."

I said: "You must be joking."

HE said: "If there is so much going on in July, you can write it all up for THE WIRE.

I said: "Lumbered again." Here goes.

The Arduous Training Circuit

HE said: "Make sure no one comes back saying it was a piece of cake!"

THEY did just that.

The aim was for us all to spend three days organised as Infantry Sections and Platoons, and learn a bit about low-level tactics. **Majors Swindale** and **Billingham,** aided by **Yeoman Ankers,** who was everything from radio operator to POL storeman (and lost two stone in weight) were the organising torturers, and **Second-Lieutenant Marks,** with the Line Troop, organised as a cross between an SAS Troop and a Commando were the permanent enemy.

We marched, we dug, we ran, we dug, we attacked, we dug, we marched, and . . . we had the odd minute's sleep. Casualties were light—one broken finger, 733 blisters, and a rifle which looked like a peeled banana after a blank had been fired.

One "traveller" almost posted "missing, believed deserted" after taking far too long on the endurance march. It was good to hear heated discussions going on to decide what to do with spoil from trenches; we usually ended with a section commander giving the well-known advice: "As far as I'm concerned, you can . . . . "A tough time, which we all agreed we were not really ready for—much sympathy for the Infantry. Compared with this, the border patrols, which 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons all carried out during the month, really were a piece of cake!

Canoeists Triumph

Our paddlers have had a very busy and triumphant month. In three meetings, the Divisional, B.A.O.R. and Army events they excelled themselves. The Army meeting, at Shepperton Lock, was the first, where the results in the Novices' Sprint Championships were:

K2 Class.—1st **Signalmen Wink** and **Pawlow**

Class 3.—1st, **Signalman Wink.**

UK 4 Class.—2nd, **Corporal Bull** and **Signalman Wilkinson** 4th, **Signalmen Alexander** and **Bingham.**

Class 4.—2nd, **Corporal Bull** and **Signalman Wilkinson.**

Class 7.—1st, **Corporal Bull** and **Signalman Wilkinson;** 2nd, **Corporal Frith** and **Signalman Sudron.**

Slalom (Class 5).—1st **Signalman Bingham.**

In the K2 Senior Class, **Signalmen Wink** and **Pawlow** were fourth and were selected to represent the Army in the inter-Service Championships. There they were third in each of the 500 metres, 5,000 metres, and 10,000 metres events. Overall, the Regimental team tied for first place, but were placed second on the result of the Senior K2 event.



WHERE STEADY NERVES AND DELICATE CONTROL COUNT
Corporal Frith negotiating the slalom course in 2nd Division canoe championships

In the Army Long Distance Race, we had similar success:
UK 4 Class.—1st, **Signalmen Wink** and **Pawlow.**
Class 4.—1st, **Corporal Bull** and **Signalman Wilkinson.**
Folding Class.—1st, **Corporal Frith** and **Signalman Sudron.**
Slalom (Class 5).—3rd, **Signalman Alexander.**
Single (Class 3).—3rd **Signalman Bingham.**

Again we were second unit team, with three firsts and one third to count against three firsts and a second.

In the Divisional Championships there were seventeen first prizes to be won and we were a little embarrassed to win the lot! Some second prizes were hastily provided "pour encourager les outres."

In the B.A.O.R. Race—a marathon two-day event, we achieved:

K2 Class.—1st, **Signalmen Wink** and **Pawlow** (also first overall); 3rd, **Crporal Bull** and **Signalman Wilkinson.**

These together were the winning K2 unit team.

Touring Class.—1st, **Signalmen Bingham** and **Alexander.** 3rd, **Corporal Frith** and **Signalman Sudron.**

Together these were the winning touring class unit team.

Folding Class.—4th, **Sergeant Scriven** and **Signalman Smith.** In this event **Signalmen Varley** and **Raper** had to retire with boat trouble.

Singles Class.—3rd, **Corporal Shepperd.**

Lance-Corporal Stone had to retire with cramp.

Altogether a most impressive collection of cups, and much credit to all the paddlers and **Second-Lieutenant Theodorson,** officer-in-charge 'Canoe Troop' and **Driver Shaw** (chauffeur, cook and general boatman).

Nijmegen Marches

Our team, under **Second-Lieutenant Needham,** with **Sergeant Bogle** as whipper-in, duly won their gold medal in one of the biggest fields ever to appear at Nijmegen. The C.O. dropped in by helicopter at the beginning of the last day and marched round with the team for the last 25 miles. They are now keen to go in for more and more international marches, and plan an 'adventurous' march over Napoleon's route from Golfe Juan to Grenoble, 200 miles, in seven days!

Kohima

And so to our Kohima Weekend, 27th/28th July. The weather was kind and our fete was a great success. Over 500 cars were counted and a "guesstimate" of 3,000 people enjoyed all the fun of the fair. Two very brave girls, recruited by our underwater swimmers, sat on the ducking stool for most of the afternoon, the rest they spent in the water, as one marksman after another scored a bulls-eye! The Bürgermeister of Bunde, who had kindly opened the fete was one of those who rang the bell!

The B.A.O.R. Free-Fall Parachutists had kindly agreed to do a demonstration drop during the afternoon—the weather, always an enemy for such displays, was kind and all looked well until 2 p.m. when a call came to say that their aircraft was unserviceable. **Major Penn,** Commander of 27 Flight, A.A.C., at very short notice conjured up two Alouettes from the hangars and, having adjudicated as to which of the many pilots anxious to go should perform, sent off the parachutists. The sight of the helicopters spiralling up to dropping height was an added attraction and all the parachutists landed well within the target area. The choppers then literally dropped them off at their base!

The sideshows were so popular that they were kept open until 7 p.m., and still there was a large crowd on the fairground when the discotheque began at 7.30 p.m.

As usual, the ladies of the Regiment had rallied to the cause, and their collection of cakes, tins, bottles, gifts and home produce was an even greater money-spinner this year. **Mrs. Russell's** publicity campaign with the local press was largely responsible for the excellent turnout. On Sunday we had an open air drumhead service, with the Band of the 1st Bn. Devonshire and Dorsetshire Regiment playing for us, and our G.O.C., **Major-General C. Blair, O.B.E., M.C.,** reading the Lesson and taking the salute at the march past.

LATE NEWS

2nd. Regiment have again won the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Cricket Final played on 8th September. This is the second successive time they have won the final. Man of the match: Corporal Franks.

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Bulford Camp

THE sun shines on the righteous, so they say, and if its true, then 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment's place in the after life is assured. During a spell of unsettled weather with "fronts" and "troughs" being mentioned daily by the forecaster, we were able to have Open Day and Retreat in well nigh perfect weather conditions.

Pirates, Spacemen and Racing Tipsters

First, Open Day, on Wednesday, 17th July. The fete, in the afternoon was opened by Miss I.T.V., **Miss Marion Jenkins,** whose glamour and poise were matched by the suave elegance of her escort, **Lieutenant Barry Rowe.** The Royal Signals Display Team gave two performances during the afternoon, the Corps Band played, the crowds rolled in, and a wonderful time was had by all, not least the stall owners, who, putting off their uniforms, blossomed out as pirates, spacemen, racing tipsters, or what have you. **Major Byrne,** O.C. 2 Squadron, who had organised the Fete had only one comment: "I told you it wasn't necessary to insure against rain." He has a sublime faith. Amongst the many visitors were seen **Major-General T. D. H. McMeekin,** G.O.C. 3rd Division, **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray,** C.S.O. Stratco, and **Mrs. Gray,** and the Bishop of Croydon, Bishop to the Forces. **Brigadier Gray** was seen to visit the fortune teller, but declined to divulge what fate has in store for him, or us.

In the evening a very successful All Ranks Dance, organised by **Captain Almonds,** of 1 Squadron, was held in the dining room and the Triangle Club. The theme was Robin Hood's haunts in Sherwood Forest. (1 Squadron treated the remarks of the rest of the Regiment with complete disdain). Particularly successful was the barbecue buffet laid on by **Captain Broadhurst** and the cooks.

During the week, **Lieutenant Wither** and the pioneers had been building a most tremendous castle as a back-drop for the playing of Retreat by the massed bands of the Corps and the Apprentices' College, Harrogate. At 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, 20th July, the gate swung open and the Bands marched out to give a polished and spirited performance which is no less than one expects from **Captain Pike** and his musicians.



STEADY BOYS!
Corporal Freeman and Signalmen Lawn and Hall check Miss I.T.V.s procedure



FAIR TIME
Signalman Hardy shows an apprehensive kid the blood on his cutlass

Jersey and Ethiopia, too

It's not all play, though. "A" Troop have had a detachment in Jersey, working with 3rd Division, R.E., and **Corporal Fisher** and **Lance-Corporal Davidson,** of 1 Squadron, have gone to Ethiopia to work the base radio for the Great Abbai expedition. All these reports you read in the "Daily Telegraph" come from them to Bulford on a C11 and D11 link.

Pioneers—a most adaptable, cheerful and hard-working lot

Most of us have now departed on leave and some have left on posting. We cannot let the departure of a large part of our Pioneer Section go without comment. They have proved themselves a most adaptable, hardworking and cheerful lot. They have made a great name for themselves and their Corps in this Division and we welcome their successors in the knowledge that they will keep the standards as high as ever. Our last farewell is to **Captain John Goldney,** who has been Adjutant for nearly three years. He has gone to the M.O.D., and we wish him and **Mrs. Goldney** the best of good fortune. His successor in the 'hot seat' is **Captain Mike Ayrton.** To him we wish the best of luck.

4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

THE high spot of the month was the Regimental Fete in aid of Anglo-German charities, held on 27th July, when all previous records were easily passed. This year the net proceeds were over DM 6,400, or over £700 at our present rate of exchange!

A number of sporting highlights, notably canoeing, sailing, cricket, golf, and even marching, occurred during the month, and the opening of the Regimental swimming pool marks a further step in the rebuilding of the barracks.

The Regimental Anglo-German Fete—record profits

The early morning sky was scanned with unusual apprehension by many members of the Regiment on Saturday, 27th July, for the promise of a clear, sunny, day. Sure enough, there it was!

Thus, the day of the Anglo-German Fete dawned fair and bright. Happily, the whole day's proceedings went with the weather; business boomed and profits went up, to the benefit



A FINE FINISH

Lance-Corporal Sewell and Signalman Watson of 4th Division Signal Regiment crossing the finishing line of the 65 Kilometre downstream race in the B.A.O.R. Championships held on the River Weser near Hameln in July. They were runners up in the race. Royal Signals were well represented in the Championships and carried off most of the major awards

of the local German Old Folks' Home and Orphanage. Before the fete, the Commanding Officer and Officers with their ladies, entertained the Oberbergomeister, **Herr Dr. K. Schober** and **Frau Schober,** the Oberstaat Director, **Dr. W. Abel** and **Frau Abel,** and many leading citizens of Herford to lunch in the Officers' Mess, after which, and promptly at 14.15 hours, the Commanding Officer introduced the Oberbergomeister to the large crowd on the Wentworth Sports Field and invited him to open the fete and then with other civic dignatories and their wives, toured around the stalls, taking part in the various chancy competitions.

A little later the G.O.C., **Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C.,** arrived and **Mrs. Erskine Crum** started the grand draw going in fine style. The Band of The Royals played splendidly and outshone the attractions of the lively German fairground organ, which filled the moments of potential quiet. Shouts of glee greeted the descent of a nubile, bikini-clad damsel as she dropped into the pool of cold water at the ducking-stool stall, provided by the L.A.D. **Mrs. Aitken** and other willing helpers of the Wives' Club swiftly disposed of the produce of their stall, while **Mrs. Monk** ran the tea tent with great efficiency. The Troop stalls functioned continuously with a press of customers, while persuasive buskers solicited business enthusiastically. **Captain Joe Walsh,** the P.R.I., who had a large measure of responsibility for the whole fete was to be seen directing many willing volunteers at the draw stall where the business was exceptionally brisk.

Major Freddie Legg zoomed his Alouette helicopter low over the ground at about 5 p.m., and hundreds of delighted youngsters rushed for the masses of sweets which tumbled like a locust cloud from the sky. The L.A.D. train, the ponies and the playground were full with an unending stream of children, while their parents enjoyed the delights of bingo, darts, football, golf, cricket, "horse racing," rifle shooting, roll-a-penny, and all the fun of the fair. What a day! Yet another Regimental highspot and the feeling of satisfaction at a job well completed.

The fete made a record profit of DM 6,405, over £700, and of this sum DM 5,200 has been donated to German charities in Herford.

Canoeing

Under the leadership of **Second-Lieutenant C. J. Brill,** the Regimental canoe team took part in the annual B.A.O.R. Canoe Championships, held on 25th and 26th July, on the River Weser. A period of intensive training, to make up for time spent continuously on exercises, preceded the actual event and was turned into a worthwhile adventure training exercise. The stars of our team, **Lance-Corporal Sewell** and **Signalman Watson,** set the pace for the rest of us, and finished second in the touring class. **Lance-Corporal Sandys** and **Signalman Green** were unfortunate and sprang a leak in the race, which slowed them up somewhat. **Signalman I. Smith** found that long distance canoeing and cramp go together. The two novices of the team, **Signalmen Moncur** and **Needham,** first sat in a canoe only 12 days before the race, with **Needham** having a slightly hair-raising swim in the Weser on training and needing assistance to make the bank. However, this did not prevent them putting up a good final performance. The whole team completed the course with credit.

Nijmegen Marches, 1968

The Regimental team for this year's Nijmegen Marches arrived there on 14th July. From the start, the hospitality of the Dutch people was extremely generous. The military teams taking part were accommodated free in a large tented camp.

The official opening to the Marches, a flag parade, held on the Monday evening, was slightly marred by rain. On the next morning the four-day marches began. The team soon realised why Nijmegen is not so easy—the majority of the roads have a cobbled surface, which proves uncomfortable for the feet! Apart from the 25 miles marching a day, the marches are a big social occasion for all towns the teams go through. **Signalman Duncan,** with his Trinidadian stride, was always guaranteed to attract a horde of autograph hunting children as we went through towns. At the end of each day, screams could be heard from the team's tent during the "foot surgery" hours of **Signalman Borda** and **Corporal Tait.** After two days of marching on the flat, the team was relieved to see some hills on the third day, which was also the first day of



A POPULAR PRESENTATION

W.O.II Norman Salter with the candlebra and tankard presented to him on posting

Left to right: Major R. A. King, W.O.II N. Salter, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson, R.S.M. R. G. Aitken

consistent sunshine, and this really brought out the crowds. When passing through towns, all the teams would sing their national songs. One of our songs required a soloist and the crowds certainly found **Signalman Mercer's** voice entertaining. On the final day, **Signalman Turner** made a fine effort in marching round with extremely bad feet. Outside the town the individual teams changed and formed up in larger national groups to march past behind their respective bands. It was very satisfying that every member of the Regimental team completed the full course.

That night there was a floodlight tattoo, followed by a dance, known as the "Blister Ball." Everyone made it into town on the last night, even though the team leader, **Second-Lieutenant Farrimond,** needed some persuasion. A hopping good time was had by all!

Sergeants' Mess Notes

During the month of July we lost one of our Mess personalities when **W.O.II Norman Salter** left us to join the Staff of 34th Regiment, T. A. & V. R. in Middlesbrough. Our photograph shows **W.O.II Norman Salter** with the Candelabra he received from the Mess, and a tankard which was presented by **Major R. A. King** (left) on behalf of all the officers and senior N.C.O.'s of I Squadron. **R.S.M. R. G. Aitken** is holding a duplicate tankard which will remain in the Mess to be called the "Salter Tankard." It is to be used by all future S.S.M's of 1 Squadron.

We also say goodbye to **W.O.I (F. of S.) Ernie Doe,** who is leaving us for the wilds of civvy street, **W.O.I (A.S.M.) Alf Burnett, W.O.II Charlie Williams,** to the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate, **Sergeant Penny** to civvy street, and **Sergeant Frazer** to the A.A.C. School, Middle Wallop.

UNIT WIRE CORRESPONDENTS—YOUR HELP, PLEASE!

Your Editor would make a special plea for more news and photographs about individual soldiers and their activities.

While some units devote considerable space to this we note a tendency on the part of others to set aside an undue proportion of their notes to items of mainly officer interest.

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7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

WITH the end of Exercise "Summer Sales," in July, everyone took a deep breath and prepared for summer leave and various forms of adventure training. 2 Squadron have headed for Lake Constance, while 5 Squadron have gone north to Kiel. 1 Squadron have chosen the Heidelburg area, where H.Q. Squadron hope to take over from them late in August; 3 and 4 Squadrons also intend to do their training in this district.

Rugby

Preparation for the winter season sports are beginning to get under way. Rugger enthusiasts are donning their track suits and ponderously plodding the field. Two of last season's stars, **C.S.M.I. Derick Dolphin** and **Sergeant Keith Zoing,** have departed, and among the new faces we have **Lance-Corporal "Little Joe" Cagilaba, Lance-Corporal James,** who skippered last season's Army Junior XV, **Captain Roger Thompson, Signalman Lee** and **Staff Sergeant Pete Hassall.**

Soccer

Soccer seems to go on throughout the year—our German friends are always ready to play a game. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess "Over 30s" soccer team has gone from strength to strength, having acquired an 'ace' goalkeeper in the form of **Yeoman Len Green.** The team has recently played —and lost—against two local German teams; but, on Friday, 26th July, in a triangular tournament with two German teams, the Mess team surprisingly defeated the host team 1—0 and then drew 1—1 with Liebmhohe to shock all our "knockers." **Staff Sergeant Mick Stanger,** our team captain, was presented with the cup in the 'Gastatte Kusenbaum' after the tournament. Apart from a few hangovers the following day, all the team are now fit and we play another team on Friday, 9th August, and hope for another victory.

Sailing

The sailing fraternity is very active. We are happy to report that **Major Spear** and **Staff Sergeant Kitchen,** together with their crews, have been selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Dinghy Team Racing Championships in Berlin in September. **Major Spear** is to be captain of the Army team. Last year we won the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Dinghy Sailing Competition; this year we are doing well and are at present through to the quarter-finals. Our team consists of **Major Spear, Staff Sergeant Kitchen, Corporal Ratcliffe, Lance-Corporal Laye, Lance-Corporal Roberts and Signalman Mitchell.**

Gliding

In the recent Services B.A.O.R. Gliding Championships, a Ka-6E of the Eagle Gliding Club, Detmold, was flown into second place by **Captain Lombard,** of 7th Regiment, **and Major Adair,** of H.Q., 4th Division, flying on alternate competition days. There was a total of nine entries, and during the seven actual days' flying, competing machines covered some 5,000 cross-country kilometres in approximately 200 hours flying. Efforts within the Regiment to stimulate more interest in gliding are beginning to meet with response.

Farewells

It is just a year since the Bruin Trials Squadron joined the Regiment. Many of the original Squadron have now left for other units and the remainder have become fully integrated into the Regiment. However, on 12th August we finally said goodbye to the R.A.O.C. Stores Section which provided the spares backing throughout the trials period. We wish **Sergeant Lingard, Corporal Jones and Privates Reeves** and **Field** well on their return to their own Corps, and thank them for all the hard work that kept us on the air.

Marriage

Captain Noel Moss, who was Adjutant of the Regiment from August, 1964, to September, 1966, and during that time played in the side that won the Army Hockey Trophy, returned to Herford to be married on 10th August in the Garrison Church to **Fraulein Edelgard Agurks,** whom he first met whilst serving with the Regiment. The reception took place in the Officers' Mess.



ON TOP OF ENGLAND

Signalmen Harris, Turfrey, Arburg, Godfrey, Fenton and MacDonald poised on top of the long spine of Striding Edge

8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

The other side of the coin

WHENEVER we talk about 8th Regiment, the uninitiated conjure up pictures of the pale soldiers pouring over text books or peering into the innards of an equipment which is to be their 'bread and butter.' 8th Regiment has another side under command of the "ACI Mil" and known as Combat Group. This group is responsible for the military training of both basic trainees and the Regimental Cadre and includes adventure training, known in the Regiment as Exercise "Fresh Air." This appears on the training programme as far as is possible at the mid-point of the Basic Technician Course and serves not only as a break from training, but also enables the Squadron Commanders to assess the students' ability in the field of leadership, organisation, stamina and capability of reading a map. Below is described one such exercise:

LEADERSHIP IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

The bookings for the Ambleside Hut are confirmed, students detailed, medicals completed, stores and rations checked. At 14.00 hours on Wednesday, the transport arrives to take student and staff to 'The Hut.' At approximately 17-30 hours, the truck pulls up amid a group of cottages and houses. The Officer-in-Charge obtains the key from the caretaker, who lives in a nearby cottage and the hut is taken over. "Hut" is not a fair description for the sturdy building with its heavy slate roof. The main dormitory is lavishly heated with electric roof heaters and the kitchen is complete with large electric cooker. As the students enter the hut such remarks as "Some exercise!" and "Any fool can be uncomfortable!" are frequently to be heard.

Soon rations and bedding are unloaded and the students are enjoying their first 'brew.' Cooks and patrol leaders are soon appointed and patrol leaders given maps, compass and a series of grid references which, when linked together, form routes which are between 15 and 20 miles in length. After the evening meal, received with such enthusiasm that it must have been Mum's special recipe, the serious work of planning the routes begins.

The next morning sees the patrol leaders checking maps and leading their teams like generals. Each patrol has as one of its company a member of the Regimental Cadre, happy to be a carefree soldier once more and content to follow the leader. Throughout the day our leader commands us to look at Scarfell, Derwent Water, Ullswater, climb Helvellyn, walk along Striding Edge, High Street, Sunday Craig, and many other features whose poetic names conjure up views which defy description.

As the day draws to a close, the teams make their way back to the hut and a welcome shower and hot meal, after which the officer-in-charge takes over for the first time. On the de-brief, members of the patrol are invited to comment on their leaders' work, and suggestions are made by members of the staff. Tomorrow we will have new routes, and even newer leaders.

As the second day draws to a close, our leaders bring us safely to rendezvous with the trucks and we begin the journey back to Catterick. On the journey the students can be heard making plans to return to the lakes on the first available weekend.

The next Exercise "Fresh Air" will be carried out at a weekend and will be the result of the students' own preparation and planning, and will be achieved as a direct result of their own enthusiasm and leadership.

9th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 53

Ayios Nikolaos Water-Ski Club

THE Club, which numbers about fifty active members, recently went through a period of crisis when the two boat engines began to show signs of old age. Now, with the advent of a new Evenrude 55 h.p. engine, all is well again.

Lieutenant Phil Lewis runs the club, assisted by **Lieutenant David Hetreed**. To keep the two glass-fibred boats in good order, the L.A.D. of 9th Signal Regiment, **Sergeant 'Taff' Hicks** and **Craftsman Mike Eldridge,** provide the necessary know-how.

Recently, the club ran early-morning training sessions for beginners, and during the short course, twelve soldiers proved themselves thoroughly competent skiers. Many of them have now gone to mono ski-ing, which may seem a precarious kind of pleasure, but, in fact, is an exhilarating experience.

Try it when you come to Cyprus.

Departures

During July, **Captain Eddie Byrne, Lieutenant Barry Cox, R.Q.M.S. Ernie Rushbrook** and **W.O.II Norman Richardson** left the unit. **Eddie Byrne** was our Adjutant, a popular and experienced member of the Regiment; **Barry Cox** was the Training Officer, and was recently promoted to the front rank of the Mercury Theatre Company; **R.Q.M.S. Ernie Rushbrook** was the R.Q.M.S. General, besides running the ever-expanding Youth Club and Bosun of the Sailing Club; **W.O.II Norman Richardson,** S.S.M. of 2 Squadron, looked after the Scouts and Cubs.

To all of them we wish the very best of luck in the future.

Sub Aqua Club

The club, which has a membership of 40, has continued to thrive, despite the departure of **Major Jeff Bowder,** who had been officer-in-charge of the club for some years. **Major Mike Caines** is now in charge, with **Captain Jeremy Fisher,** our M.O., as Training Officer; diving officer is **Lance-Corporal Grant,** of M.T. Troop, who also maintains the equipment—ten sets of it.

The summer is always a busy time, and this year has been no exception, in fact the club has been more than usually active.

Earlier this year an 18th century anchor, weighing two tons was raised from more than forty feet—quite an achievement. Oil drums were used to lift the anchor to the surface, but the shallowness of water at the quay made it impossible to land. However, the *Empire Gull,* a British vessel unloading at Famagusta, swung a derrick and hauled the anchor aboard.

The anchor now has a place of honour behind the club room.

A part of a Meteor aircraft was also found, which invited speculation about its origin. In 1953 a Meteor disappeared without a trace on a flight between Cairo and Nicosia. The remains turned out to be part of a Meteor ventral tank, but it proved impossible to confirm this as the missing Meteor. Despite an extensive search with aqua plane, all that came to light were a further variety of anchors, some Roman and some nineteenth century.

The club has assisted 59 Port Squadron, R.C.T., twice recently, recovering a pair of spectacles from among the jelly fish, and two cases of practice motor bombs which had fallen into 30ft. of water while being unloaded. The bombs were recovered within half-an-hour of receiving the call.

In addition to these specialised type of dives, the club runs a comprehensive training programme.



PLAYING THE BAGPIPES UNDER WATER?
Major John Williams tries putting on an aqua-lung 15 feet below surface

10th Signal Regiment Hounslow

S.O.-in-C. visits Hounslow

IT was with great pleasure, knowing his extremely busy life, that we welcomed **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** to Hounslow, on Friday, 2nd August. The event was enhanced by the fact that **Mrs. Anderson** was able to accompany him, and at 10.30 hours, guided by **Signalman Brooks,** dressed in "Buckingham Palace" rig, riding a new issue B.S.A. "500," their car arrived at Regimental Headquarters. There they were



ANY PROBLEMS WITH YOUR DI1
The S.O.-in-C. has a word with Corporal Furey of Radio Troop

greeted by the Commanding Officer and **Mrs. Hibberd,** and the latter then escorted **Mrs. Anderson** to the "Bruno" Club, where a good representation of the "Ladies' Club" were gathered for a coffee and talking session.

The General, having met our new Regimental Sergeant-Major, **W.O.I Thom, M.B.E.,** then went to the briefing room where, in the company of C.S.O. Southern Command, **Brigadier K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E.,** and Commander No. 2 Group Royal Signals, **Colonel G. Peat, O.B.E.,** he heard a short briefing on the current organisation and role of the Regiment and the developments that will be taking place in the next few months.

There followed a walk round the barracks, which took in the M.T. Section, the Regimental Training School, Radio Troop Offices and Stores. A significant part of the tour was the emphasis placed by the General in meeting as many people as possible and the interest he took in hearing about their service background and lives. It obviously gave him great pleasure to meet at this time some old friends from years gone by.

This visit concluded at a buffet lunch in the Regimental Club with the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment, many of whom had travelled in from out-Squadrons and Troops for the function. Before leaving, the S.O.-in-C. said a few congratulatory words to the Officers and Seniors, and so ended what was for the Regiment, a memorable and happy occasion.

Communications over the Border

On Tuesday evening, 2nd July, **H.M. The Queen,** accompanied by **H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh,** reviewed a parade of the Army and elements of the Royal Air Force in Scotland.

Radio Troop, which specialises in communications for ceremonial occasions, was detailed to move to Edinburgh and provide support to 242 Signal Squadron.

The Troop assembled in Edinburgh in time for the first rehearsal. It soon became apparent that the equipment had not enjoyed the change of climate. One set, an F60 FM, smelt of burning tyres and gave off clouds of smoke when it was switched on for testing. The technicians, however, buckled to and soon had all the equipment acclimatised and ready for work.

Rehearsals and tests kept everyone busy, but Friday, 28th June, was a free day and the Troop had a day off to tour and see the city of Edinburgh. One intelligent(?) technician spent the day by climbing up and down Arthur's Seat, and then complained that he was tired! Another member of the Troop decided that on his first trip to Scotland, he must see the Firth of Forth. Perhaps he is short-sighted, but his idea of seeing it was to walk into it whilst fully clothed.

The day of the review arrived and with it came the rain. It rained incessantly and everyone was completely drenched before Her Majesty's arrival. The bad weather caused the participation by helicopters and parachutists to be cancelled; however, a fly-past by a reduced number of aircraft took place, but because of the low cloud they could not be seen. A good sized crowd turned out to watch the review in spite of the adverse weather conditions, and as they watched Her Majesty step towards the saluting dais the sky brightened slightly and the rain stopped. Communications worked well, the Troop was wet but satisfied that its journey had not been in vain.

Farewell to an R.S.M.

These functions were in some way a build-up towards saying goodbye to **W.O.I (R.S.M.) E. Gibson,** who is leaving the Regiment and the Corps after 23 years' service. **Ernie Gibson** served in Middle East, Kenya and Cyprus, and will be most remembered for his enthusiasm and interest for anything on wheels. Originally a vehicle mechanic, he retained this trade until 1964, and was, in fact, the last member of the Corps to hold this trade rating. He spent most of his service on matters concerned with M.T., and whilst serving with 5th Training Regiment during 1954-58, achieved a 100 per cent pass on a course at the Hendon Police College Driving School.

He maintained this interest whilst serving with 10th Signal Regiment and went to great lengths to offer assistance on road safety matters to the London Borough of Hounslow. Their appreciation was shown on 29th July, when the Road Safety Committee held a party for him and **Mrs. Gibson** in the Regimental Club. This was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, **Alderman** and **Mrs. Denton,** who, on behalf of the Committee, presented **Mr. Gibson** with a very handsome engraved tankard. He is, I know, justly proud of their unique gesture.

The W.O.s and Sergeants dined **Ernie** out earlier in the month, and on behalf of the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants, the Commanding Officer presented to him and **Mrs. Gibson,** a pair of silver candlesticks. The Regiment, on behalf of the Corps, wish him a very happy and successful second career and can be sure that neither of them will forget the Corps and the friends they have made during their service.

"Turn and turn again."

In addition to changing R.S.M.s, we have also said goodbye to three Officers who are well-known throughout the Corps, and now donning their mufti permanently.

Major (T.O.T.) Bill Ellis, after 33 years' service, **Major Bryn Parsonage,** of COMCAN fame, and finally **Major Molly Cavanagh.** It is possibly not well-known that **Molly Cavanagh** had filled a Signals vacancy in the Corps since 1952; she did this admirably and her pleasant easy manner coupled with a wide experience in signalling matters will be missed. From all their friends, we send wishes for their success in civilian life.

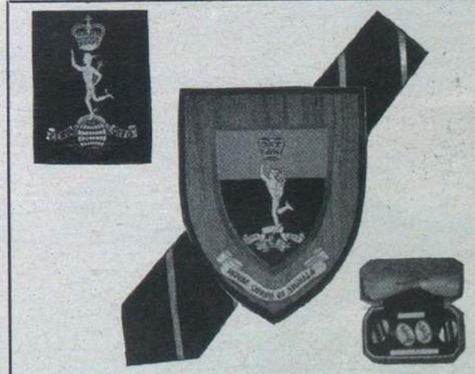
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Morale is high in 11th Regiment







THE 11th REGIMENT TURN OUT HAPPY RECRUITS. THE MAYOR OF RICHMOND INSPECTS AND THE DIRECTOR OF ARMY RECRUITING COMES TO STUDY THEIR METHODS

(1) **No. 4 Recruit Troop after Pass Off parade:** *left to right: Back row:* **Signalmen Abell, Coldwell, Hodges, Cox, Welch.** *Centre row:* **Signalmen Tolley, James, Payne, Brougham, Swinbourne, Bailey.** *Front row:* **Signalman Young (Best Recruit) Signalman Sullivan, Sergeant Markie, Lieutenant Q. Vigurs, Corporal Crook, Signalman Peterson, Signalman Oliver, Hon. Lance-Corporal Worthington (Tree Roster).**

(2) **Councillor R. Eaton, Mayor of Richmond, has a kindly word as he inspects No. 4 Troop.**

(3) **Brigadier A. J. Wilson, C.B.E., M.C., Director of Army Recruiting discusses recruit training with Corporal Clarke.**

14th Signal Regiment, Gloucester

A V.I.P. drops in

IN the last week of July (and by most reckoning it was also the last week of summer in these parts) we had our first visit from **Lieutenant-General Sir John Mogg,** G.O.C.-in-C., Army Strategic Command. Piloting his own Scout, he arrived from 30th Regiment, at Blandford, for the second leg of a day trip to see 1st Signal Group, and was accompanied by **Colonel E. J. Winn,** the Group Commander.

After lunch with the officers, when the party was joined by **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray,** C.S.O., Army Strategic Command, the Army Commander was briefed on the role of the Regiment by a small team lead by the Commanding Officer. The General was then taken to see some men and equipment. First on the list was a detachment which he had, in fact, seen some months earlier in Malta, when they had had the pleasure of being the first to show him his new vehicle formation sign.

But it was soldiers that he was mainly interested in, and after a quick look at some technicians getting themselves converted ("Your Corps always seems to be on the move"), he soon became involved in a question-and-answer session with some of 645 Troop. Here the topics ranged from the habits of bog Irishmen (of which **Corporal W. A. Crawford** denied all knowledge) to the pros and cons of Gloucester as a single man's station (about which **Corporal R. J. Larkin** apparently had decided views, but these were carried on in the breeze, out of your correspondent's earshot—but see later).

The party then flew on to the Relay Centre at Boddington, where they were shown a specially up-dated version of the "Visitor's Briefing," featuring the dulcet tones of **Major C. F. Bushel,** not unkown to B.F.B.S. listeners, but new in this particular role. And so to the end of a happy day.

There is no doubt that through this visit, the Army Strategic Command 'seal of approval' was formally set upon the unit: we only hope that the implications will now percolate down to the 'Controller of Jerseys, Wool, Heavy.'

All the Fun of the Fair

Most of it then, for as our cooks will tell you, someone somewhere has to put in a good deal of hard work. August is the month of village fetes, agricultural shows, and the like, and it is the month when a number of our soldiers get variously involved in these affairs. Our photo shows **Staff Sergeant D. J. Hawley** and **Corporal G. T. Hawkins** getting ready for whatever may have been the mediaeval equivalent of "Grub's-Up!" We have no record of whether Maid Marion actually used foil, but we are assured that the end-product at the Minsterworth show was much improved as a result.

Even as these notes are being written, another deer roast is being prepared—this time for the Cranham Feast. This is the logical development of a meal originally provided by the Lord of the Manor for his tenants. Now more of a fair in aid of charity, it still includes (in the form of a cross-country run) a boundary race. This was at one time the stylised pursuit of the local maidens into Cranham Woods. The Regiment has, of course, entered a team.



[Courtesy Gloucester Citizen and Journal.

IT LOOKS GOOD—IT TASTES GOOD....
Staff Sergeant D. J. Hawley and Corporal G. T. Hawkins dishing up at the Minsterworth Show

2 SQUADRON, DROITWICH

Army Junior Regatta

Notes written by W.O.II (SSM) S. F. Bloom 2 Squadron 14th Regiment

TWO Squadron of the Regiment were this year responsible for organising the Army Junior Regatta. As the list of team entrants increased, so also did the anxiety of **R.Q.M.S. Peake,** whose job it was to accommodate and feed, the influx of officers and junior soldiers; the final count up proved that there were to be more than the total strength of the Squadron. The Cook Sergeant (**Sergeant Booth**), had to then arrange meals in the Camp on a triple shift system, as we were already feeding Special Furnishing Supplies Wing, Royal Air Force. Despite these complications the cooks were able to cope and put on excellent meals, both in the Unit and at the Sailing Centre.

The 40 acre "puddle"

The Sailing Centre for the uninitiated is a 40 acre "Puddle" situated at Upton Warren, which belongs to the Worcester County Council, who very kindly loaned the Army both the water and its marvellous Club House for the 26th and 27th June.

On the first day the winds were strong and gusty. This gave the boys plenty to think about on such a small stretch of water; nerves and lack of experience took their toll, both with the occasional bump and the inevitable capsizes. The Commodore of Army Sailing Association, **Major-General A. O. G. Mills,** was present on the bridge on the first day, when during the morning eight capsizes took place at the rate of one every eight minutes.

Six entrants—six capsizes

On the second day and during the first hour the winds seemed to be about the same, then they suddenly increased to squalls which presented the rescue launch team, **Sergeant-Major Bloom** and **Corporal Luck** with problems as during one race of six boats all six capsized and racing had to be abandoned for 40 minutes whilst the bosun's party made good the damage and drained off. Despite the setbacks, the sailing programme was completed on time with a total of 41 races (including 30 capsizes) covering the two days.

After several lengthy protests the prizes were presented by **Brigadier H. Knutton** to:

Team Races: 1, Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion "A" Team; 2, Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow, "A" Team; 3, Junior Tradesmen's Regiment A.C.C., "A" Team.

Individuals: 1, **J/T Powell** (Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow).

The Squadron received many letters of congratulations, and thanks (nothing like blowing your own trumpet), but one feels that the real kudos should come from the Squadron to **Major Charles McDevitt,** who has just left us for a tour with N.A.T.O. H.Q. in Brussels. He was the drive behind all the sailing events that the Squadron organised, and he said that "Droitwich with its Puddle would be a good posting if it were not for the TX Hall."

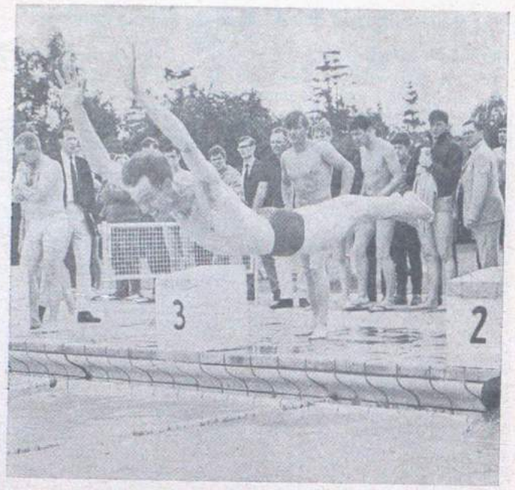
ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 16.00 hours on Friday, 4th October, 1968, at the RSGB Communications Exhibition, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. All members are requested to attend.



RECORD BREAKING TEAM

16th Regiment's 4 x 880 yard relay team knocked 6.2 seconds off the B.A.O.R. record. In the photo: Lance-Corporals Kirby, Hyett, Turvey and Corporal Cotham



A REAL FLYER

Corporal Ken Ashford gets away to a fine start in the last leg of the medley relay in the Rhine Area Swimming Championships. 16th Regiment won all events and broke the record for each event as well!

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Athletics

AFTER our successes in the Morrison Cup and the Rhine Area Competitions, we went on to the B.A.O.R. Athletics finals at Sennelager. The standards at Sennelager were as high as ever, and we were quite pleased to come away a good fourth overall. Very satisfying were the 4 x 880 yards and the 1 mile team races. In the 4 x 880, our team knocked 6.2 seconds off the B.A.O.R. record. In the mile, always an exciting event, **Corporal Cotham** and **Corporal Hyett** finished first and second, within a yard of each other; **Lance-Corporal Lord** and **Lance-Corporal Cook** were eighth and ninth, so giving a decisive win as a team.

Lance-Corporal John Kirby, Corporal Cotham and **Lance-Corporal Hyett** have been selected to run for B.A.O.R.; **Corporal Turvey** has also achieved third place in the Army 440 yards and represented the Army against the other Services.

Outstanding amongst our W.R.A.C. athletes was **Lance-Corporal Tina Veale,** who won the Women's Army long jump with a distance of 16ft. 5¼in. and subsequently represented the Army against the other Services.

Competition Shooting, 1968

The Regimental Shooting Team can look back on a successful, but frustrating year—successful in that they have achieved a high standard, and frustrating in that they have been pipped at the post, particularly by 21st Regiment on several occasions.

The competition season opened with the Rhine Area Meeting in late May, the only winners' cup was brought back by **Captain (now Major) Stewart Read** who, as officer-in-charge of the butts, was a member of the winning team in the Working Men's Cup. Under the direction of **Staff Sergeant Tom Hassett,** the falling plates team (**Captain Jim Stockill, W.O.II Chris Easter, Sergeant Alex Alexander** and **Lance-Corporal Dodge Kingham**) were runners-up in the falling plates—modified on Arsbeck Ranges as a balloon bursting competition; in a high wind, the balloon targets were very mobile!

The next meeting was the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Shoot at Sennelager, on E.T.R. Ranges. The team came second in both the Roupell and Whitehead Cups to 21st Regiment by very small margins, and **Captain Jim Stockill** collected the individual's prize in the Whitehead. The S.M.G. proved to be our weapon of the meeting, with **Sergeant Alex Alexander** winning the S.M.G. XXX, and the team of **Sergeant Alex Alexander, Foreman Les Stanhope, R.Q.M.S. Chris Easter** and **Sergeant Mick Madden** winning the Parachute Regiment Cup. We finished up second to 21st Regiment in the overall team championship.

With much administrative effort the team was sent off to the Corps Shoot at Bulford and the A.R.A. Meeting at Bisley by plane. The arms travelling under the eagle eye of **Captain George Cowsill** in the Unit mini-bus driven by **Corporal** (now Sergeant—the shooting team is the place for promotion) **Paddy Walsh.** It was unfortunate that the team entries for Bisley had to be reduced by two Class "A" shots, as **A.Q.M.S. Alec Hankins,** of the Unit L.A.D., had to be dropped after spending a lot of time and effort in replacing the better parts of the transmission of the mini-bus to get it road-worthy.

Sergeant Alex Alexander once more met with success and won the S.M.G. XXX and the team of **Captain George Cowsill, R.Q.M.S. Chris Easter, Sergeant Mick Madden, Sergeant Alex Alexander, Corporal Johnny Wilding** and **Lance-Corporal Dodge Kingham,** won the Methuen Cup. Overall, we came fifth out of the 13 teams entered.

The A.R.A. meeting started well, with **Lance-Corporal Dodge Kingham** winning the best Class "B" shot in the Roupell Cup. Five members of the team qualified for the second stage of the Army Hundred, of which two, **Sergeant Mick Madden** and **Lance-Corporal Dodge Kingham** won through to the final stages and were placed 71st and 61st respectively. The other notable success was **R.Q.M.S. Chris Easter,** who was placed 20th in the S.M.G. XXX.

The team has gained much valuable experience this year and looks forward to greater success. in the form of cups, next year. The biggest need is for young Class "B" soldiers.

Swimming

The Regimental team scored "a possible" in the Rhine Area Swimming Championships by winning every event and by setting a new record each time. 28th Regiment did, in fact, beat us in one event, but the judges, not us, disqualified them for a premature start on one leg of a relay. The matching members of opposing teams can be seen standing around and waiting for their men to come home.

The next stage on our journey was the B.A.O.R. Finals in Berlin. A signal just received—we came fifth in the B.A.O.R. Swimming Championships at Berlin, and details not yet available.

Thank goodness at Rover there are still people who think precision engineering comes before mass production.

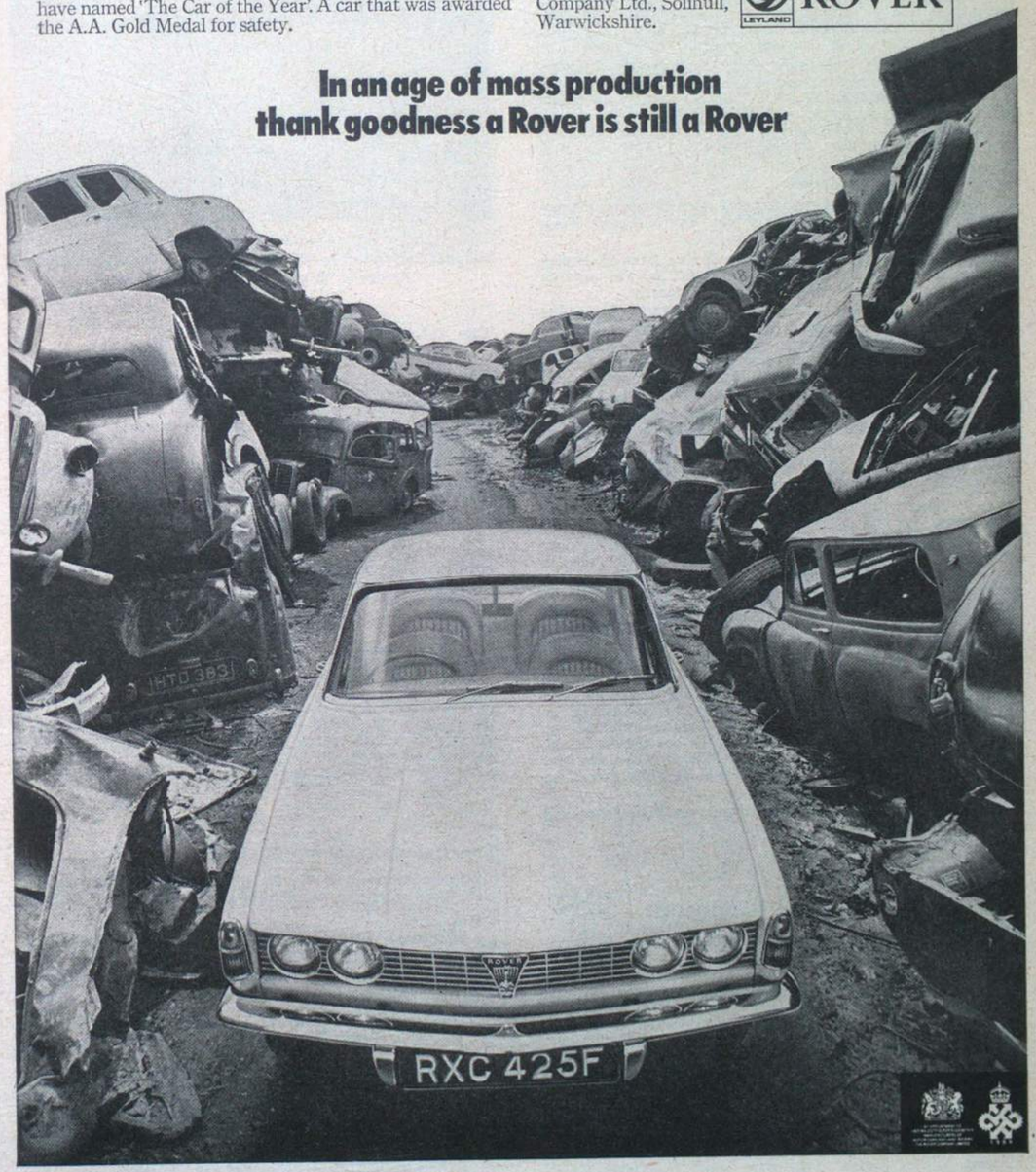
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17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
Seremban, Malaysia

Caldbeck Cup

THIS football cup is the result of a knockout competition between Army teams of Malaya and Singapore. Our team played three matches to win the Malayan Section and played the final against H.Q., 3 Commando Brigade, on 27th July at the Dover Road Stadium, Singapore. In spite of a very soggy pitch, and an early goal by H.Q., 3 Commando Brigade, we were able to draw level in the second half, and in the final minute slipped in the wining goal.

This was the first time a Gurkha team has won this cup, which was presented at the end of the game by **Major-General M. S. Hancock, M.B.E.** We would like to thank 18th Signal Regiment, 249 Signal Squadron (FARELF), 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, and many others, for their support during this very exciting match.

Arrivals and departures

Lieutenant Mike Backhurst departed after 2½ years of touring S.E. Asia—doing a multitude of jobs—to the Signals Wing, School of Infantry.

Lieutenant John Neeve called in to bid us farewell, having been for the last year "Our Man in Nepal"; he also goes on a course at the Signals Wing, School of Infantry.

Sergeant G. E. Harris has left for a Guards Drill Course and possibly to become a Special Recruiter. Let's hope he marches a few in, as the Corps seems to be getting short. **Sergeant M. Moran** left before his full tour was up, but is getting further qualified before going to SHAPE H.Q., and will no doubt push around even more paper than he was able to do here.

Arrivals.—**Second-Lieutenant N. R. Pullman, Sergeant O. S. Pickering,** R.A.P.C., **Sergeant W. J. Thomas, Corporal R. Marsh.**

We welcome them all to the Regiment and wish them a happy tour with Gurkha Signals.

Obituary

It is very sad to write of the death of a soldier on duty when overseas, especially as there are so few British ranks in the unit. **Corporal Alan Jones,** whilst travelling back from an exercise in Malaya, was killed by a civilian lorry hitting the 3-ton vehicle in which he was sitting. He was buried with full military honours at the Military Cemetery, Terendak.

Corporal Jones enlisted in the Corps in 1961; after training at Catterick as a cipher operator, he served with 41st Infantry Signal Squadron in U.K., 203 Signal Squadron in Cyprus, 14th Signal Regiment at Gloucester, and finally at 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment. Although not an outstanding sportsman, he tackled any sport with much verve and enthusiasm. At the time of his death, he was serving with the detachment at the Comcen at Kluang. He was popular with the Gurkha and British element of the Regiment, and will be sadly missed by all.

We offer our most sincere condolences to **Mrs. Jones** and her three young children.

18th Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

EXERCISE "EVERGREEN VII"

Introduction

SPURRED on by the success of last year's "Evergreen," which was featured in last November's WIRE, it was decided to hold this year's jungle warfare training and change-of-air exercise on a Regimental basis once more. An extensive reconnaissance of most of the east coast of Malaysia within a hundred miles of Singapore was carried out in the spring, and eventually it was decided to base the exercise on Pulau Babi Besar, a three mile long island some six miles to the east of Mersing.



JIMMY'S JETTY
The jetty constructed by 18th Regiment as a gift to the local islanders. Alongside "Brigand"—the Regimental ketch

The Island

Pulau Babi Besar supports some 160 inhabitants, who grow a little padi and vegetables and make a living from copra and fishing. It is typical of the offshore islands in this part of the world, with a steeply rising ridge (highest peak 825ft.) running down the centre, beautiful white sandy beaches and a coral reef just below the low water mark. Most of the low ground is covered by coconut palms, which give way to jungle on the hills. There is little or no wild life on the island, other than birds and lizards—and certainly no pig, despite the fact its name is "Big Pig Island" in English! The waters around the island are crystal clear and full of interest to snorklers—with tropical fish and coral of all types to be seen in abundance. Dolphin and shark are seen in the deeper waters frequently. The climate is surprisingly different from that of Singapore, with much hotter, but drier days and cooler nights. In sum, an ideal place for a break from the big city.

The Mainland

There were obvious limitations to the amount of training which could be carried out on the island, and it was decided to find a route from the main Mersing-Singapore road to the sea through the Tenggaroh forest. After several attempts, a suitable route was found, the majority of which was through virgin jungle which had never been explored by the local forest rangers. It was unmistakeably well stocked with elephant, pig and tiger. As many of the DS and trainees discovered, there were also plenty of leeches!

The Quartermaster's Nightmare

Captain Howard (Q.M. Tech.) and **R.Q.M.S. McDonough** were faced with some formidable problems, the main of which were:

—We could not use any fresh water on the island without endangering the islanders' supplies.

—Rations had to be collected from Kluang, a good sixty miles from Mersing on the mainland.

—The maximum permanent sea lift we could expect was one RPL (Ramp Powered Lighter) and four assault craft.

—The RPL could only cross the sandbar off Mersing within two hours either side of high water.

However, all these difficulties were overcome, a first-class camp established, and the resupply system settled into a nautical routine, tied to tide tables, by the end of the first week. Water was brought over from Mersing in the RPL's tanks (capacity 70 tons) twice a week and pumped into bowsers.



LOCAL ACTIVITIES
Natives prepare a primitive craft for fishing? In fact Captain Palmer (left) and Sergeant Davidson rigging a collapsible canoe for the journey back to Singapore

Training

Each of the five batches of up to 100 soldiers moved up for their week's training on Sundays, leaving by bus early in the morning to catch the tide and the RPL at Mersing. The first day was spent in working-up training on the ridge-tops, and Monday evening always found a very tired bunch of men hoping that the going wouldn't be so steep later on. Tuesday was easier, with assault craft training, preparation for the main exercise and a demonstration by the Jungle Warfare School. This included the armalite rifle (which the majority of trainees fired), the claymore mine, the seismic detector (to give early warning of enemy movement) and the M26 grenade. They also demonstrated how to live off the jungle by eating such relishing items as tree fern, nibong palm, wild ginger and lizards. We were also told not to assume that anything eaten by animals or birds could safely be eaten by us, but anything a rat or monkey would eat was! Perhaps there's a moral here!

The main exercise took place on Wednesday and Thursday. The three platoons of trainees embarked on the RPL for Mersing at 07.00 hours, were taken by bus to the jumping-off point, 20 miles to the south, where they set off along what became quite a well-defined path on a very long disused and overgrown teak track beside the Sungei Ambat. Three miles further on they moved off on three converging courses on a compass march, and Wednesday night found them in platoon bivouacs in the middle of the jungle. The following day they completed their march to the sea, were picked up by assault craft and ferried out to the RPL, anchored about three-quarters-of-a-mile out to sea, for fear of the shallow waters and hidden rocks on the Tenggaroh coast. On three occasions they carried out an ambush exercise near the beach before being taken off, during which large quantities of blank and pyrotechnics were discharged, and the frustrations of forcing a way through miles of violently undulating jungle evaporated.

The rest of the week was spent in improving the camp, work on projects to help the islanders, and in well-earnt relaxation culminating in a barbecue on Saturday night.

Les Girls

Yes, the W.R.A.C. did participate in two of the five weeks of training, did a slightly scaled-down version of the working-up programme and bivouaced on a neighbouring island overnight, under the watchful eye of **Sergeant Davidson.** They were not excused the assault boat race (paddles, not engines) round the keelong offshore, and wielded paint brushes with the best of them, redecorating the various buildings on the programme.



CONSTRUCTING JIMMY'S JETTY
Captain Yahya and Lance-Corporal Ahmad Khardi at work

Jimmy's Jetty

When **Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson** did the final reconnaissance of the island, he asked the headman what the Regiment could do most to help the islanders. The answer was quite clear—they wanted a jetty! Needless to say, the C.O. did not commit himself at this stage, but this did become our main project. **Captain Jimmy Yahya** obtained excellent co-operation from the local authorities in Mersing, and the first few weeks were spent in cutting giam and resak trees in the Endau Forest (these are particularly suitable for piles) and bakau trees from the swamps on the coast near Tangong Sekakap (bakau does not rot under water and is useful for cross beams). Getting the timber back to the island was no mean task, as there is no road access to Tangong Sekakap, and the logs had to be taken off by assault craft to the RPL. Eventually all the materials were gathered together, including a rudimentary pile-driver, and the construction phase began. What we had thought would be the most difficult task—pile-driving—proved to be quite easy. The first two piles took three hours each to fix, but the local headman then explained that once we reached the wet sand all we had to do was fit a cross-beam and rock the pile. This we did—three men on each side—and the piles worked themselves down into the sand in no time at all—easy if you know how!

Within a week, including some midnight stands to catch really low water, we had built a 120ft. jetty, useable at all states of the tide. This was opened by the C.O. on 16th July, an hour before the rear party left the island, at a ceremony attended by all 160 inhabitants. It was named 'Jimmy's Jetty,' because of our cap badge and in honour of **Jimmy Yahya,** who saw the project through from beginning to end.

In addition to this, we painted the island school, community centre and rest house and the Mersing Police Station recreation room, which we had been using as a base and radio station on the mainland. We also erected two leading marks to show the way in through the only gap in the coral to the jetty and the only beach useable by the RPLs.

Local relationships

The islanders were a little shy of the soldiers for the first week, but soon became very friendly. They all attended the feature and training films we showed twice a week, joined in the fun at the last barbecue, played us at football and sepak raga, and invited the Malay soldiers to their celebration in honour of the Prophet Mohammed's birthday. The children enjoyed a sports day organised for them on the last Friday, and **Sergeant Duncan** (the ration N.C.O.) was their firm favourite from an early stage. He ended up with a troop of some 50 young warriors who appeared at appropriate moments and practised the military arts they had seen in the training films with youthful zest and vigour. **R.Q.M.S. McDonough** appointed one of the local headmen at acting 'R.Q.M.S. Pulau Babi Besar' before the left, and we understand that this splendid character is still wearing a crown with laurel wreath on his wrist!



BARBECUE
"Les Girls" liven up the barbecue evening

The tales they tell

There were many amusing incidents to look back on during the exercise. For instance, **Lieutenant Case** nearly lost his leading scout, **Sergeant Buxton** (then Corporal), when he stepped into a mangrove swamp without making sure he had a foothold. Burton's jungle hat made a good beacon and they soon fished him out! Then there was the anxious moment when **Captain Palmer's** platoon came within 80 yards of a herd of elephants on the move, and the platoon took the approved Jungle Warfare School immediate action of running sharply down hill!

Readers who would like more of this should read **Captain** Blessington's personal account, which appears elsewhere in this edition.

In conclusion

Once again some 500 men and women serving with the Regiment got away from it all and had a memorable few days in fabulous surroundings, as well as carrying out some excellent training. This was not achieved without a great deal of hard work on the part of the permanent staff, so ably led by **R.Q.M.S. McDonough, S.S.M. Boyle** and **Sergeant Duncan,** and the training staff under the direction of **Captain Blessington.** They all agree, however, that their efforts were worthwhile, and those that will still be here are looking forward to next year's camp.

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

Loughborough College Cadets

The Regiment played host to twenty cadets from Loughborough College this month, and for ten days they ranged around Germany and Holland, visiting places of interest and firing both SMG and SLR. They returned home, tired, but wiser in experience.

Nijmegen Marches

Corporals Beech and **Oyedepo** and **Signalman Doyle** all joined the R.A.F. Laarbruch team in the Nijmegen marches and qualified for a medal along with the other members of the team. None of them were presented with any flowers by the general public, however, as the team marching in front of them collected the lot! **Signalman Doyle** was not put out by this in the slightest, as the team in front consisted of some very pretty girls, and to be following them for three days, with no questions asked, was good enough for him!

Shooting News

At the Corps Shoot at Bulford, the Regiment were the winners of the Warren Trophy for the second year running.

At Bisley, in the A.R.A. Meeting, **Corporal Purkiss** fired in the SMG XXX and was chosen to fire in the SMG Army Eight. **Sergeant Ridgeway** was in the Army 100, with the rifle. In the NRA meeting, **Corporal Purkiss** again fired in the SMG XXX representing the Corps, and so did **Staff Sergeant Smith.** The latter was also chosen to represent the Corps with the rifle.

In the Non-Central Matches, the Regiment again won the Royal Signals Shooting Trophy.

Third Member of "A" Troop receives Long Service Award

On Thursday, 27th June, **Fraulein Hanna Leimböck** was presented with a certificate for 12 years' loyal service with Royal Air Force, Germany, by **Wing-Commander S. D. Baldock, M.B.E., D.F.M.,** Officer Commanding R.A.F. Rheindahlen.

The certificate is awarded to civilian employees, to quote the citation:

> "In recognition of twelve years' loyal and devoted service to Her Britannic Majesty's Forces in Germany."

She is the third member of "A" Troop to receive this award, the others being **Herr Heutmann** and **Herr Griese.** Together, they aggregate a total of over 50 years' service with British Forces in Germany.

Fraulein Leimböck (Hanna) is employed as "A" Troop Clerk at H.Q., R.A.F. Germany, Rheindahlen. She started working with British Troops, Austria, in Klagenfurt, in 1946, until they left in October, 1956, when she joined 10th Air Formation Signal Regiment at Butzweilerhof. In 1959 she moved to H.Q., R.A.F., Germany, where she has remained since.

Herr Heutmann, a technician and draughtsman, first worked for the Allied Military Government in 1945. He joined 11th Air Formation Signals at Bad Eilsen in January, 1954, and has continued with Air Formation since then.

Herr Griese (Egon), also a technician, started with 10th Air Formation Signals at Goch and Butzweilerhof, before moving up to Rheindahlen.

"A" Troop consider themselves very fortunate to own such a stalwart trio. They will doubtless be remembered by very many past members of Air Formation Signals in Germany.



OUTSTANDING SERVICE
Recipients of long service awards: *left to right:* Herr Griese, Fraulein Leimbock, Herr Heutman. In background Major Merrifield (O.C.A. Troop)

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire?

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22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

DURING May, June and July, thought and effort in a Regiment in B.A.O.R. are perforce concentrated almost exclusively on field training; exercise has followed exercise, with scarcely time, even, to draw breath between them, culminating in "Summer Sales" in early July. All Signal Units in 1 (BR) Corps know what that exercise involved, and it is unnecessary to elaborate on it here. It is sufficient to say that it proved a most enjoyable and valuable exercise. As we are all well aware of how much training has been carried out in recent months, these notes might be devoted more profitably to other aspects of Regimental life.

Duty in Berlin

The Regiment was lucky to be asked to provide a contingent to relieve men of 229 Squadron, so that they could attend their summer camp. Of course, we jumped at the chance, and so about thirty of us have had the opportunity of seeing this fascinating and unique city. Our period of duty there coincided with one of the periodic spots of bother at the autobahn checkpoints, so we were kept pretty busy, but we found time to see the sights. In this we were lucky to have **Lieutenant Simmons,** of 229 Squadron, an official Army guide to Berlin, to show us round. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Berlin, and we all learned a lot from it, partly from the opportunity it gave to "live" work in a different environment and partly from the insight it gave us into life behind the Iron Curtain.

Visits of C.C.F. Schoolboys

During July the Regiment played host to three parties of schoolboys, when the C.C.F.s of Stonyhurst, Arnold School (Blackpool) and Adams Grammar School (Newport) sent contingents to spend a fortnight with us. 2 Squadron looked after Stonyhurst in a tented camp at Asel, on the Eder-See, and a full training programme included canoe instruction by **Lance-Corporal Wood;** sailing, under **Sergeant Cross,** and ham radio, supervised by **Yeoman Llewellyn** (better known as DL5XE), as well as the normal patrolling, compass marching and map-reading exercises. Although sub-aqua training was not exactly planned, it was not entirely absent from the canoe and sailing work. The cadets thoroughly enjoyed their camp, and were loud in praise of **Lance-Corporal Cappleman** and **Private Broomfield,** of the A.C.C., even threatening to take them back to school with them. The other two schools chose to base themselves on our barracks in Lippstadt, and 1 and 3 Squadrons organised a full and varied programme for them. The Burgermeister of Lippstadt, who is also the local Member of Parliament, invited all the boys to a reception in the historic town hall, and gave them a potted history of the town before sending them off on a conducted tour, in the course of which they saw more in one afternoon than some of us have seen in two years.

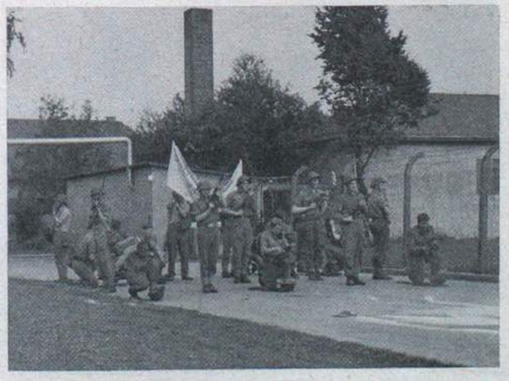
A Luftwaffe Nike-Hercules Battalion, stationed locally, took the cadets on a visit to their H.Q. and showed them one of the rocket sites, and they also paid enjoyable and instructive visits to 42nd Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery and 14th/20th King's Hussars. An all-night exercise was followed the next day with some realistic Internal Security training—the accompanying photographs show the villainous mob doing just what the training film says it should do in the face of well-disciplined and well-trained opposition.



INSURRECTION (2)
Unruly elements in full flight

Nijmegen March, 1968

Once again the Regiment entered a team for the Nijmegen March and, although time for preliminary training had been limited, the nineteen marchers and two orderlies covered their hundred miles in four days with the aplomb of old hands—although we had several first-timers. **Q.M.S.I. Carpenter,** who now has seven marches to his credit, probably had more than a little to do with this. **A very fast last day gave us second place in the final (military section) parade, and we were gratified to be one of the two teams to be congratulated by O.C. British Troops on their bearing and turnout.**



INSURRECTION (1)
C.C.F. Cadets stand-to to repel unruly elements of the 22nd Regiment



THE 11th MILE OF A 10 MILE BASH!
In the foreground Corporal Sanderson, Corporal Wilkinson, Signalman Forsythe, Sergeant Sage, Lance-Corporal Nichol and Corporal Gent replace vital fluid—2 Squadron Camp on the Eder-See

Wives' Club

A couple of weeks ago, the Regimental Wives' Club held its annual dinner to close the 1967/68 'season,' when over 50 members treated themselves to a slap-up meal in one of the better hotels in the town. It has been a most successful winter season, with attendances at the monthly meetings seldom falling below 50 and often being nearer 70 or 80. By the time the next meeting takes place in September, many new families will have joined the Regiment, so may we hope to see some new members to take the place of those who will have left Lippstadt? All Regimental wives are most welcome.

GLIDING

When **Lieutenant Leigh Hood** joined the Regiment we acquired an enthusiastic glider pilot; not only enthusiastic, but expert, too. At the beginning of June he was one of nine Army pilots (four of them were Royal Signals) selected to take part in the National Championships. **Lieutenant Hood** has been instructing members of the Regiment in this exhilarating sport almost every weekend since he arrived, and is shortly taking his Troop on a 'gliding camp.' Before long we should have quite a lot of qualified pilots, and . . . the sky's the limit!

We asked **Lieutenant Hood** to write an account of his experience in the National Championships, and here it is:

1968 British National Gliding Championships

The Army Gliding Association (U.K.) entered a team of nine pilots and gliders in the 1968 Championships (Sports Class). **Lieutenant L. S. Hood,** of 22nd Regiment had the honour of being selected to represent the Army, and flew an Olympia 463 of the Army Gliding Association.

For the week 25th to 31st May, the R.A.F. Gliding and Soaring Association sponsored an inter-Service practice week at its centre at R.A.F., Bicester. The idea was that the three Service teams should "limber-up" and fly tasks of the standard which would be required in the subsequent ten days of the actual National Championships. Launching was by R.A.F. Chipmunk aircraft to 2,000 feet, and the tasks set were of the speed variety (i.e., a race round a course, which could be a triangle, out-and-return, or straight to an airfield, over over distances of 100 to 200 km.). During this practice week there were two triangles set (one of 200 km. and one of 100 km.), one out and return, to Worcester and return (160 km.), and one race to Dunstable via Northampton reservoir. This latter task was the final day of the practice week and was a convenient means of ferrying the participating Service gliders to Dunstable, the venue of the National. This was one of the best soaring days of that week, with climbs possible up 5,000 feet in clear air, and average speeds for the tasks of 60 to 70 km. per hour.

For the ten days until 10th June, flying was now in earnest. The forty competitors were 14 civilian pilots, two Royal Navy, nine Army, and 15 Royal Air Force, all camping on the airfield at Dunstable, with their crews, gliders and glider-trailers. The London Gliding Club had assembled a fleet of venerable Tiger Moths with which to launch the competitors, and the tasks and organisation, for the Service pilots were a follow-on from the previous week.

From the beginning it was plain that the overall standard of pilots in the Army team had improved since the previous year, and they were able to establish themselves in the first dozen places fairly quickly. There were six task days, three triangular races, two "dog-leg" races, and one out-and-return race. One of the triangles set was the largest closed-circuit task yet set in British competition gliding, being 325 km., and was completed by two-thirds of the competitors in times varying between 6 and 7½ hours. The final task day, on 10th June, was completed in deteriorating weather, following the most successful National Championships for five years. In the final positions, the first dozen places were held by two civilian pilots, five Royal Air Force, and five Army (**Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, Major Shepard,** R.A.O.C., **Captain Wheeler,** A.A.C., **Captain P. Goldney,** Royal Signals, and **Lieutenant L. S. Hood,** Royal Signals).

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (Northag)
B.F.P.O. 35

Visit—Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army

MR. J. Boyden, J.P., M.P., made a short visit to B.A.O.R. on 24th-25th June. He expressed a desire to visit a Unit in the area and we were selected mainly because of our unique role in NORTHAG, and our multi-national work. The C.O—**Lieutenant-Colonel Skelly**—gave a brief demonstration on the role and function of the Regiment, and then **Mr. Boyden** made a quick tour of the barracks to see the Regiment at work and to meet some of the soldiers, some of whom were his constituents.

Fransud

Final preparations for our two-week Adventure Training were in hand when **Mr. Boyden** was visiting us. In fact, the next day saw over 300 of us heading by road to the area of Tegernsee, in Bavaria. Here we were to camp, trek and canoe. As has been our luck in training this year we were blessed with wonderful weather which added much to the enjoyment of the whole venture.

The change of environment and fresh mountain air was indeed a tonic after wintering in Krefeld. To those visiting Bavaria for the first time it was an experience not to be soon forgotten; for those returning it was confirmation that the German Army are so right in having many of their training establishments in this part of the country. The C.O. paid a courtesy visit to some of our German friends of the 5th Mountain Division Signal Regiment, who have kindly invited us to ski train with them early in 1969. About 60, in groups of 20 all ranks, will spend a period of two weeks learning the rudiments of ski-ing near Garmish-Partenkirchen.

We had several visitors in Bavaria, including **Brigadiers Mansergh** (C.S.O., B.A.O.R.) and **Glennie** (Commander Rhine Area) both of whom were visiting this area for the first time. Their short stay only permitted them a "taste" of the training and recreational facilities available to us, but this we are sure was enough to whet their enthusiasm, both for the area and the type of training being conducted.

The Regiment left behind many new friends in Bavaria,



A DEFINITE HIT

Signalman Kilpin and his pipes were much admired. His patrol held the record for having received most free beer from kindly holiday makers—and no wonder.



FRIENDLY INFORMALITY

Brigadier Glennie, Commander Rhine Area, has a chat with a patrol of 28th Regiment in the Bavarian Alps

and, in particular, the Mountain Rescue Team (Bergwacht) in Schliersee, who have invited us back in the winter to stay in their mountain hut and to do a little Rescue Training—an art at which we are becoming adept.

Now that we are back in Krefeld we are busy completing the many projects stimulated by the forthcoming Exercise "Fallex"—some, despite "Fransud," are actually going on leave!

Future Events

Apart from Exercise "Fallex," we have minor NORTHAG exercises, and our annual autumn fair in September. Our local civilian and NATO military friends are taking a much greater interest this year. This will have happened by the time these notes are read, but we'll report on its outcome in later notes.

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

WE are now in the middle of the busy exercise season; however, as this report shows, we do not spend all our time at work.

Visit to the Dyers Company

As many readers will know, the Regiment is affiliated to the Dyers Company, in the City of London. Their emblem, the swan, always heads our entries in THE WIRE.

On 12th June, a party of sixteen members of the Regiment left Blandford for a day in London as the guests of the Dyers Company. The journey to London was not without incident, for thanks to British Rail, the train was almost half-an hour late leaving Salisbury. When the party eventually got to London and on to Westminster Pier to board a launch to Tower Pier, the tide was at its lowest, and the launch remained firmly stuck to the bed of old Father Thames for 20 minutes.

This pause did, however, enable the party to chat more fully with the two representatives of the Dyers Company whom they had met earlier, **Mr. Abnett,** the Dyers Company Beadle, and **Mr. Cobb,** the Company Bargemaster, who explained that he was one of only four Company Bargemasters on the Thames and that he was involved in the annual Swan-Upping ceremony on the Thames. On arrival at the Dyers Hall, the party was met by the Clerk to the Court, **Mr. D. R. Balfour Park,** himself no stranger to Blandford. Over a cup of coffee, he briefly explained some of the history of the Company and of the items on display in the hall.

After a really splendid lunch, at which the party was met by the Renter Warden, **Mr. G. E. B. Shannon, C.M.G.,** and other members of the Company, the programme indicated a short walk through the City to the Mansion House.

After a brief tour of the stately rooms in the Lord Mayor's house, the party was presented to the Lord Mayor, **Sir Gilbert Inglefield, T.D., M.A.** At this point a donation to the Lord Mayor's "War on Want" fund was made by **Captain C. J. Crow,** on behalf of the Regiment, and the Lord Mayor replied

Members of 30th Regiment have a day out in London



[*Courtesy John Heddon.*

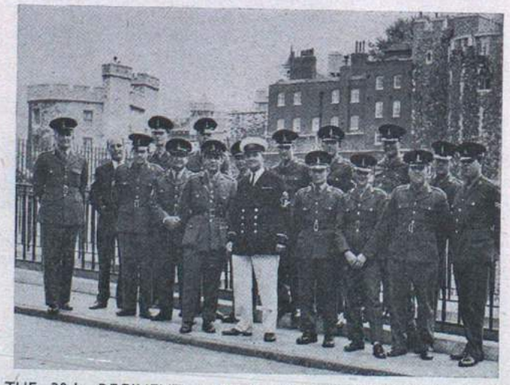
RECEIVED BY THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON!

During a visit to London as guests of the Dyers company this party from the 30th Regiment were presented to Sir Gilbert Inglefield, Lord Mayor of London, who was kind enough to pose for this photo. In the background a statue of Jimmy's Uncle!



A MAGNIFICENT SETTING

The party from the 30th Regiment admire the splendours of the Dyer's Company Hall



THE 30th REGIMENT PARTY OUTSIDE THE TOWER OF LONDON POSE WITH THE DYERS COMPANY BEADLE AND BARGEMASTER

Left to right: W.O.II (S.S.M.) Smith, Mr. Abnett (Dyers Company Beadle), Corporal Palmer, Staff-Sergeant McKie, Sergeant Orton, Lance-Corporal Cambell, Captain C. J. Crow, Signalman Anhoury, Mr. Cobb (Dyers Bargemaster, in working dress) Lance-Corporal Palmer, Signalman Taylor, Lance-Corporal Ginty, Signalman Parver, Lance-Corporal Bodle, Signalman Davies, Signalman Daveron, Corporal Wells

by presenting a commemorative plaque to the Regiment. Having chatted to the party, the Lord Mayor left us to continue our tour, which included the famous, but tiny, Magistrates' Court and cells within the Mansion House.

Next on the programme was a visit to the Tower of London and the Crown Jewels. By 4 p.m. a footweary party returned to the Dyers Hall to make short work of an enormous strawberry and cream tea. Before departing for Waterloo, the Dyers Company very kindly presented each member of the party with a handsome leather wallet, embossed with the Company mark.

Bowling—Ten-Pin Style

Whilst the Dyers visit party were still watching the moths fly out of their new wallets, other members of the Regiment were bowling their way to glory. The photograph shows our prize bowlers, known as the "Pleasure Seekers," surrounded by their trophies in a Bournemouth Top Rank Bowling Competition.

Bowling enthusiasts may be interested to know that it is hoped that an all-Army team can be formed to take part in inter-Service championships. In the meantime, the "Pleasure Seekers" are seeking challenges from other units, including postal games—so now is your chance.



The pleasure seekers and their trophies

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

Blandford was at its sunny best on 30th July for the visit of **Lieutenant-General Sir John Mogg, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** to the Regiment. Accompanied by the Commander, 1st Signal Group, **Colonel E. J. Winn,** the G.O.C.-in-C. spent the morning looking round the Regiment. He took the opportunity of speaking to all members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at coffee time. One of the highlights of his visit was a look at **Corporal Bell's** private armoury, details of which appeared in last month's WIRE. On leaving, he made arrangements to present **Corporal Bell** with a further item for his collection.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals

The Commander, South West District, **Major-General T. H. Acton, C.B.E.,** paid a flying visit to the Regiment on 23rd July, en route to the School of Signals. This visit was long enough for him to present Long Service and Good Conduct Awards to the R.S.M., **W.O.I T. Burke,** and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) C. D. Jones,** of 2 Squadron. Before the presentation, the G.O.C. inspected a guard of honour composed mainly of members of AMF (L) Troop on one of their rare appearances at home in the Regiment, from the snows of Norway.

Late News

Corps Victory in B.A.O.R. MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS

7th Regiment has again won this trial. Sergeant Fayers being placed second in the individual event.

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (212) B.F.P.O. 36

A run-down of those not in the Power Group

IT appears to be the practice or tradition amongst units—call it what you will, to, whenever one is "pushed" to fill up columns in this magazine, to give a run-down of those in the "power group" of the unit. Variety is always the spice of life, so they say, and to this end we have decided to give you a run-down of a few members of this unit who are not in the "power group."

Corporal Bill Cowling is, apart from commanding one of our CSO FV 439s, the unit photographer and is responsible for (he does the lot, including the processing) the photographic mastepieces seen on these pages every month! He is a keen open air man and has attended several Outward Bound Courses in both summer and winter.

Signalman 'Tich' Ross, one of our linemen, known for his collection of "sick" jokes, comes from what he says is the home of all radio communications, Rugby. His claim to fame within the unit was getting stuck in a rabbit hole while on a recce and having to be dug out by other members of the Line Section. His aim in life is to be para lineman.

Signalman Gene Moy, one of the Brigade Command Post radio operators, and the unit projectionist, is very keen on physical fitness. He has just returned from a rather tough Outward Bound Course in Norway and is now looking forward to attending a similar one in the winter, during which he can become proficient on skis.

Corporal Bill Pettie, the Senior Line Corporal, is a stalwart member of our shooting team, and was well placed in the Royal Signals Meeting at Bulford. He is also a keen fisherman. **Corporal Pettie** leaves us shortly for 638 Troop, R.A.F., Tangmere, and he and his wife will be missed for their support of the Corporals' Mess.

Other activities

During July we have been getting down to military training. We have completed a Military Proficiency Course, Class II, which ended with a very impressive pass-off parade taken by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier H. M. G. Bond.** At the end of the parade, **Brigadier Bond** presented a cup to **Craftsman 'Jock' Bassett** for being the best student.

In the early part of the month, the shooting team, led by **Lieutenant Ian Pattison,** who normally commands 'Alpha' Troop, set forth for Bulford and Bisley to attend the Royal Signals and Army Meetings. Although the team did not win any trophies, they represented us well and came back with plenty of competition shooting experience.

Currently, **Lieutenant Michael Rowbory,** ex-'Alpha' Troop Commander, is attached to the Unit from R.M.C.S., Shrivenham, and is conducting a FV 430 Series drivers' course.

On the communications side, during July, **Captain Beverley Yates,** our Communications Officer, ran a voice procedure refresher course for members of the Brigade Field Ambulance, culminating in a full-scale Field Ambulance exercise. To assist with communications, operators from 'Alpha' Troop were attached to the Field Ambulance and enjoyed working different radio sets and using different drills.

On 7th August, the unit was honoured by a visit from the Comander-in-Chief, B.A.O.R., **General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C.,** who was met by the Second-in-Command, **Captain Paul Webb,** and was shown a display of the Brigade Comhead, mounted by 'Bravo' Troop, during which he was given a detailed explanation of how it works and where we fit into the Bruin System.

FOR YOUR DIARY

CATTERICK REUNION WILL BE HELD on 28th/29th JUNE IN 1969

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

From Bahrain to Singapore by Sea

Article contributed by 255 Signal Squadron

EARLY in May, the O.C., **Major W. J. Clapp,** happened to make a casual remark to the effect that *Sir Geraint* was returning to Singapore on the 20th and that she would be empty as far as troops were concerned. *Sir Geraint* is a Landing Ship Logistic, originally based in the Far East, until she was sent to the Middle East to help with the Aden evacuation.

Never slow to take a hint, the author pressed his advantage, and permission was eventually obtained to send one officer and five soldiers to travel as passengers aboard the L.S.L. to Singapore. They were officially travelling on duty, as there is an Army radio room in the vessel, and they were to test communications, ship to shore, for as long as it was possible.

* * *

The party embarked on the evening of 19th May to find that they had been very comfortably accommodated in an air-conditioned, small troop deck, while the officer-in-charge was allocated the Senior Military Officer cabin. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' recreation space was used by the soldiers for meals and for their leisure hours, of which they had plenty.

Sir Geraint is a vessel of approximately 4,500 tons, with an average speed of 16 knots and a cruising range of 6,000 miles. She has a crew of 18 officers and 50 Chinese seamen, and can carry a total of 380 military passengers, 16 battle tanks or 26 3-tonners. She is air-conditioned, although there are parts of the ship in which the accommodation is not very effective. Because of her shallow draught and flat bottom, she has a heavy roll in any sort of a beam sea.

We sailed from Bahrain, after loading a cargo of ammunition, on the evening of 20th May, and 24 hours later were anchored off Dubai, in the Trucial States, where we spent another 24 hours unloading the ammunition, finally sailing for Singapore on the night of the 22nd.

We had managed to maintain communications with Bahrain until this time, but thereafter lost contact completely, although we maintained our thrice-daily schedules until the 26th. The Army radio room aboard the L.S.L. contained a C11/R210 and a C42, with a number of naval receivers, teleprinters and VHF equipments, none of which were completely installed. The C11 was connected to a 12ft. whip antenna, which was ineffective over about five miles, and various types of antennae were experimented with, including a dipole and a long wire. It was eventually discovered that the best results were obtained with the main whips, port or starboard, about 30ft. long, meant for use with the naval transmitter. One of the disadvantages with this type of vessel for antenna erection is that all antennae are crammed into a small space above the bridge—there being only a single mast.

* * *

The voyage was uneventful, we saw a few ships, and the occasional glimpse of land, there was all the sunshine, flying fish, porpoises, beer, darts and books necessary to make it a holiday cruise, and little to do in the way of duty, beyond keeping the troops' living and recreation spaces clean. We were very kindly shown around the ship's bridge, which is of the latest type, everything being automatically controlled, and the engine room, which is very hot and very noisy, and more than a little confusing. The heart of the engine room consists of an air-conditioned control centre, from which every function of the ship's power plant can be operated, should it be necessary to shut down for nuclear attack.

We arrived in Singapore harbour early on the morning of Saturday, 1st June, and disembarked a few hours later, after a very pleasant journey, during which were treated as honoured guests by the master, **Captain McConnell,** and his crew. Arrangements at Singapore were well organised and we were, very kindly, accommodated by 18th Signal Regiment.

* * *

The few days available at Singapore were spent making up deficiences in the various appetites engendered by our tour in Bahrain, to which we were very shortly returning. The bars, restaurants, clubs and the shops were well patronised by us all, and one member of the party finished his tour in a place he little expected to see from the inside!

Tuesday morning arrived too soon, especially as reporting time was 03.40 hours at Changi. Our aircraft, an R.A.F. Britannia, took off at 05.40 and we arrived back in Bahrain at 17.30 that evening after a 14-hour flight via Gan Island. We had been away for sixteen days, on a most pleasant and interesting journey, the like of which does not often come one's way in these days of rapid transport from A to B by aircraft.

Exercise "Kiel Haul" meant . . .

Baltic winds filling out Petasus' sails — and Corps men becoming good deck hands

THE Corps yacht *Petasus* was boarded on 4th June at about 16.15 hours by an assorted crew from 7th Regiment under the watchful eye of **Major B. W. P. Adams** (Skipper) and **Lance-Corporal Sedgebeer** (Mate) for a 14-day cruise in the Baltic. In addition to the aforementioned experts, we were fortunate in having the added experience of a newly-qualified Baltic Helm II, **Corporal D. G. Ratcliffe.**

A sea story by W.O.II (RQMS) B. Cleaver of 7th Signal Regiment

We set sail from Kiel Sailing Club at about 19.30 hours on 4th June, after very hasty last-minute preparations, and, I'm afraid to say, a few things forgotten, one of which was a radio, but no pop music for a fortnight seemed a splendid idea, and weather forecasts were available by other means.

After an eventful first night at sea, with the three experienced members of the crew knowing what was happening, and the other three rolling on their bunks wishing it was all over, we arrived at Spodsberg, a small fishing port on the east coast of Langeland. 7th June was spent at Spodsberg getting things ship-shape and introducing many nautical lessons to follow: bouyage, lights, navigation, and what seemed to me the most troublesome of all, knots.

The fishing ports in and around Denmark and Sweden are all very picturesque, with small fishing vessels and a sprinkling of colourful yachts, small, neat houses and cottages. After the hum-drum of town and barrack life, the peace and tranquility of the harbours was a wonderful change.

We slipped Spodsberg bound for Stubbekobing after breakfast on 8th June. Gentle breezes and good weather helped us on our way. The 'Duty Roster' was then struck by the Skipper with full military precision, and a touch of the nautical. We commenced the daily routine duties of skipper, navigator, cook, washer-up and two general crew.



The Royal Signals Yacht *Petasus* catching the Baltic wind with Corps men aboard

The Skipper is relegated to dishwashing

The system worked well until the Skipper extraordinary, **Major Adams,** found he was in the galley, and we awaited the fish kedgeree which had been so often talked about. It was made with local fish that had been caught in the harbour amidst cheers and cries of "I've got one, that puts me in the lead." The kedgeree, however, was sabotaged by persons unknown, who poured soapy water through the ventilator into the galley. The Skipper was rather put out, and vowed that we would suffer his cooking again when his turn came round, but unfortunately, at his second attempt, he burned the soup, and he was finally relegated to dish-washing.

Women—and mutterings of mutiny

After Stubbekobing came Symgehaven, our first Swedish port, and the land of good things in life, but it was not to be. The only woman seen was the one in the local ice cream stall near the harbour. This was such a sad disappointment that there were evil mutterings of mutiny, and the Skipper was forced to set sail for Skanor, chased by the Swedish Customs, who finally caught up with us a day later.

On our way to Skanor we passed through the Fasterborgkanalen, which was extremely interesting, as instead of the normal sailing procedure, we had hurriedly to read books to obtain local rights and rulings in order to negotiate the canal. There were a few agitated voices heard from the stern of the vessel: "Look out for two lights vertical flashing." "No!" "Look out for two lights horizontal steady!" Not to worry, we did rather well and cleared the canal with the canal keeper looking at us through binoculars, which, from a distance, looked like a rifle with telescopic sights, and then the open sea again.

The "In-Place"

Skanor was one of the most pleasant places we visited—wonderful beaches, pleasant and friendly people and opportunities to fish and snorkel. The main attraction in the evening was a local discotheque which was declared the "In-Place." On learning this, everyone hastily brought out damp and crumpled lounge suits, which had been brought on the expectation that local dignitaries would ask the British visitors to open the local village fete. We all rushed over to the discotheque to find the order of the evening was sloppy sweaters and jeans, a very expensive entrance fee and expensive beer. The girls were all extremely attractive, but the handsome-looking Swedish chaps, with long hair and beards, didn't give us a chance. The younger members, however, managed to make out with a dance or two . . . but that's life, goodbye Skanor.

"Wonderful, Wonderful Copenhagen"

10th June found us approaching Langeline Yacht Club in Copenhagen. A wonderful city, as those of you who have been there will know only too well. In addition to conventional shipping, the harbour ferry service is manned by hydrofoils, and with a speed of about 36 knots, they are a splendid sight.

Goodbye Copenhagen—Gilleleje next harbour—not much here at all. The daily routine goes on just the same—helming, navigation, knots, cooking and washing-up. For those who have not been aboard a small vessel for any length of time, it can be very trying, and the old saying "Patience is a virtue," applies—confined spaces, heavy seas, wet bedding, and you're tired . . . well!

Gilleleje to Ballen, to Sonderberg, and finally Kiel, and it's all over now. The journey was wonderful; even the qualified members of the crew learned a lot more, and the unqualified members can now be called capable deck hands—and we have the blisters to prove it. Scrub the decks, clean the heads, it's your turn with the dishes, how many flashes did that buoy blink.—Oh no!

Royal Signals Glass Ashtrays

THE very attractive Corps ashtrays, produced by Gale and Polden, the Wellington Press, Aldershot, have been proving very popular as sales confirm. The trays are made of toughened glass and the Corps Badge is fully illuminated and reproduced on a dark blue background. They are very suitable for use in Unit Messes and make ideal gifts and prizes. Trays cost 7s. 6d. each. Orders for 25 to 49 carry a discount of 5 per cent. and for 50 and over a discount of 10 per cent. Six or more sent post free.

The purchase of these ashtrays helps Association funds which benefit by 6d. for each tray sold.

Please order direct from Gale and Polden. If required they will send a specimen tray on approval, payment being made if the tray is retained.

REGULATION PATTERN

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

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Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals	35/-
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Sergeants Walking Canes, Bail, Pear or Thimble Cap, Crested. Home	61/-
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M.P.C. III/II COURSE—THEY IMPRESSED

Front Row (left to right): Signalman Cameron, Signalman Harlow, Lance-Corporal Bett, Major J. R. Burrows, Royal Signals, Squadron Commander, Brigadier J. M. Gow, Brigade Commander, W.O.I (R.S.M.) Alfred, Sergeant Darbyshire, Signalman Restan, Signalman Kendal, Signalman Spence, Signalman Smiley

Centre Row (left to right): Signalman Frost, Lance-Corporal McDermott, Signalman Race, Lance-Corporal Dawe, Signalman McIntyre, Signalman Williams, Signalman Wade, Signalman Mitchell, Signalman Kelly, Corporal Simpson, Signalman Filsell, Lance-Corporal Jones

Back Row (left to right): Lance-Corporal Dooher, Lance-Corporal Cambell, Signalman Speakman

4th Guards Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (204) B.F.P.O. 17

THE month of July has been a busy one for the Squadron with most members spending a lot of time away from the Unit up at Soltau or Sennelager.

Passing-off in front of the Guards

Taking advantage of a break between exercises, the Squadron was able to hold its first M.P.C. III/II Course of the year.

The course was a little unusual for it it is not very common for Royal Signals to perform drill manoeuvres on the barrack square in front of spectators comprised mainly from the Household Brigade.

But this is exactly what happened. Trained and commanded by **R.S.M. A. Alfred,** the course performed a drill display which reflected great credit on all the members of the squad. Viewed by Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Welsh and Irish Guardsmen, their performance was a credit to the Corps and greatly impressed many of the "professionals."

The course also had the singular honour of passing off in front of the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier J. M. Gow,** late Scots Guards, who was extremely impressed by what he saw, and congratulated the course on their high standard of performance. A word of thanks, too, for **Bandmaster M. Lane,** who, together with the entire band of the 10th Royal Hussars in full ceremonial dress, played for the course during their drill display.

In conclusion, it is said that at the course party the Regimental Sergeant Major provided a marathon of stories in return of which the course rendered a version of "What's it all about, Alfie?" the lyrics being unprintable and unrepeatable.

Sport

As a Minor Unit we entered the 4th Division Swimming Championships, held at Sennelager, a total of 12 being entered. Finishing with an overall seventh place we are, technically speaking, the Minor Units swimming champions of the Division.

7th Armd Bde. H.Q. and Signal Squadron (207) B.F.P.O. 37

Squadron Summer Camp

For the third year running our Summer Camp (Exercise "Count Down III") took place at Eckernförde, which is a small Baltic holiday resort between Kiel and the Danish border.

The advance party, under **Lieutenant M. W. H. Roberts,** left Soltau on Monday, 15th July, and spent a hectic three days in getting the camp site set up on the beach, for the main party to arrive on the Wednesday. The main objects of the camp were to raise the standard of physical fitness of the Squadron and to continue the winter military training programme in more pleasant surroundings. To enable the maximum numbers to attend, the camp was split into two halves.

Daily routine started with a pre-breakfast run and dip in the sea. Even in July, the Baltic can be very cold. After breakfast a tight programme of canoeing, map-reading, orienteering and sports kept everybody on their toes.

Captain A. C. Carter, from our Army Air Corps Flight (9 Flight), organised two hectic escape and evasion exercises. In both exercises, the escapers had to attack an enemy installation in two nearby Schlösser (large moated manor houses), which were defended by the Sergeants, under **R.S.M. G. S. MacDonald.** In the second exercise, the escapers were dropped in unknown country and had to make their way to various partisan RVs for food and further directions. The exercise covered about 30 miles of country and included a canoe crossing of a river. **Corporal Garry Devonport,** however, found his own way of crossing this obstacle as he felt the local partisan was working for "the other side." A couple of downpours soon showed those who knew how to lie up and keep dry. All credit must go to **Signalman John Bidgway,** who was laying up in a German cottage being entertained royally whilst searchers passed outside.



MUCH ACTIVITY

One of the obstacles in the inter-troop obstacle competition held during the Squadron's summer camp. Teams are being led by Corporal Tom Stireaker and Corporal Garry Devonport. Among the spectators—the Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg and Brigadier R. C. Ford (Brigade Commander)

Part of our P.E. Test training consisted of a 16-mile circuit of roads, tracks, and scrubland, which had to be completed in three and three-quarter hours. The best time for this course was 2hr. 49min. by **Signalman Sean Dillon-White,** which was later equalled by **Signalman Steven Walker** and **Craftsman Cedric Hinton.**

On the last Saturday in camp, we were visited by our Brigade Commander, **Brigadier R. C. Ford, M.B.E.** The programme for the day consisted of a tough orienteering race in the morning, which was won by the team led by **Second-Lieutenant R. D. M. Graham.**

At lunch, the Officers Mess entertained the local land owner and his wife, The Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg, together with the Brigadier.

After lunch a team obstacle competition decided the day's winners. Teams started off with men in sleeping bags, who had to get up and dress before doubling off to assemble weapons. Under the R.S.M.'s eye, points were deducted for errors in dress. After the weapons were assembled, the teams had to cross a water obstacle using tree trunks. The main snag being that the trunks had to be taken over the obstacles as well. **Signalman Eric Worth** was our only casualty. He fell waist deep into the mud. After crossing the obstacle, teams had to carry a man on an improvised stretcher made from combat jackets.

From this, a quick sprint to the cliff top, followed by a descent of the cliff face, using ropes. The last lap was to paddle canoes back to the camp. The afternoon race was won by **Lieutenant Roberts'** team. The overall winning team of the day was led by **Captain Carter.**

During camp we entered a crew for the Royal Signals Sailing Regatta at Kiel. The team consisted of **Lieutenant Roberts, Lance-Corporal Derek Owen** and **Trooper Bert Birtley.** The team came fourth overall and won one race.

19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn., Colchester

"....has been a busy month for this unit." It always is, but just for the record, insert 'July' this time.

Visit of Major-General T. D. H. McMeekin, O.B.E.

On 10th July we were honoured in being asked to provide a quarter guard for the new G.O.C., 3rd Division, **Major-General T. D. H. McMeekin, O.B.E.,** during his initial visit to 19th Brigade. Although only a short visit, we were able to show him the actual size of our Brigade Headquarters, fully laid out in our adjacent training area, Friday Woods. What impression the size had on the G.O.C. is difficult to say, but it was certainly an eye-opener for some of the Brigade H.Q. Staff, many of whom had never seen the Headquarters complete before.

Squadron Exercise — Mereworth Woods, Kent

From 15th to 19th July, the Squadron managed to "free" itself from the Brigade H.Q. to carry out some training of a different nature in Mereworth Woods, near Maidstone. The emphasis was to be on Counter Insurgency Training, and during the week everybody was taught more about ambush drills, cordon and search, and road blocks.

The Squadron did a road rally down to Mereworth Woods and moved straight into a defensive positon and dug defensive and survival pits. The following day, after a night interrupted by attacks from "insurgents," the training got under way.

There was no real shortage of instructors. Our M.T.O., **Captain John Atkinson,** R.C.T., delightful his pupils with anecdotes of ambushes in Aden, and proceeded to demonstrate how uncomfortable ambushes really are. **Lieutenant Martin Jones,** found road blocks fascinating and enjoyed strewing danet wire all over the place and concealing LMGs and SMGs, completely stripped, in Land Rovers. As far as cordon and search training was concerned, it seemed only natural that our Infantry Administrative Officer, **Captain John Heason,** should instruct on this. He was the expert, and it was about time he went on exercise again! Here is what he had to say:

"Being an Infanteer and a Kingsman, I was quite delighted when the O.C. asked me to take part in the Squadron training at Mereworth Woods and to instruct the Squadron on the arts of cordon and search.

I managed to find my boots, DMS (last seen in 1964), the Q.M., **Captain Fred Pavey,** with a sly grin on his face, was happy to issue me with webbing equipment, and the R.S.M., **W.O.I Windebank,** found a rusty pistol for me.

All dressed for war, we made our way to the Mereworth Woods training area. The journey was uneventful and the natives were friendly.

That same evening a most eventful incident took place. The following was overheard (O.C. to Admin. Officer): We must now dig a survival pit.' This was quite a shock, and the fact that I had to be fortified with lots of hot, sweet tea, provided by **Lance-Corporals Isaac** and **Main,** indicates how much I suffered. At last the hole was dug, one side being considerably deeper than the other. It has its disadvantages having a tall O.C. and a Short Admin. Officer!

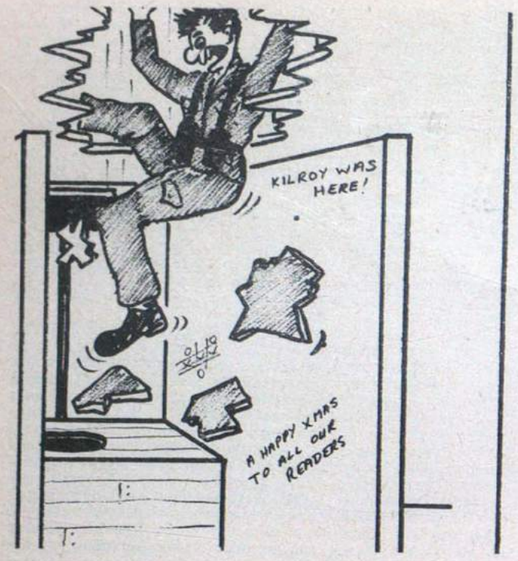
During the night the enemy paid the Squadron a visit and set up a broadcasting station just outside the defence perimeter. The Squadron were all informed that they were about to die for Queen and country, and a rendering of the national anthem was played. The enemy, under the guise of **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Newson, Corporal Knight, Lance-Corporal Isaac** and myself, then proceeded to play havoc with all and sundry.

Being nobbled twice during our attack on the Squadron by **Lance-Corporal Dunphy** and **Signalman Josephs** proved a most upsetting experience, and so they were told to go and chase someone else.

Lance-Corporal Jones also did good work in capturing a high-ranking intruder. After being released, **Lance-Corporal Jones** said: 'You go ahead, sir.' The intruder did, and promptly disappeared down a survival pit. Cunning these drivers!

The following day began with instruction on cordon and search. The inhabitants of the village to be searched were provided by the D. & E. Pl., who really proved their worth. They hung in the rafters of the roofs, hid contraband in the most unusual places, and were probably the most handled men in the British Army during their stay at Mereworth Woods.

Signalman Jackman came back from the woods with two claims. One being for an M.M. (the Mereworth Medal) and the other to be a member of the magic circle, on account of his disappearing act through an ablution roof during a cordon and search. He now has the dubious honour of having the toilets nicknamed "Jackman's Place." What actually happened was that he was posted as a sentry on a vantage point and fell through a toilet roof. (Unfortunately our photographer was not at hand, but you see our artist's impression). Fortunately he only suffered from slight shock. He could easily have drowned, but he managed to land the right way up.



Unfortunate incident on Squadron exercise!

The Squadron soon picked up the arts of cordon and search, and the antics of the D. & E. Pl., as the village population, found way of really making the exercise true to life.

All in all, a nice change from the normal routine of Brigade H.Q.

Comments heard during the exercise

"We'll clobber him next time round."

"Get the Admin. Officer, leave the Yeoman, he's too big!"

"Crack!" "Yeoman, are you sure they're firing blanks?"

"I know it's been passed by law, but it's a bit thick searching him there."



A GOLFER POSTED TO ST. ANDREWS
R.S.M. Windebank shortly to leave the Squadron

Arrivals and departures

Early in September sees the departure of **Captain** and **Mrs. Roy Shiner,** and **W.O.I (R.S.M.) I. P. Windebank.** Captain **Shiner** is embarking on a long T.E. Course (a two-year holiday, according to the Squadron Commander!) and we wish him and his wife well at Blandford. No doubt there will still be time for a few games of rugby.

W.O.I Windebank is taking up the post of R.S.M. at St. Andrew's University. He will be badly missed in the Sergeants' Mess, where, as a living-in W.O.I, he had a great deal of influence. He will also be missed on the hockey field and golf course, although we understand St. Andrew's will see him daily. We wish him the best of luck in his new appointment.

We welcome to the Squadron **Captain Jeremy Ventham** and **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Thomas.** Both payed us a vist whilst on Exercise "Baker's Dozen," and we trust that they will have an enjoyable tour with the Squadron.

11th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn.
(211) B.F.P.O. 29

You name it—we've done it

NO time for notes since April, but now having just completed our task of running COORD Headquarters on Exercise "Summer Sales," we can pause and look back. You name it—we've done it, and we wonder whether there are any formations other than 11 Brigade in B.A.O.R. this year! Exercises "Cold Comfort," "Dib Dob," "High Wind," "Battleaxe I," Battleaxe II," "First Parade" and "Hurst Park," followed close upon each other and we were no sooner back in barracks from one before it was time to prepare for the next. The Squadron has had an exciting time proving to the staff the efficiency and advantages of the new C42 radio and ironing out the initial snags of a Bruin Comhead. At last, at the end off to Kiel for the annual Squadron camp — Exercise "Davy off to Kiel for the annual Squadron camp — Evercise "Davy Crockett II."

O.C. to Second-in-Command: "I think you've got the wrong idea—this isn't a holiday, you know!"

Brigade Commander to Chopper pilot: "Good heavens! It looks like a Butlin's holiday camp."

After much hard work by **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Pearce** and **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Turner** in between exercises, the Squadron eventually found themselves in camp at Bad Shilksee from 29th May to 7th June. The weather for most of the time was perfect, and we had a full training programme to get through: sailing, canoeing, helicopter training, assault boats, fishing, visits, bicycling, motor-cycling, swimming, hiking, etc. We were visited by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier P. R. Leuchars, C.B.E.,** and C.R. Signals 1st Division, **Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. MacFarlane,** both of whom appeared to enjoy the break. We also had as guests of the Squadron a small party of signallers from 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, 1 D.E.R.R., 1 Gordons and the Scots Greys.

Many amusing incidents occurred both by day and by night, most of which are unprintable, but which are causing great amusement in the Squadron.

SPORT

Athletics

The athletics team entered the season with two ambitions; to win the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Minor Units (Morrison Cup) trophy for the third successive year, and to reach the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Championships at Sennelager on 9th July.



ATHLETIC TEAM
Standing, left to right: Lieutenant McLean, Corporal McGurk, Lance-Corporal Berry, Signalman Freeman, Captain Wakeley. *Kneeling, left to right:* Lance-Corporal Chapman, Signalman Learoyd, Lance-Corporal Thompson, Driver Plaskett

The first step in planning the team took place late in March, with all Troops training prior to a Squadron athletics meeting on April 17th. Since this was a convincing win for "A" Troop—the athletics team has been predominantly "A" Troop.

With the provisional team selected, leave dates had to be altered, and training had to take second place to exercises, until the Brigade Minor Units Championships on 17th May. This we won after some doubtful moments with our own R.E.M.E. Workshops, who were runners-up. Now the real training could begin, and it did—but not on the track. Instead we ran, sprinted, and sunned ourselves on the beaches at Kiel, during our Annual Summer Camp. At the end of camp, not only had stamina and suntan improved, but an unbeatable team spirit had been installed. Our only worry was our weakness at field events.

It is a considerable achievement to win any trophy three times, and the Morrison Cup victory on 12th and 13th June was just that. The outstanding moments of the meeting were when Lance-Corporal Berry won the 200 metres, and the relay team, comprising Lance-Corporal Chapman, Signalman Freeman, Corporal McGurk and Lance-Corporal Berry broke the 4 x 110 record, which the Unit established last year.

In the 1st Division Athletics Championships, held on Wednesday, 19th June, the 11th Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron were winners of the Minor Units. Special congratulations must go to **Lance-Corporal Berry, Lance-Corporal Chapman** and **Driver Plaskett,** who all won their events, and to **Signalman Learoyd,** on running his fastest 1,500 metres this year. In the 4 x 100 metres relay, **Lance-Corporal Chapman, Signalman Freeman, Corporal McGurk** and **Lance-Corporal Berry** again excelled themselves, to snatch victory for the second year running.

The team line-up: 200 metres: **Lance-Corporal Berry,** Intelligence Corps; 400 metres: **Lance-Corporal Chapman;** 800 metres: **Captain Wakely,** Queens, 1,500 metres: **Signalman Learoyd;** High Jump: **Lieutenant McLean;** Long Jump: **Signalman Larkins, Driver Plaskett,** (R.C.T.); Shot: **Corporal McGurk;** Discus: **Lance-Corporal Thompson,** B.W.; Javelin: **Signalman Freeman,** with **Signalman Sanderson, Signalman Court, Corporal Thomas,** R.E.M.E., as very hard working reserves.

On 9th July we had our best day ever, with five individual wins in the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Championships. **Lance-Corporal Berry, Signalman Learoyd, Lance-Corporal Chapman, Corporal McGurk** and **Lieutenant McLean,** all won their respective events. After a very close finish in the relay, the final result was 11 Inf. Bde. H.Q. and Sig. Sqn. runners-up—one point behind the winning team. Congratulations to the athletes!

229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)
B.F.P.O. 45

Domestic News

Arrivals.—The Squadron has received yet a further flow of new arrivals, and we welcome: **Major** and **Mrs. Foote** and family, **Corporal Clarke** (735) (at present away being married, lucky fellow), **Lance-Corporal Measures** and **Signalman Mullender.**

Departures.—The Squadron says farewell to one of our best sporting personalities, **Corporal Harrison,** who leaves us for civilian life on 6th August. It is with pride we share his outstanding achievements during his tour with the Squadron.

Farewell to an outstanding personality

Corporal Harrison joined the Squadron in 1965, as a Lance-Corporal, and during his three years has been promoted Corporal and obtained Class II in all qualifications.

1965/66: **Squadron Representative** in Brigade Cross-Country Championships; 1st Dvision Cross-Country Championships.

1966/67: **Squadron Representative** in Brigade Cross-Country Championships; Brigade Minor Units Athletics Championships. **Brigade Representative** in American Brigade Cross-Country Championships; 3rd, B.A.O.R. Long Distance Canoe Championships; Squadron 100 metres record.

1967/68: **Squadron Representative** in Brigade Cross-Country Championships (capt.); 1st Division Cross-Country Championships; B.A.O.R. Minor Units Cross-Country Championships; Squadron 800 metres record; Brigade Athletic Championships (capt.); Brigade 800 metres record.

This is a wonderful record for a young Corporal and we are proud his achievements are on the record of 229 Signal Squadron. May he have continued success in civilian life.

Marriages.—Congratulations to the following on attaining the ultimate in the life of romance: **Corporal Clarke** (735), a newcomer to the Squadron Cricket team, but not, it seems, to this game—mind your batting arm. **Lance-Corporal Hayward:** Don't let the good living sap your energy, we need you for football and hockey. **Lance-Corporal Edwards:** So this is what happens when you work in the 'Q' Department.

SPORT

Swimming: B.A.O.R. Championships

Our representatives in the B.A.O.R. Individual Swimming Championships was **Corporal Butler,** who achieved the following results: Diving: 5 metre firm board, 3rd.; 3 metre spring board, 2nd. This was rewarded by his selection to represent B.A.O.R. v. the R.A.F. at Laarbruch, and again, with a very creditable performance, he took third place in the three metres springboard.

Previous to this meeting **Corporal Butler** was selected to swim for Berlin Joint Services v. R.A.F. Germany, and took first place in the 200 metres breaststroke.

Canoeing: B.A.O.R. Championships

Our representatives in the above in the K2 Class were: **Corporal Middleton** and **Corporal Clarke,** also **Corporal Butler** and **Corporal Lunn.**

Due to an unfortunate accident, **Corporal Clarke** sprained his wrist and had to withdraw from the competition. However, we were not to be beaten altogether and **Corporals Butler** and **Lunn** proved just how fit and strong swimmer and runners they are by coming second in the K2 Class; another success for the Squadron.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

235 Signal Squadron (D.C.N.)
B.F.P.O. 51

The Annual Administrative Inspection

THE Unit was inspected this year by **Brigadier R. E. C. Price, C.B.E., D.S.O.,** Commander British Troops, Malta. After inspecting the quarter guard, which that evening made the Malta TV, **Brigadier Price** inspected the Administrative Parade, which, in addition to the usual complement of W.R.A.C. of the Unit, was graced by the presence of an extra 40 young ladies of the W.R.A.C. Band. On inspecting the Unit M.T., **Brigadier Price** presented safe driving awards to military and civilian drivers.

The W.R.A.C. Band Visit

Following the Administrative Inspection, the W.R.A.C. Band stayed in Malta for a week giving various band concerts around the island. During this time the J.R.C. did a roaring trade each evening from the minor invasion of potential 'Casanovas' from other Units on the island, attracted by the sudden influx of these 40 bandswomen. On the Monday evening the Band gave a concert, in the gym, and a happy and talented hour was enjoyed by all. The Band, being led by **Captain Ted Chowcraft,** the only man in the British Army, as observed by **Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell,** C.S.O. British Troops Malta, who travels the world accompanied by 40 young ladies, and is paid for it by the British Government.

Corps Week

Following the Sunday Church Parade, this year's Corps Week started off with a bang with the all ranks' dance at 234 Squadron (Malta), our sister Squadron on the island.

The Wednesday evening saw the Corps cocktail party, one of the island's high lights of the year, held in the Officers' Mess at St. David's Barracks, which had been converted into a fairy-land of lights by the technicians of "M" Troop. Hosts and guests alike had a wonderfully successful evening. The story is still told by the W.O.II, who was tipped a half-crown by one of the guests. Corps Week finished with the Corps Ball in the W.Os' and Sergeants' Mess. The summer weather enabled us to hold it in the open air.

Farewells

Since last we appeared in THE WIRE we have said various farewells, first to the Officer Commanding, **Major C. S. Galbraith,** who left us to take up an appointment at 14th Signal Regiment, his chair being suitably warmed by **Captain L. A. Woods.** We have also had to say goodbye to our S.S.M., **W.O.II Jack Copley,** who leaves us to take up his R.Q.M.S. appointment. Amongst our future farewells will be **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Ron Crampton,** who takes up his appointment as R.S.M. at T. & A.V.R. Northern Ireland, and to **W.O.I (F. of S.) Pete Hutley,** who moves back to the U.K.

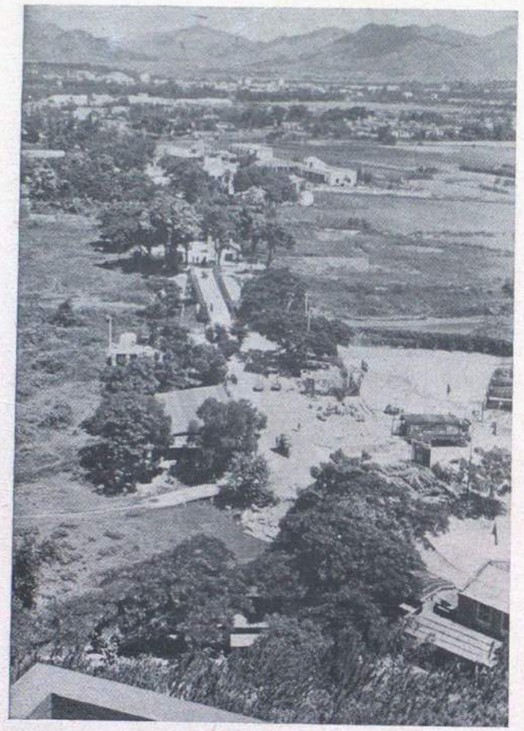
246 Gurkha Signal Squadron
B.F.P.O. 1

The Border

WE don't read a lot in the newspapers these days about Hong Kong, but 48th Gurkha Infantry Brigade is still deployed on border duties, and that means that we, as their Signal Squadron, are still busy.

Our Brigade Command net, together with permanent rebro, has not closed down for 13 months, and all line, ED, and technical border work is "for real." Not least of this is the installation and maintenance of PA equipment of various types which is strategically placed at border vantage points to counter the flood of Mao thoughts broadcast from the other side.

Happily, the border is quiet and incidents in the Colony are now relatively infrequent. But no one knows exactly how long this state will exist and the authorities are taking no chances. This means little let-up for our Brigade, whose responsibility is the defence of the New Territories border area.



VIEW INTO COMMUNIST CHINA
The border bridge at Man Kam To (far side is China) taken from a forward Company position where the Squadron has responsibility for P.A. equipment



FRIENDLY ENEMY
A group of the Squadron under Sergeant Chintaram Rana (centre) prepare to move out into the hills to take part in a 1/7th Gurkha Rifles Battalion Exercise as enemy

Welfare needs Clothing!



BORDER SCENE
Gurkha O.P. at Lo Wu (our P.A. equipment is on the roof)

Other Preoccupations

Amazingly there has been no sign of a typhoon this year, although the combination of high humidity and temperatures up to 35°C. has certainly made everyone weather conscious. We are already looking forward to the cold season!

Since last appearing in THE WIRE, we have had visits from the S.O.-in-C., and more recently, from our new C.S.O., **Brigadier D. E. Warren.** We have also bid farewell to **Brigadier Brindley,** and hope by now that his rosewood Hi-Fi cabinet is safely installed and working in U.K.

Our Administrative Inspection was at the end of June and went very well. So it was decided by our O.C., **Major Frank Lettin,** that we should make the big effort to stage a summer camp on the coast to enable everybody to have a week's relaxation.

This we did, and there is no doubt that it was most successful, despite **Lieutenant Hamish Adams'** unfortunate boating accident, where he was shot overboard when starting the 40 h.p. Johnson, and came to the surface just as the unmanned assault boat (having done a complete circle) passed overhead and cut him up with the propeller.

It's a great life in Hong Kong!

260 Signal Squadron (SAM)
Shoeburyness

OUR WIRE notes this month have been written by "X" Troop's correspondent—**Signalman M. J. Edwards.** He reports :

A champion in the making

During the past three months the Squadron has watched as a possible future Army champion is born. The name? **Signalman Dave Siegel.** The sport? Cycling.

It was only 12 months ago that this 19-year-old lad from Newcastle began to take a serious outlook on this much under-rated sport. But already he has made his mark in the Army cycling.

In July of last year he became a member of the Army Cycle Union. During his spare time he has never been out of the saddle, doing around 300 miles training a week when it is possible.



SIGNALMAN DAVID SIEGEL
Future Army Cycling Champion?

It was a long and hard build up which brought him slowly to the peak of fitness, but on 11th May, this year, it brought its results. In a very experienced field, at the Inter-Services' 25-miles time trial at Peterborough, his first event, he brought off the remarkable time of 1hr. 4min. 37sec., to finish third of the Army competitors. This success came only 10 days after returning from an exercise on which **Dave** had little opportunity to practice his sport.

This behind him, it was back to the dull routine of training in preparation for the Inter-Services' 50-mile time trial, the following Sunday, at Portsmouth. Once again it was success all the way up, as he recorded a time of 2hr. 17min. 10sec. to finish, this time, second position in the Army. Only lack of tactical experience took first place from him, a reward which must surely come in the very near future.

This success, has by no means, come easily to him. Cycling is a very tactical and expensive sport. Already he has spent considerable amounts of money and time, in building and maintaining his machine to perfect condition. But as in most sports, the knowledge of tactics are only achieved by keeping an eye on the more experienced riders. In this department he is briefed very admirably by old hand **Corporal 'Bluey' McKigney,** who has some seven years of cycling to back his knowledge of the sport.

So on to the future when **Dave Siegel,** we all hope, will find the success he has been seeking. In August he takes part in the Inter-Services 100 Km. mass start at Upwood, and then down to the West Country in September for a two-day road race covering a large part of the area.

All we have to do, as Squadron, is sit back and wait, as **Dave Siegel** fights and carves his way through the miles and competitions in his build-up to his immediate aim — Army Cycle Champion.

'Old Walrus'

On the Line side, the 5-inch moustache of **Corporal Reg Ingram,** complete with 20 litre can of Kerosine has been banned from approaching any more Land Rovers (they run so much better on petrol!). We are also constantly reminded by **Signalman Paddy Daly** of how many days he has to do.

(Continued on page 368)

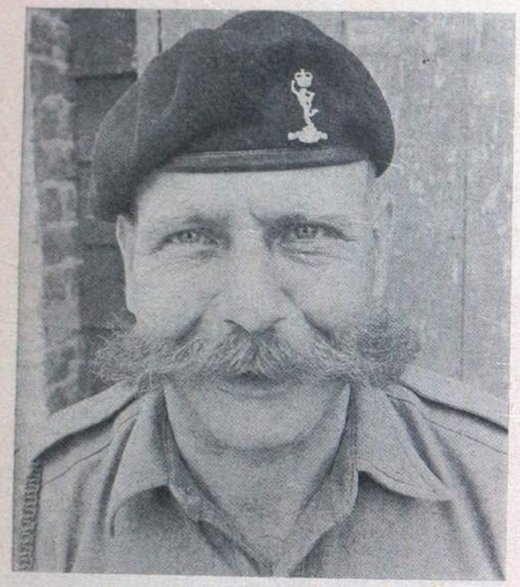
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OLD WALRUS

Alias Corporal Turner of 260 Squadron. Moustache span—five inches and regarded in the unit as a national fire risk when handling kerosine!

Communications came without much incident, but the sight of a B70 tripod soaring down from a 100ft. tower must have made **Corporal Mick Best** and fellow technicians, or should we now say 'sheet metal workers' go red with rage.

During a break in training, Dortmund was visited, in great force, for the purpose of liquid refreshment. The sight of **Corporals John Toas, Roy Mitchell, 'Bluey' McKigney, Paul Read, Geoff Moore** and, of course, 'Old Walrus,' waiting for the Dortmund tram was seen quite frequently. Inevitably, **Signalman Doug Hart** was never very far away.

And so on to the next edition when we hope to give a detailed account of the Squadron's return to the U.K. We hope!

Army Air Transport Training and Development Centre Old Sarum

Corps well represented

RECENT changes in the organisation of Joint Service Airborne Development units have not as yet affected the Corps representation or responsibilities at AATDC. In February, **Major N. R. F. MacKinnon** took over from **Major D. P. Watson** as one of the six development officers. **R.S.M. W. Duke,** late of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, is with us, and continues to justify his selection as R.S.M. of AATDC—the first Royal Signals Warrant Officer to hold this position. The accompanying photograph of **R.S.M. Duke** is a little misleading. He is better known in parachuting, combat, or running kit. At annual camp, his fitness and all-round military knowledge came as no surprise.

Work varied and interesting

The responsibilities of the S.O., Royal Signals, range from developing techniques for the visual and electronic marking of dropping and landing zones, to investigating the hazards of various air cargoes. The work is varied and interesting. There is direct contact with Corps establishments, so the S.O., Royal



CORPS R.S.M. HOLDS KEY APPOINTMENT

R.S.M. W. Duke Royal Signals is R.S.M. at the Army Air transport Training and Development Centre

Signals, is kept well abreast of Signals development. The projects which he and the other development officers are undertaking on behalf of the Directorate of Land Air Warfare are not necessarily related to the cap badge of the development officer. Currently our projects concern the airportability of the E21, the study of deployment problems associated with the Eureka Transponder Beacon (MR 343), now being issued to all three Services, and several problems over dangerous air cargoes such as fuel cells. There is a close liaison with the Joint Warfare Establishment, where **Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Masser,** the senior member of the Joint Communications Section, is available to give advice on tactical communication requirements.

Guinea pigs

Parachuting at AATDC is frequent, marred only by the thought that we act as guinea pigs for the parachute development work at APAEE, Boscombe. Helicopter lowering devices, the parachuting of inflated dinghies carrying small homer beacons, trips to Libya and other places, keep one's interest and fitness at a high level. The reward for labour is seeing equipment or techniques progress from the initial idea to Service use quickly and smoothly. Apart from this long-term benefit to morale, many queries are dealt with—AATDC has a fine reference library—and if an 'airborne' problem has been tackled in the past, the results can be retrieved quickly. However, two problems are always with us. The first is finance, the other is shape. Aeroplanes are usually cigar-shaped—military equipment is not.

Corps visitors welcome

In conclusion, and with some trepidation, you are reminded that the S.O., Royal Signals, at AATDC would welcome visits or phone calls from Corps units with (or without) airborne or airportability problems. Though his work is somewhat divorced from the mechanics of signalling, the Signals Development Officer retains not only a keen interest, but a watching brief for Corps oriented projects and development.

INTERNATIONAL RADIO ENGINEERING AND COMMUNICATIONS EXHIBITION, 1968

The Corps will again be providing a stand at the Radio Society of Great Britain sponsored exhibition at the Royal Horticultural New Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.1., from 2nd to 5th October. All HAMS should log these dates and note that the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society will take place at the hall at 16.00 hours on Friday, 4th October.



SMILE PLEASE!

The Officers of 34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) at Crowborough Camp 1968

34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Middlesbrough

FOR those who do not keep up with Defence White Papers and Reserve Army Orders of Battle, let it be known at once that 34th Regiment (V) is an amalgam of 49th (West Riding) Divisional Signal Regiment (TA) and 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signal Regiment, and forms part of 12th Signal Group (Volunteers). It is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Paddy Evans and trained by Major Leslie Clayton.

Visitors

We were pleased to welcome our Honorary Colonel **Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L.,** and 12th Group (V) Commander, **Brigadier P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen. Brigadier The Hon. Mary Anderson, M.B.E.,** Director of W.R.A.C. and **Brigadier R. C. H. Barber, M.C.,** Deputy Commander of Northumbrian District were welcomed. **Colonel P. S. Newton, M.C., T.D., D.L.,** the Chairman of Yorkshire T. & A.V.R. Association also called in.

Initiative Tests

Our four Officer Cadets were set a surprise initiative test over the middle weekend. They were to take back photographs of camp to their local newspapers in Darlington, Middlesborough, Newcastle and Leeds—and get their own pictures and stories published—somehow. They all succeeded —including a live broadcast on Radio Leeds. **Angela Phillips,** the W.R.A.C. Officer cadet, not to be left out, also gained an interview and photograph. Perhaps the most imaginative approach was by Officer Cadet **John Lowe,** who "borrowed" the Officers' Mess 3ft. silver Jimmy as a travelling companion and persuaded the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, complete with chain of office, to accept safe custody of it. (That reminds me, I must must get it back!) A startling headline in the *Newcastle Courier* proclaimed: "The Cadet who borrowed a naked God" —and the picture shows **Lowe** fondly clutching Jimmy to his bosom. (See separate account at end of Notes).

"Out of the strong came forth sweetness." (Judges 14). Samson's riddle may seem a strange epithet for such an austere figure as the Regimental Sergeant Major. However, history repeated itself on the last day of camp, when the subalterns, in gratitude to the R.S.M. for his precise and understanding drill instruction, presented him with a stick of Brighton rock of "pace-stick" dimensions. He carried it off with great aplomb!

"JIMMY'S JOURNEY"

By Officer Cadet John Lowe

While the Regiment was at Annual Camp at Crowborough, Sussex, the C.O., in connivance with the Honorary Colonel, planned an Initiative Test for the Officer Cadets.



CULMINATION OF INITIATIVE TEST

Officer Cadet J. A. K. Lowe presenting the "Naked God" to the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor R. S. Gray on successful completion of his initiative test

With the others I was summoned to the C.O.'s office for briefing at noon on Saturday, 29th June. My objectives were to reach Newcastle, spending less than £1! to return to Camp by 8 a.m. on Monday; to obtain publicity in the Newcastle Area for the Regiment and myself. As I felt it might be difficult to obtain publicity, I decided to arrange a suitable stunt. Before leaving camp on my way North, I borrowed, from the Officers' Mess hall table, a 3ft. statue of "Mercury." I easily obtained a lift to Tooting and decided to travel across London by tube. The sight of a soldier, carrying a naked statue of "Mercury" on the London Underground aroused considerable amusement, particularly amongst some of the coloured population. Arriving at Hendon, I caught a bus to the motor-way and successfully obtained lifts to Newcastle.

As I was making my way through the streets of Newcastle at midnight, with the statue under my arm, I was approached by two keen policemen. In the darkness, they saw a uniformed soldier carrying what appeared to be a rifle under his arm. After lengthy explanations, I was allowed to proceed on my way. I spent the night, with the statue, in Newcastle Central Police Station.

In the morning, at about 9 a.m., I called on the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Gray, to ask if he would accept the statue into safe keeping. With some humour he agreed to co-operate, and a presentation was arranged for 3 p.m. that afternoon. I contacted the *Newcastle Journal* staff and arranged for a reporter to be present.

The statue was formally presented to the Lord Mayor of Newcastle for safe keeping on the steps of the Civic Centre.

After a pleasant discussion over drinks with the Lord Mayor, I started hitch-hiking back to camp at about 4.30 p.m.

With considerable luck, I returned to camp on the Sunday evening, just in time for a few beers in the Mess.

36th (Eastern) Regiment (Volunteers) Wanstead

HAPPY FAMILIES—CAN YOU BEAT THIS?

IT is a feature of most T.A.V.R. Units, as it was of T.A. Units, that members are recruited locally and are likely to serve in the same Unit for the whole of their military career, unless they move their home. Several members of one family are, therefore, not uncommon in a Unit, and 36th Regiment is no exception. Looking through the nominal roll, I wonder whether we hold the record. There are certainly some worthy examples.

Two generation families

Our largest family serving at present is headed by **Lance-Corporal De-Lacey,** whose three sons, **Signalman Peter, Signalman Dennis** and **Signalman Phillip,** all serve with 54 (East Anglian) Squadron at Norwich. **Lance-Corporal De-Lacey** joined the Signals Unit at Norwich in 1958.

Another two-generation family is on the female side. **Lance-Corporal Dorothy Whittall,** W.R.A.C., joined the Royal Signals Unit at Gillingham, now 44 (Cinque Ports) Squadron, in 1958, and has since recruited her two daughters, **Private June** and **Private Teresa. Lance-Corporal Whittall's** husband now stays at home to prepare a meal for the ladies on their return from training, but until last year he served with the 5th Battalion The Buffs (T.A.), at Ramsgate, where he completed long service as a Sergeant. I understand there was fierce Inter-Regimental rivalry in the household, but that Signals gained the ascendancy when the daughters became old enough to join.

Also at Gillingham are **Corporal Colin Carnall,** his daughter, **Private Linda,** and his son, **Signalman Jim.** Father and son are members of the Corps of Drums in addition to following their trades of Electrician Driver and Radio Relayman.

H.Q. at Wanstead makes its contribution where **S.S.M. William Gostling,** H.Q. Squadron, has in his Squadron his son, **Signalman Christopher.** The Squadron also has a brother-sister contribution in **Private P. Carne,** W.R.A.C., **Private B. Carne,** R.A.M.C., and **Signalman D. Carne,** Royal Signals.

Large families—The secret to recruiting?

Mention has been made only of families having two generations or more than two members currently serving. Family groups certainly have a place in the Reserve Army; perhaps we should seek out the large families and ease our recruiting problem.



YOU CAN'T BEAT THE FAMILY SPIRIT

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Dorothy Whittall and her two daughters June and Teresa. Corporal Colin Carnall with daughter Linda and son Jim

37th (Wessex & Welsh) Sig. Regt. (V) Bristol

AFTER Annual Camp last year we started our notes with an involved analogy on cake making. We find the cake improves quite remarkably with keeping.

Delights of Scarborough

In June, we sampled the delights of Scarborough. Burniston Barracks, still being No. 1 on the camp charts, probably accounted for the prompt arrival in good order and in good time of the road parties. Or it may have been the romantic journey along the Fosse Way stretch—treading in the footsteps of the other famous legions. (Or it could have been that the Motorway stretch made it all so much easier). The latter hardly applied to two Volunteers, who produced a chase episode worthy of vintage film makers. A pretty problem this—how do you catch up with your brother, who is going South when you are committed to going North, knowing that your brother is at this moment looking for you unaware that you ARE going North! The problem was resolved quite happily in typical Volunteer fashion. The difficult situation was ignored and each proceeded to camp independently.

In the first week the "work" part of the "work hard, play hard" concept almost won. However, the very gratifying trade test results were ample reward and the balance was restored completely by the Regimental dance. With the arrival of the new No. 2 dress, the Honorary Colonel's parade took on an even more professional appearance and was in no way marred by the downpour in which it took place.



CAPTAIN, ART THOU SLEEPING THERE BELOW?

The trouble with "all systems go" is that life becomes a little tedious

(Continued on page 372)



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(Continued from page 370)

U.K. wide Exercise tests volunteers

In the second week a U.K. wide exercise with Regimental and Sub-Regional Troops also taking part gave a chance for some "real soldiering" in the Dalby Forest nearby. This was an ambitious performance which gave a chance for Volunteers to show just how seriously they are taking their place in the new Reserve Army. As the exercisers returned to Burniston after a mixed bag of weather, literally soaked to the skin and water squelching out of their boots, with big Wessex and/or Welsh grins on their faces, the unlucky ones who had had to remain in camp quickly assessed the success of "New Ring."

In a nutshell another very successful camp following a successful year's preparation and training. Now we're all set for the next one.

38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) Sheffield

FOR their annual camp this year, 38th Regiment went off for a fortnight's manoeuvres up and down the length of England, living hard, moving fast and putting in a solid 20 hours a day of training. This is the ideal recipe for the new young and keen volunteer soldier.

The following is a brief account of what happened.

It's go, go, go—all the way to Bristol

The aerial photograph interpreter said "The unit is static at the moment, but has a mobile capability," and so hit the nail right on the head. This was one of the few moments when we were static.

Last year, the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel John Francis,** promised the Regiment that this year's camp would be a mobile one, but few can have realised at the time just what he meant.

We moved to Beckingham from our Training Centres on Saturday, 25th May, and spent the next 24 hours checking over our equipment, much of which is still very new. Dawn on Monday saw the first of 120 vehicles moving off to the first location near Corby. From this point the Regiment was 'tactical.'

Whilst in the Corby area we enjoyed a visit from the G.O.C., Yorkshire District, **Major-General Horsford,** who had motored down from Yarm to see us. He expressed delight at seeing how well we had settled down after only a day in the field.

The exercise, "Stainless Steel," took us through the Oxford and Swindon areas in quick time. One location was occupied for less than 12 hours (quite a gallop for a Comm Z Trunk Regiment!).

The aim of the camp was to practice living in the field, movement and camouflage, in addition to communicating, with the result that most people worked a day of 20 hours, and some even longer.

During the exercise we were visited both by our retiring Honorary Colonel, **Colonel Jerry Underwood** and his successor, **Colonel Richard Grimwood-Taylor,** they both enjoyed a 'compo' meal wth us.

Relaxation and then the long haul back

Friday morning saw the end of "Stainless Steel" and a road march into a Training Camp near Bristol for a couple of days' "rest and recuperation." The weekend proved to be so full, with a Regimental dance on the Friday night, to which the ladies of Bristol had been invited; Squadron parties on Saturday night, and a church parade and range practice on Sunday, that few had much rest, but enough to start the next exercise, "Fine Lace," with a swing.

The first vehicle rolled across the new Severn Bridge at 05.00 hours on Monday. The bridge is a most impressive sight, but more so with military vehicles spaced throughout its entire length.

Our first locations were in the Monmouth area, and it was while we were here that our Group Commander, **Brigadier Hoerder** and his B.M., **Major Ken Lloyd,** spent two days with us. On Tuesday, the S.O.-in-C. visited us. He was impressed, he said, with all he saw, communicating and "housekeeping" alike.



HOW TO DEAL WITH YOUR SERGEANT

One way to speed up promotion in line troop! Lance-Corporal Armett, Staff-Sergeant Duggan, Lance-Corporal Elliott M. and Sergeant Evans

There is no doubt that the spirits of the men were high and the excellent weather was a great help. It was only on our last day in Wales that it rained, but that did not stop our getting away promptly for the 200-mile drive back to Beckingham.

The feelings of the Regiment were probably summed up by one lineman who, having reeled in the last cable, jumped into his vehicle red-faced and beaming and called out as he passed the Second-in-Command, "it's all go, isn't it!"



THAT EARLY CUPPA

The best brew of the day, after early morning "Stand To". Corporals Morton and Leeming, Sergeant Leverton

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!



[*Courtesy of Rank Newbold, Harrogate.*

MEDALWINNERS AT THE ARMY INDIVIDUAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1968

Standing: Apprentice-Tradesmen Adamson, Sanderson, Roberts, Lance-Corporal Baines, Martin, Pegg, Stockton, Finlay.
Seated: Apprentice-Tradesmen Lance-Corporal Emmett, Corporal Gaffney, Steel, Corporal Shaw (Junior Relay Team); Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D., Major E. B. Burke, R.A. (O.I.C. Athletics); Apprentice-Technicians Burnett, Kite, Cook. *Absent:* Apprentice Technician Munroe (Youth Relay Team)

Lively Army Apprentices have fine sports successes

Athletics

FOLLOWING the creditable standards which they achieved under extremely difficult conditions in the Quadrangular Games at Pennypot Lane on 29th June, the athletes of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, distinguished themselves in the Army Individual Championships held at Aldershot on 5th and 6th July. In all, the apprentices won 13 medals and two relay trophies—the College has won the junior 4 x 110 yards relay for the past four consecutive years and the Youth 4 x 110 yards relay twice in the last three years.

For this, great credit must go, not only to the runners themselves, but to the College P.T. Staff in general and **Mr. C. Allen** in particular.

Medals were awarded as follows:

First Place

Junior Long Jump.—**Corporal Gaffney** (Phillips Squadron) 20ft. 6½in. (AAA III).

Junior 2,000 metres Steeplechase. — **A/T Stockton** (Phillips Squadron) 6min. 34.4sec. (AAA III).

Junior 100 yards.—**A/T Steel** (Phillips Squadron) 10.8sec.

Youth Mile.—**A/T Martin** (Rawson Squadron) 4.43min. (AAA III).

Youth 1,000 metres Steeplechase.—**A/T Martin** (Rawson Squadron) 3min. 5.7sec. (AAA III).

Second Place

Junior 2,000 metres Steeplechase.—**A/T Pegg** (Phillips Squadron) 6min. 40.4sec. (AAA III).

Junior 120 yards Hurdles.—**Lance-Corporal Baines** (Scott Squadron) 16.5sec. (AAA III).

Youth 110 yards Hurdles.—**A/T Finlay** (Scott Squadron) 15.6sec. (AAA III).

Youth Javelin.—**A/T Robertshaw** (Penney Squadron) 146ft. 6in. (AAA III).

Third Place

Junior Triple Jump.—**Corporal Gaffney** (Phillips Squadron) 41ft. 3in. (AAA III).

Junior 220 yards.—**A/T Steel** (Phillips Squadron) 23.8sec. (AAA III).

Youth 880 yards.—**A/T Sanderson** (Scott Squadron) 2min. 9.9sec.

Youth Pole Vault.—**A/T Adamson** (Rawson Squadron) 9ft. 3in. (AAA III).

Relay Teams

Youth 4 x 110 yards.—**A/T Munroe** (Phillips Squadron), **A/T Cook** (Recruit Squadron), **A/T Burnett** (Recruit Squadron), **A/T Kite** (Recruit Squadron), 47.3sec.

Junior 4 x 110 yards.—**Lance-Corporal Emmett** (Phillips Squadron), **Corporal Gaffney** (Phillips Squadron), **A/T Steel** (Phillips Squadron), **A/T Shaw** (Penney Squadron), 46.2sec.

Royal Signals Tennis 1968

THE Corps tennis season culminated with the championships, held for the second year at the Salisbury Lawn Tennis Club on 1st, 2nd and 3rd August, the results of which appear below.

The Corps have had a successful season to date, losing only two matches in the Army Tennis League. We have been lucky this year in being able to call on a regular and enthusiastic number of players, which has included both the older and more experienced players and a few up-and-coming younger players who, it is hoped, will continue to improve their potential.

Corps Tennis Championships, 1968

Singles Championship.—Winner, **Captain Siderfin** (School of Signals); runner-up, **Corporal Dunster** (3 Squadron, 30th Regiment). Score 6—3, 6—4.

Open Doubles Championship.—Winners, **Captain Siderfin** and **Corporal Dunster;** runners-up, **Captain Cornforth** (School of Signals) and **Major Bamber** (14th Regiment). Score 7—5, 6—4.

Inter-Unit Doubles Championship. — Winners, **Captain Siderfin** and **Captain Cornforth;** runners-up, **Lieutenant-Colonel Maclean** and **Lieutenant Wilson** (35th Regiment (V)). Score 8—6, 6—3.

Plate Competition, Singles. — Winner, **Lieutenant Wilson;** runner-up, **Lieutenant Maclean** (59 Army Youth Team). Score 6—3, 6—4.

Plate Competition, Doubles.—Winners, **Brigadier Gray** (H.Q., Army Strategic Command), **Major Le Hardy** (Royal Signals Tels. Group); runners-up, **Corporal Sharpe** (14th Regiment), **Captain Verdon** (School of Signals). Score 6—4, 6—0.

A Corps Warrant Officer takes a look at life with the Royal Navy

By W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. W. Birkwood of H.M.S. Intrepid

(Some notes on the Senior Service will be of particular interest to any members of the Corps who are likely to serve in one of the Assault Ships or Commando Carriers).

Goldfish world

DON'T we all tend to act like the goldfish and relax in our own environment and not know or care what is going on in the other spheres? For example, how much do you know about the Royal Engineers? Not a great deal, I'll wager. We in 661 Troop serve in a 'foreign' environment, that of the Royal Navy. My past reports have read like a ship's log, i.e., we did this, we did that. Well, let's get away from that for a while and see what I can dig up about the Royal Navy.

Rum

We all know matelots drink it, or at least we have been told so, and a lucky few in the Corps have sampled it as guests of the Navy. It gives one a wonderful appetite—especially if the sea is a bit choppy. No one on board seems to know when rum was introduced into the Navy, but the best story I have heard is the following: Sometime past (date not known) a party of sailors rowed ashore in Jamaica for fresh provisions which included wine, but were given rum by mistake. It proved so good as a protector against scurvy and also helped the sailors to stomach the food, which was normally full of weevils, that a concession from Jamaica was obtained.

'Rum Fanny'

The sailors still draw their rum every day at about 11.45 hours. Their ration of neat rum is one-eighth of a pint, but for all those below the rate of Petty Officer (Sergeant), it must be mixed with two parts of water to one of neat rum, the result is a drink called grog. This name came about because of a very unpopular Admiral called Vernon, who had the nickname of 'Groggy' because his clothes were made of a material called Grogram. He decided it was better watered down to slake the sailors' thirst, but his real reason was to stop sailors saving it and then having a binge. Rum and water together go sour after about four hours. Anyway, the point of all this is that the present-day sailor collects his grog each day in a container called a 'Rum Fanny.' In 1900, approximately, a woman, namely Fanny Adams, was done to death in a most brutal fashion. At the same time the Navy started issuing meat in tins. The meat, the sailors said, was the remains of Fanny Adams. But the empty tins proved to be very good containers, and were promptly dubbed 'Fannies.'

Tot Time

This is the time when all the sailors gather in their separate messes (barrack rooms), and drink their tot of grog, which nearly fills a half-pint tumbler. Some tot by English standards!

Ceremony

There is a great deal of ceremony attached to the rum issue, on which I could write a page alone. Briefly, it is first drawn neat by the Officer-of-the-Day (Orderly Officer). At this stage it is issued to the Chief Petty Officers and Petty Officers neat. The rest is then taken to an appointed place and poured into a large wooden tub, very originally named the rum tub. It is then mixed with the two parts water, and the Leading Hands (Corporals) of the messes draw their mess members' rations. It is taken to the mess and dished out one man one tot. This ceremony is carried out so meticulously and with such grace that I often think it should be accompanied by the music of the London Philharmonia playing "Pomp and Circumstance," or some similarly stirring music. The rum truly gives a sailor a heart of oak, but a hell of a liver.

Beer

In the Tudor period sailors were issued with a gallon of beer per man per day. However, the beer was of a very weak nature and easily went sour if not drunk fast. I know a few who could, but not many men can drink eight pints of beer quickly. The present-day allowance on ship is two cans per man per day. All you soldiers in the beer bars at N.A.A.F.I.s in Germany take note. (Thinks . . . always did enjoy Hereforder Pils).



THE RUM ISSUE

But this is not so simple as it sounds—the issue is a ceremony backed by old traditions

Make and mend

Having consumed his rum, Jack Tar is sometimes granted a make and mend. This was, and still is, an afternoon off for Jack to mend his clothes. However, nowadays on make and mend days the sailor does much the same things as we do on our sports afternoon.

Punishment

Talking about sleeping . . . who was talking about sleeping? You were! . . . Oh, was I. Well, the thing is, if a man during the Tudor period was caught sleeping on watch, the punishment was for the man to be hung from the bowsprit in a basket with a can of beer and a knife. He could either chose to hang there and starve or cut himself into the sea. The punishment on ships up until the seventeenth century were much the same as the law of the jungle, i.e., an eye for an eye. The following are a few facts taken straight from a Naval reference book:

Murder

"Whoever shall commit murder aboard ship shall be tied to the corpse and thrown in the sea. If on land, tied to the corpse and buried alive."

Tarred and feathered

"If a robber be convicted, boiling pitch shall be poured over his head and a shower of feathers be shaken over to mark him, and he shall be cast ashore."

Other offences

One of the punishments for other offences was that of keel-hauling. A rope was attached to the offender, one to the left and one to the right. The offender was then thrown over the bow of the ship and his crew mates, holding the two ropes over the sides of the ship dragged him the length of the keel. The amount of times this was done was dependant on the nature of the crime. Normally, the offender did not live through this anyway.

Present day

So much for the past and the harsh discipline dished out in "the good old days." The Naval Act is based now as ours, i.e. on civil law. However, the Navy have a way of numbering their punishments, so that a Commanding Officer can say: "Seven days' threes" instead of seven days' detention. It adds up to the same thing, but sounds less grim to the offender. Two offences the Navy takes a dim view of are, first of all, absence—be it five minutes or five weeks late on board. Secondly, drunkeness—mainly because of the damage a drunk can do if let loose in a ship. To give you an idea how serious a view the Navy does take of these two offences, the following are the minimum punishments: Five minutes late on board gets you a loss of two days' pay and one day's leave. Drunkeness, you get off lighter—only one day's pay. No excuse is accepted for absence, except if a train was late and the stationmaster is good enough to give you a chit to this effect. Car breakdowns just don't count!

Fair play

When a man commits an offence, he is wheeled up in front of the Officer of the Day, who hears all the facts and decides if there is a case to answer. If there is, he warns the man off for Commander's table. This is the same as O.C.'s Orders. The Commander is the ship's Executive Officer—much the same as our Adjutant. Now here is the big difference. Once he knows he has to answer a charge, a man can choose any officer to defend him. It is normally his Divisional Officer (Troop Officer), who takes up his defence. On the big day the Commander stands at a rostrum and the man himself is double-marched up in front of him. He hears the case and can punish the man himself or, if he thinks the man innocent, the case is dismissed. Also, if he decides the case is a serious one, he will remand the man for the Captain's table (Commanding Officer's Orders). At a later date, the man goes in front of the Skipper and is judged, the decision taken and punishment decreed. If the man gets "nines" (extra work) it is carried out and the case closed. However, for serious offences, the Skipper may remand the man for a warrant. This means the Captain of the ship has found the man guilty, but requires permission from higher authority to give the punishment he considers fits the crime. When the authority is given, the offender is paraded in front of the ship's company of equivalent rate to himself and is told to remove his cap. None of the ship's company, except the Captain, knows at this time what the punishment is to be. The Commander or Executive Officer will read out the charge again and then tell the man his punishment. It is emphasised that this is only done for serious offences when the man is guilty and punishment is going to be heavy. It acts as a deterrent to all present, most of all to the man receiving word of the punishment which he has to carry out. Having been awarded in this manner, it is also something he can not bluff about afterwards.

Bunts and sparkers

Prior to the electronic age we now live in, the communication between ships of the line was by the use of flags and semaphore. Then the morse code was introduced and close on its heels the heliograph. Radio was unheard of. These type of communicators were, and still are, called the bunting tossers. The heliograph naturally is now replaced by a modern aldis lamp. When radio was introduced into the Navy, a new branch was formed, simply called the Radio Branch. However, the bunts and sparkers never did quite see eye to eye. We, in the ship's communications branch have both bunts and sparkers, but there is still a heavily drawn line of demarcation. They naturally talk to each other, but each man either, bunting tosser or radio operator, is equally pround of his job. The bunting tossers are kept in line by their Chief Communication Yeoman, and the sparkers are likewise kept in line by the Chief Radio Supervisor. I hope the reader can see the significance of this for himself, because in this article I only mean to give facts and not my own opinion of anything I write.

Traditions

Having exonerated myself for anything I have just written, let's take a look at a few of the Navy's traditions. H.M.S. *Intrepid* is one of Her Majesties newest ships. However, at our masthead, we still have a wooden spar which is for carrying flags This is duly taken down periodically and varnished, then hoisted up again. It could well be made of metal and a permanent feature, but is existence stands purely as a traditional masthead.

Saluting the Quarterdeck

If you have ever had the good fortune to come aboard a Royal Naval vessel in uniform you will have been required to turn to the after part of the ship (the blunt end), and salute. Here are two passable reasons why this courtesy is required of all Servicemen coming aboard a Naval vessel. During the reign of Henry VIII an altar was carried on the quarterdeck of all ships of the line. The quarterdeck was the raised part at the stern of the great wooden ships. From this position the skipper would lead the crew in prayers, hence the reason the altar was borne. As sailors passed the altar they would touch their forelock as a sign of respect. I have been under the misapprehension for the last year that I saluted the quarterdeck because this is where the ensign is flying. The old salts tell this story of the altar. However, a more feasible story is that the quarterdeck was normally where the Captain and other officers stood when a man came on board, he therefore touched his forelock to them.

Interesting Snippets

Since 1869, sailors have been given permission to grow beards. However, it is interesting to note that they are not allowed a moustache alone. Queen Victoria said that a moustache made them appear too soldier like.

Still during the reign of Queen Victoria the Naval salute was changed from palms upper as is our salute, to palms down. The reason given was that the Queen did not like to see the dirty palms of the stokers.

The letters D.D. entered in the ledger of a ship mean the sailor whose name appears alongside it is "Discharged Dead."

Obituary

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. L. McNEIL

WHEN commissioned in 1941, **John McNeil** had been serving on the North West Frontier since 1937, having enlisted in 1931. He was immediately appointed Adjutant of 1st Indian Armoured Divisional Signals. He joined the 14th Army Signals as a Captain in 1943 and served in Burma, India, Singapore and Malaya with that Unit, which he rose to command.

In 1946 he commanded a training battalion at Bangalore, India, and then the 15th Air Formation Signals. From 1947-1950 he commanded the Pakistan G.H.Q. Regiment in Rawalpindi.

He retired in 1959, having in the meantime commanded two more Regiments, 60 H.Q. Army Regiment and 12 Air Formation.

John Neil's quick rise to command from the ranks in little over three years and the fact that altogether he commanded no less than six Regiments, are clear indications that he was an outstanding Regimental soldier.

He died on 29th July at the early age of 57, and he will be missed by many friends. Our sympathy goes to his family, which includes a son, **David,** serving with the 2nd Parachute Regiment.

MR. ROLY FRIEND

One who had close associations with the Corps, **Roly Friend** died at his home on 5th August, after a long illness. Those in the Corps who have been connected with equipment development, and many who have left and are now in the electronics industry, will recall **Roly Friend's** period as D.L.R.D. (T), from May, 1958, to December, 1965, in the Ministry of Aviation (now Technology).

In his quiet and sincere way he identified himself very closely with the interests of the Corps in our various projects. He counselled well; he enjoyed attending our Quicksilver studies, and we mark his passing in this brief reminder of his friendship, his wisdom and his close association with our equipment progress.



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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
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Assistant Editor :
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Vol. 22 (*New Series*) **No. 10**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

A Regimental Quarter Guard found from locally enlisted personnel of 19th Signal Regiment being inspected by the S.O.-in-C.

This month we would like to pay a tribute to those very useful members of the Corps generally referred to as "L.E.P." or locally enlisted personnel. In Hong Kong, Singapore and Malta, they have rendered loyal and efficient service to the Corps for many years. Cheerful, smart and hardworking, they mix in well with their British counterparts. Many of them can lay claim to long years of service with the British Army, and it is not unusual for sons to follow fathers into the ranks so that there is quite a family tradition in the Units where they are on the strength.

Our photograph shows just how smart and soldierly they are when on parade. It will be a sad day when the Corps says goodbye to the L.E.P. in Singapore. (See article on page 379).

WE are currently going through one of those periods when we have more contributions coming in for publication in THE WIRE than we can afford to publish from an economic point of view. The snag is that, if we are to avoid a financial loss, our income from sales and from advertising revenue dictates the size of THE WIRE in pages. A page very roughly costs £12 to print and the break-even point is about 44 pages — THE WIRE is printed in multiples of four pages. 48 pages can, therefore, put us into the red to the tune of nearly £50. Our last issue was subjected to drastic pruning which probably hurt your Editor as much as it did those correspondents whose painstaking efforts were slashed or held over to the next issue. The reason was that had all contributions been published as received we would have gone to press with 62 pages. There is every sign that the current WIRE, in which these remarks will appear, is shaping up to be a bumper number again and that more surgery, alas, may be necessary. We therefore write now so that you can understand our dilemma. However, from our experience, this is but a passing phase so, kind friends, do not let your zeal diminish—it is better to have written and partially appeared than never to have written at all!

Loans from the Army Benevolent Fund

The Army Benevolent Fund, acting in conjunction with the Royal Signals Association, is prepared to consider substantial loans towards house purchase and furnishing to serving soldiers shortly due to leave the service. These loans are secured against the soldier's terminal grant and a number of Corps soldiers have taken advantage of this scheme. There are, however, certain conditions which nomally attach to these loans. First, there must be some indication of genuine need rather than personal convenience for a loan to be approved and this must have the personal backing of the soldier's Commanding Officer. Secondly, loans will not normally be granted if a soldier has more than 12 months to serve before leaving the service. Finally, the Army Benevolent Fund will expect the soldier to commence weekly repayments (not necessarily of a large amount) as soon as the loan has been negotiated rather than wait for the whole sum to be met from his terminal grant. The reason for the last two provisos is so that the money is not tied up for an undue length of time thus allowing it to be loaned out again to other applicants of which there are very many. The Royal Signals Association is always pleased to advise on the procedure in connection with these loans so, if in any doubt, write or telephone our Welfare section (01-730-3477 ext. 143).

Special Mention

A MONTHLY miscellany of Corps happenings which have come to our ears or have been sent in by readers, and are deserving of SPECIAL MENTION.

— ***Corporal C. M. Blowman, of the School of Signals***

for, after only three-and-a-half years' service, entering the select circle of the Corps shooting elite by some outstanding marksmanship at the A.R.A. Bisley meeting. Throughout the three stages of the championship he came within two points of becoming outright champion and as runner-up won the A.R.A. Silver Jewel and was the highest placed member of the Corps ever in the Army Championships. He also made history by winning the Whitehead Cup in the first stage with a highest possible score. A full account of his successes and other fine shooting by members of the Corps team — with photographs — will appear in the next issue of THE WIRE.

— ***Lance-Corporal Colin Oxley, of 13th Regiment***

for his fine jumping in a recent Morrison Cup meeting at Sennelager. **Lance-Corporal Oxley** achieved a long jump of 20ft. 7½in. and followed this up the following day by clearing over 6ft. in the high jump and breaking the existing record. This sort of form has gained him a place in the Army team against the R.A.F. in Germany. Although the Regiment finished sixth in the competition several members broke established records—and there was a fine piece of running by the 4 x 120 hurdles team which notched up the time of 1min. 13.9sec. — another record for this event.

— ***Corporal Woodward, of H.Q. 3rd Signal Group, NEARELF***

for playing a sterling game at back for the 'Clan Richmond' polo team and so helping them to win the Robertson Cup against strong and higher handicapped opposition in a local Cyprus tournament. Other members of the team were **Private Fallows, Craftsman Niven** and **Terry Tasker** (aged 17) — obviously no longer an officers' preserve!

— ***Lance-Corporal Davidson and other members of the 3rd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment***

for running such effective rear link communications from the Great Abbai expedition in Ethiopia back to the U.K. All press releases from this expedition, which have been appearing in the National newspapers, have been cleared accurately and on schedule via this link (see account on page 401).

The foregoing by no means covers all items of 'Special Mention' for this month. There must be many more you know about and which we never hear of. Units, individuals — who ever you are — if you hear of any Corps news do write in to the Editor and tell us all about it if you consider that it is worthy of 'Special Mention.'

From our "In" Tray

Canoe – but be safe!

Sir,

Whilst wishing to congratulate 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment on their performance in the French Army Canoe Championships, I must, for the good name of Corps Canoeing, take issue with them over the photograph of **Signalman Pawlow** (August-September issue).

Although I realise that it is a posed photograph, it is inexcusable that Pawlow is not wearing a life jacket. Whilst education authorities and akin organisations are fighting to reduce the appalling toll of deaths by drowning, the beginners to water sports in our Corps can see a picture in the Corps Magazine of a relatively experienced canoeist completely disregarding the rules of safety.

I cannot emphasize too much the importance of life jackets in canoeing, as in other water sports, and, as no doubt **Pawlow** and **Second-Lieutenant Theodorson** know, they are compulsory in all slalom competitions in this country.

It is the duty of canoeists of experience to set the correct example to all novices and potential canoeists and to be seen to be safe at all times.

A. Burtt, Lieutenant.
(Canoe Testing Officer)

Army Apprentices' College,
Harrogate, Yorkshire.

2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop

Mr. J. T. Dexter, of 19, Elmdale Road, Palmers Green, London, N.13, writes:

"As a result of the recent letters in THE WIRE concerning 2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, **John Roake, Ken Mills** and myself have been able to meet again after thirty years. It was a tremendous experience and will be repeated at monthly intervals. We shall also keep in touch with **George Cook** whose letter started it all, and we have visions of arranging an annual reunion of '2 Cav-ites' when we succeed in digging a few more of them out of hibernation."

SO HURRY UP AND GET IN TOUCH ALL EX-MEMBERS OF 2nd CAVALRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP BEFORE YOU COP ONE FOR BEING LATE ON PARADE.
—Editor.

Ex-P.O.W.s, HKSC, 1941

Sir,

Efforts are being made to arrange a reunion of ex-P.O.W.s HKSC, 1941. Would those interested please contact **Mr. H. Liley** at the following address: **H. Liley,** Sprachenschuled, B.W., 535, Euskirchen - Kessenich 2a, Haus Friedrichsruh, Germany.

Yours faithfully,
H. Liley.

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A multi-racial Signal Regiment

Do you know what "LEP" stands for?

CONTINUING our aim to produce a series of articles each with a theme which shows to the reader what life with 19th Regiment is like, we present this one on "The LEP soldier." "LEP" stands for "Locally Enlisted Personnel" and joins other such letter groupings as "BOR," "IOR" and "MOR" in its necessary but soulless description of special classes of soldier. These men are recruited into the British Army from Malaysia and Singapore (mostly the former) and serve exclusively in those countries. LEP comprise Malays, Chinese, Indians and Eurasians by race and Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian by creed—not to mention the followers of the various Chinese philosophies.

Our current establishment includes four officers and 340 other ranks, who are locally enlisted, to which should be added some 60 civilians who are either Malaysian or Singaporean citizens. These figures compare with some 140 British ranks (which will increase to about 250 shortly!). Truly we are a multi-racial regiment.

The LEP, apart from the fact that they wear "Songkok" headdress and their own spectacular ceremonial dress complete with "sarong," woven in the Corps colours, are in all other respects dressed and employed as any other member of the Corps. In 19th Regiment we have LEP technicians (including one staff-sergeant who has passed both Foreman of Signals entrance exams with over 80 per cent), linemen, clerks, technical storemen, drivers and cooks.



AT HOME WITH THE SERGEANT MAJOR

Sergeant Major Zainal Abidin Bin Ariffin poses outside his quarter with his family. (Two children are missing from the photo)

Very much a family outlook

One of the features of soldiering in Singapore is that Signal Regiments (18th and 19th) tend to be more like pre-war infantry regiments in that many LEP have served in the same regiment for ten years or more. Their skill in their trades reflects this degree of permanency and their loyalty to their regiment is an inspiring feature of serving with them. So far, in this year alone, ten Long Service and Good Conduct Medals have been presented to LEP soldiers from Staff-Sergeant down to Signalman in 19th Regiment. They know their equipment; they grow up with their vehicles (not all of these are 18 years old!); they remember where cable was buried many years ago. Altogether soldiering in an "LEP Regiment" is a very happy family affair and perhaps could serve as an example of good relations to warring Asia.

Sport to the fore

The LEP play most of the games with which the British are familiar. The regimental hockey team, which comprises eight Malays, three Chinese and (surprisingly) no Indians, won the Far East Cup and the Singapore Island (all-comers, including the powerful civilian sides) Six-a-side Cup in the 1967/68 season. LEP are particularly good at table tennis, badminton and volley ball; games which are played all over Malaysia in practically every town and "kampong." But a game that is peculiarly their own is "Sepak Raga." The court and net are similar to those in badminton. The ball is round, made of rattan and about 4½ inches in diameter. It must be kept in the air, using any part of the body except the forearm and hands. The ball must be sent over the net after it has been touched three times or less on one side. There are three men on each side and the scoring system is similar to that of squash.



HIGH KICKER

Sepak Raga, a local Malaysian game, includes striking the ball with any part of the body except the forearm and hands!

The majority of LEP soldiers marry young and bring up fairly large families—eleven children is our largest! The main difference between LEP and our own soldiers is that LEP rates of pay are tied to those of the Federation Army, which are low by our standards. This does not prevent the LEP soldiers from being unfailingly cheerful and as well turned out and smart as any other soldier in the world.

It would be invidious to describe their characteristics. When Malay Muslims, Chinese Taoists and Indian Hindus serve alongside Welsh Protestants and Irish Catholics it teaches one that all men are alike and yet very different. To attempt to generalise would be foolish.

The parting will be sad

When we count our losses on leaving the Far East, one of the greatest will be giving up the comradeship we have enjoyed for so many years (since 1949 in this Regiment) with these men who have so loyally served in our Army. We can only hope that every endeavour will be made to compensate them generously and resettle them happily when the time comes for us to leave in 1971.

Thank you!

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were most gratefully received during August, 1968:

	£	s.	d.
W.R.A.C. Centre (part proceeds from Corps Day, 1968) ...	5	0	0
237 Regiment	50	0	0
Assistant Chaplain, H.Q. FARELF	13	12	0
R. H. Job. Esq.	1	18	0
Anonymous	4	4	0
Total Receipts ...	£74	14	0
Expenditure during August, 1968	£895	14	8



NEW ZEALAND FAREWELL

The Director Royal New Zealand Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., Royal Signals (centre) chats with the Corps Colonel Commandant, Colonel R. W. Foubister, O.B.E. (left) and Colonel G. L. Agar, D.S.O., O.B.E., E.D., a former Commandant of the Corps

The occasion was a function in the Officers' Mess, Papakura Camp on 2 July 68 at which Signals Officers in Northern Military District said farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel Brackenbury prior to his return to U.K. following exchange service with the New Zealand Army

Well-known A.G.11. personality retires



Valerie Lloyd-Williams

IT will be a sad blow to her many friends in the Royal Signals T. & A.V.R. that Valerie Lloyd-Williams has left A.G.11 and retired from the Civil Service after 27 years.

Valerie first came to A.G.11 as an Executive Officer in September, 1959, having worked for the Army in various clerical capacities since 1941. Until early 1963 she acted as a Staff Captain under the D.A.A.G.(O.), administering Regular Officers, but it was when she took over sole responsibility for Royal Signals in the Reserve Army, and mobilisation, directly under the A.A.G., that she really came into her own.

Over the five years that followed, she built up an encyclopaedic knowledge of the units she administered. She took great pride and pleasure in knowing, not only the essentials of their roles and military characteristics, but all their backgrounds, the personalities and Christian names, the regimental histories and peculiarities. In return, she was accepted by "her" units as a welcome and trusted friend.

In the way she identified herself with the interests of those she administered she set an example to all the staff and certainly was never office-bound or out of touch with reality. She went out and about among units, both in barracks and annual camps, met them at first hand, and thereby earned their complete confidence.

To the Regular Officers concerned, whose Reserve Army experience was only a brief interlude between more normal postings, her knowledge was invaluable in providing continuity during the many reorganisations of the Reserve Army.

In A.G.11 we shall miss her sorely, not only for her professional ability and the good reputation it earned for us both in the Ministry and outside, but also for her wry humour and inexhaustible capacity for brewing-up. Visiting members of Selection Boards, weary from hours of trying to pick the best from a bafflingly equal bunch of candidates, will also miss the continual succession of consoling cups of coffee!

Though she has retired from the Civil Service, it is not to a life of secluded ease. That would be quite out of character. She is now simultaneously and with equal gusto refurbishing an old cottage in her native Wales, to live in, and installing a launderette therein. We are confident that, with Valerie presiding, the latter will soon become as much a social institution as a Welsh dhobi.

She will surely forgive us if we publish her address, but many will want to keep in touch with her, and she is too modest to do it for herself. It is:

Ivy Cottage, MACHYNLLETH, Montgomeryshire, Wales.

Her mantle in A.G.11 has fallen upon Major Mike O'Connor, in addition to his other task of looking after Regular soldiers' policy. Although it will be a long time before he begins to match her knowledge of the subject, he can promise that customers will be treated as cheerfully and helpfully as before.



GOOD FRIENDS

Staff Sergeant Johnson and Fred

A wild tern makes a contact with the Corps on Gan Island

We called him Fred

By Staff Sergeant Johnson, N.C.O. i/c Royal Signals Detachment, Gan Island.

ONE of my R.A.F. mates found a young tern (a sea bird) with its baby feathers still on lying on the ground. He picked it up and asked me to look after it. Three of us, including **Flight-Sergeant Labouchard** and **Sergeant Wright,** decided to accept the commission and we went out to catch some fish for it. We called him FRED. Fred did not like his fish chopped, he preferred them whole. We soon discovered this and made a small glass tank in which we placed small fish, off which Fred could feed naturally. Fred appreciated this arrangement, even if the small fish did not.

After about a week we thought it would be a kindness to return Fred to the sea, but he flew back to us again. We feared a bit for his safety, as there were so many cats on the island. We did not want him to go too early before he felt he could look after himself. We took him around without a string, but he made no attempt to leave us.

After a while, however, he did go. We took him out one day and two other terns flew down and Fred flew away with them (were they Ma and Pa Fred?). We were a little sad, but at the same time happy that he had been assimilated back into his own community.

A few days later **Sergeant Wright** (R.A.F.) and myself were sitting outside the Mess when we spotted a tern flying much closer to human beings than was usual. **Wright** said to me jokingly: "That must be Fred." It flew near to us and **Wright** whistled our normal call. The bird seemed literally to put full brakes on in mid-air. It was an astonishing sight. It flew round and landed straight on top of **Wright's** head. There was no doubt about it—it *was* Fred! We were both delighted, of course, and immediately took masses of photographs. Fred stayed in the palm trees near the Mess for some time. When he rested on our hands he fluttered his wings in what I knew to be an affectionate way. I could feel the force of it on my hands.

Will he come back to visit us? Will he be sad not to find us here in six months time? Is there not some communication possible between bird and man? I know there is.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in August		34
Number of clothing parcels sent		15
Amount spent in grants and loans	£895 14	8

One of the Month's Cases

EX-SERGEANT, war time service. He had just returned to work after nine months' illness, when he received news that eight members of his faimly had been involved in a road accident in Canada. Two had died, and the others were all injured, some very seriously. His presence was absolutely essential, and, in desperation, he turned to the Association. The Committee made an immediate grant of £150, and, within 24 hours of his first appeal, he was in the air on his way to Canada.

One of the Month's Letters

"I WOULD like to thank you for helping me in my time of trouble. I just don't know how to thank you. My husband has had his operation, and it's so nice to know someone is taking an interest in him. That's the greatest tonic of all for me, so once again, Thank you."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Movements

Officers

Captain J. D. Bromley	To	R.M.C. of S. (Army Staff Course D.W.III)
Captain G. H. Morgan	To	R.M.C. of S. (Army Staff Course D.W.III)
Captain P. Valder	To	R.M.C. of S. (Army Staff Course D.W.III)
Captain G. C. Verdon	To	R.M.C. of S. (Army Staff Course D.W.III)
Second-Lieutenant R. A. L. Anderson	,,	Cambridge University O.T.C.
Major J. S. Agar	,,	Sig. Wing Sch. of Inf. (as Lt.Col.)
Major M. B. M. Brown	,,	31st (G.L.) Signal Regt. (V) as Lt.-Col.
Major D. H. W. Barnes	,,	30th Regiment
Major T. H. Blashill	,,	7th Regiment
Major B. W. A. Collins	,,	H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant B. M. Cooke	,,	H.Q. 39 Inf. Bde. & Sig. Sqn. (213).
Captain (T.O.T.) D. W. Capon	,,	School
Lieutenant-Colonel E. M. T. Crump	,,	H.Q. FARELF
Lieutenant D. J. Case	,,	8th Regiment
Major B. A. R. Driskell	,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Lieutenant G. J. Emery	,,	3rd Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Second-Lieutenant R. A. Farrimond	,,	Cambridge University O.T.C.
Major (T.O.T.) J. Foster	,,	240 Squadron
Major J. A. H. K. Findlater	,,	School
Captain G. A. Granger	,,	19th Regiment
Major P. D. E. Gregory	,,	A.A.C. Harrogate
Captain (T.O.T.) A. Holmes	,,	H.Q. Training Brigade
Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. F. G. Hoskins, M.B.E.	,,	30th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) T. J. Licence	,,	18th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant W. J. Lillie	,,	Oxford University O.T.C.
Major (T.O.T.) J. E. LeHardy	,,	School
Captain G. T. Mills	,,	Royal Brunei Malay Regt.
Major (Tfc.) F. Malone	,,	11th Regt. (H.S.) retires
Captain (Tfc.) T. C. O'Toole	,,	14th Regiment
Captain J. M. Passmore	,,	Op. A.D.P.S. Project Team
Major L. W. Prescot	,,	14th Regiment
Major W. J. Pritchard	,,	22nd Regiment
Major R. Plant	,,	30th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Lieutenant-Colonel H. Rowlands	,,	H.Q. Sig. Sup. NORTHAG
Captain D. G. Rees	,,	30th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant P. J. Reed	,,	London University O.T.C.
Major (Q.M.) W. A. Rowbory	,,	H.Q. B.A.O.R. (S.X.)
Major R. L. Stonham	,,	4 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt. (as Lt.-Col. C.O.
Major (Tfc.) E. C. W. Stagg	,,	30th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow	,,	A.A.C. Harrogate
Major G. W. A. Stephenson	,,	H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps
Captain J. A. Tonnison	,,	55 Signal Squadron (V)
Captain J. B. Walsh	,,	11th Regiment

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I (F. of S.) P. G. D. Hutley	To	3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.I (Y. of S.) P. V. Dixon	,,	14th Signal Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. W. Wagstaff	,,	21st Signal Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. J. Hoe	,,	H.Q. AFCENT
W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. W. Ankers	,,	Inspectorate of Trade Training
W.O.II (Y. of S.) D. G. W. Phillips	,,	18th Signal Regiment
W.O.II J. N. Copley	,,	11th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II A. Charlton	,,	222 Signal Squadron
W.O.II S. J. Raynor	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II (Y. of S.) K. Glenville	,,	16th Signal Regiment
W.O.II W. P. Smith	,,	9th Signal Regiment
W.O.II R. Cockcroft	,,	99 Gurkha Inf. Bds. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II (Y. of S.) W. Coxon	,,	633 Signal Troop
A/W.O.II I. D. Wilson	,,	225 Signal Squadron
W.O.II R. A. Crampton	,,	40th Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.II E. D. Izod	,,	11th Signal Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. V. Purkis	,,	24th Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F of S.) R. L. Tricker	,,	7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. McMullen	,,	252 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant P. E. Jepson	,,	22nd Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. D. Duncan	,,	19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant A. R. Heath	,,	24th Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. M. Moynan	,,	7th Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. V. Stoneham	,,	21st Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. Dolan	,,	21st Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. C. Davis	,,	604 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) E. J. Brooks	,,	16th Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. Harrison	,,	612 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant H. Holdsworth	,,	8th Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. M. Lea	,,	8th Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Walder	,,	14th Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Hull	,,	259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. Meaney	,,	259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Mells	,,	28 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant J. A. Robertson	,,	242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant T. P. Constable	,,	608 Signal Troop
Sergeant J. Welsh	,,	18th Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. K. Chapman	,,	20 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant A. R. Cole	,,	11 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant M. J. Smith	,,	22nd Signal Regiment
Sergeant L. Yates	,,	7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant R. Hazelgrove	,,	18th Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant M. J. Boland	,,	18th Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant L. Robinson	,,	1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant J. Joyce	,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant F. C. Pope	,,	12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant B. W. Cutler	,,	7th Signal Regiment
Sergeant L. C. Hall	,,	35 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant A. A. Burgess	,,	28th Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. Caffery	,,	40th Signal Regiment (V)
A/Sergeant D. L. Sparks	,,	227 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. Bingham	,,	252 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. H. Foster	,,	3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant M. H. White	,,	24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant J. R. Hacker	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant E. E. Mourant	,,	19th Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. Woodhouse	,,	18th Signal Regiment
Sergeant L. E. L. Perham	,,	4 Gds. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant R. F. E. Mortimore	,,	16th Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. Scott	,,	16th Signal Regiment
Sergeant O. J. Burrows	,,	12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant W. Oconnell	,,	24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant T. L. Daws	,,	30th Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. E. Phillips	,,	30th Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. Hay	,,	234 Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. W. Unwin	,,	28 (Comwel) Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. P. O. Winning	,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

			New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Mercer, G. W.	1370	2200	
To S Sgt.	A/S Sgt.	Alexander, D. T.	5410	1521	(Admin.)
	A/S Sgt.	Tasker, R.	5420	2110	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Stretton, J.	5430	8970	(Op.)
	Sgt.	O'Brien, J. T.	5440	7660	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Orton, G. W.	5450	1070	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Ferguson, D. M.	5460	2480	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Johnson, G. H.	5470	1500	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Brown, D. R.	5480	7910	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Rann, L. P.	5490	3320	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Park, G.	5500	2820	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Winton, P. A.	5510	2470	(Admin.)
	Sgt.	Waugh, A. P.	5520	10060	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Gaze, A. J.	5530	9090	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Howker, J.	5540	2250	(Admin.)

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	W.O.II	Nugent, E. E.	1360	1570	
	W.O.II	Short, E. M.	1390	1720	
	W.O.II	Butler, M.	1400	1710	
To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Graham, W. F.	2050	1150	(Tech.)
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Shone, C. J.	3280	5105	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Woolf, H. D.	3370	3680	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Brabon, T. D.	3390	3730	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Rogers, J. N.	3410	5113	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Knox, D.	3420	5113	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Rotherham, D. G.	3430	5130	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Longden, B.	3440	5140	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Kelbie, R. B.	3450	5160	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Southall, T. G.	3460	5230	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Laws, G. J.	3480	5520	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Waldock, P.	3490	5660	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	O'Sullivan, G. J.	3500	6390	(Sgt. Tech.)

Chief Clerks Roster

To S Sgt	Sgt.	Smith, D. B.	1500	2970	(Admin.)
	A/S Sgt.	Smith, A.	1510	2520	(Admin.)

Technical Roster

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Edwards, T. E.	7000	12710
	Cpl.	King, E. J.	7010	14457
	Cpl.	Squire, T. J.	7085	14145
	Cpl.	Haynes, B.	7090	13082
	Cpl.	Desborough, A. J.	7100	13895
	Cpl.	Vallance, D. B.	7103	9208
	Cpl.	MacGilp, D. J.	7104	10787
	Cpl.	Dodd, A.	7105	13045
	Cpl.	Lidgbird, R. E.	7160	13617
	Cpl.	Farmer, R. W.	7210	12640
	Cpl.	Scottorn, P. F.	7220	13105
	Cpl.	Boon, P. R. C.	7230	12890
	Cpl.	Offord, R. C.	7250	13123
	Cpl.	Connor, H. E.	7260	13125
	Cpl.	Wagstaff, P. R.	7270	13130
	Cpl.	Crawford, J.	7280	13135
	Cpl.	Lawson, W.	7290	13145
	Cpl.	Rookes, G. D.	7300	13150
	Cpl.	Staples, P. C.	7310	13153
	Cpl.	Scott, M.	7320	13155
	Cpl.	Farrar, P.	7330	13226
	Cpl.	Jackson, D. R.	7340	13415
	Cpl.	McFarlane, A. W.	7350	14191
	Cpl.	Lafferty, A. P.	7360	14275

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Ford, R. S.	14154	9520
	A/S Sgt.	Muxworthy, P.	14700	23820
	A/S Sgt.	Dyke, W. D.	14710	29286
	Cpl.	Le Carpenter, D. J.	14720	28896
	A/S Sgt.	Smith, M. J.	14730	28930
	Cpl.	Etherton, R. P.	14740	29010
	A/Sgt.	Chapman, A. K.	14750	29450
	A/Sgt.	Donaldson, K. D. J.	14780	29530
	A/Sgt.	Sharples, D. R.	14800	27178
	A/Sgt.	Newman, A. J.	14810	29770
	Cpl.	Cadman, P. J.	14820	29876
	Cpl.	Buxton, R. J.	14830	29900
	Cpl.	White, G.	14840	28440
	Cpl.	Casey, S. T.	14860	30050
	A/Sgt.	Wraith, J. A.	14870	30344
	Cpl.	McVeigh, A. D. J.	14880	15400
	A/Sgt.	Armstrong, R. C.	14890	29901
	Cpl.	Clayforth, J. H.	14920	30290
	Cpl.	Rees, M. J.	14930	30390
	A/Sgt	Hemingway, D.	14950	30910
	Cpl.	Banham, E. J.	14960	30340
	Cpl.	Watkins, G. C.	14970	30372
	A/Sgt	Griffiths, G. J.	15000	30760

Field Roster

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Young, J. T.	5190	4660
	Cpl.	Walsh, P.	5200	4704
	A/Sgt.	Green, B.	5210	4706
	Cpl.	Bamber, G.	5220	2870
	Cpl.	Alexander, R. D.	5240	1050
	A/Sgt.	Hughes, W. A.	5250	2180
	Cpl.	Bromley, J. M.	5270	4190
	Cpl.	Toovey, P. H. M.	5280	4230
	Cpl.	Harris, G.	5290	4410

Administrative Roster

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Cole, P. D.	3460	4760
	Cpl.	McMahon, J. P.	3470	6163
	Cpl.	Kent, K. H.	3480	130
	Cpl.	Bramley, D.	3490	4124
	A/Sgt.	Tait, J. C.	3510	5979
	A/Sgt.	Smoker, B. W.	3530	6060

INSERTIONS

Yeoman of Signals Roster

To S Sgt.	S Sgt.	Briggs, R. S. W.	230	1040	(Tech.)

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	940	1110	1260	1280	
W.O.II	800	1530	1540	1950	2790
S Sgt.	280	600	2160	2290	3560

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I	1030

Chief Clerks Roster

S Sgt.	1200

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

S Sgt.	810	870	1050

Technical Roster

S Sgt.	400				
Sgt.	5190	5540	5207	5638	5972

Operating Roster

Sgt.	7370	10854	12660	13300	13310
	13770				

Administrative Roster

Sgt.	11	300	2180	2190

Chief Clerks Roster

S Sgt.	1410 — Amend Name to read Brodie.

expand with

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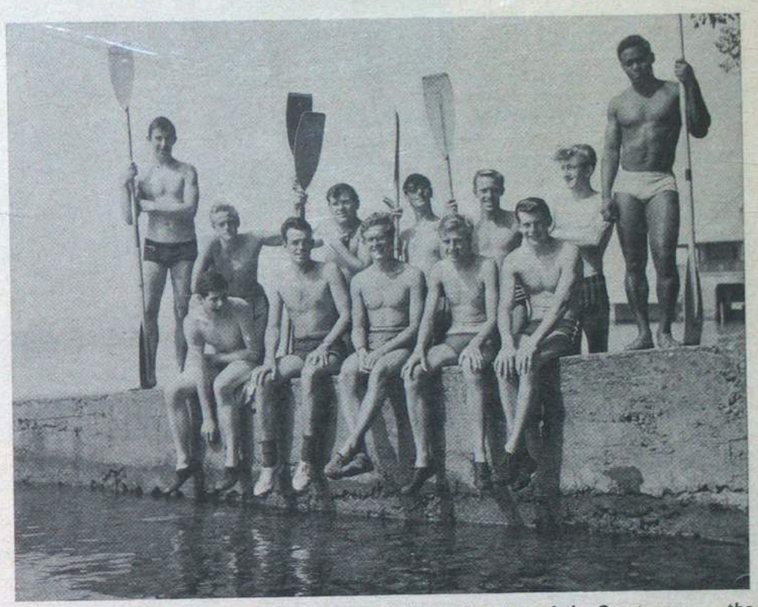
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200 Corps men involved in 4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment's ambitious Adventure Training Exercises

NEW HORIZON II



On Exercise SORE THUMB—Lieutenant Collins and party on Lake Constance . . . . the party have some tall stories to tell

It comprised eleven different exercises stretching to Sweden—on the edge of the Arctic Circle in the north and to Bavaria in the south.

* * *

The aims of the exercise were to develop initiative and leadership qualities, at the same time giving everyone a change of scenery and a break from barracks.

For the second year running August has been Adventure Training month in the Regiment. Planning for Exercise New Horizon II started as far back as last December. There were eleven individual exercises from Sweden to Bavaria, each commanded by a young Officer, and in all about 200 soldiers from the Regiment took part. P.R. gave a great deal of coverage to the exercises and reports were made on B.F.B.S. and in numerous papers in the U.K. In addition, about 40 "local boy stories" were taken.

The aims of the exercise were to develop initiative and leadership qualities and, at the same time, give everyone a change of scenery and a break from barracks routine before the autumn exercises.

This year R.H.Q. deployed some 500 miles southwards to the Austrian border and controlled the exercises by HF radio from there. Little did R.H.Q. know that they would be sitting in three inches of snow—in August! Some atrocious weather conditions were encountered, but let the expedition leaders give us their own accounts.

EXERCISE "WATER RAT"

By Second-Lieutenants John Speakes and Bill Lillie

The happy campers at Kochel, down near the Austrian border in Bavaria, were not at all sure what was happening when our party of 18 arrived late one night and erected a marquee and three 160-pounders in their midst. In fact, our aim was to carry out surveys of ten lakes in the area. **Signalmen Kenneth Murphy and Neil Haughton** lost no time in finding out about the bird life on the shores of our own lake, and parties under **Corporal Colin Hill** and **Lance-Corporal Mick Healey** surveyed a little more seriously Walchensee, Riegsee, Stausee, Mapansee, Forgevsee, Wienensee, Alpsee, Eibsee and the extremely beautiful Hoppensee. **Lance-Corporal Robby Burnett** took a party to visit Dachau concentration camp, while the remainder took a day off to climb Kesselberg. The locals were still a little uneasy about the activities of our radio operators, **Signalmen Joe Cole** and **"Alky" Adcock**, so we invited them to an "At Home" in the marquee and the seal was set on our friendship when **Signalmen Bob Barber** and **"Scouse" McGhee** entertained them at our beach party. We were kept busy surveying and trekking and the time passed all too quickly. In fact, one Signalman was heard to ask why the year could not be spent Adventure Training with two weeks in summer in the Regiment!

EXERCISE "BACK PEDAL"

By Lieutenant Michael Rice

On 24th August, 1967, several soldiers of this Regiment were heard to vow that they would never ride a bike again. . . .

One year later, on 14th August, 1968, two of those saddle-sore veterans, **Lieutenant Mike Rice** and **Corporal Paddy Service**, accompanied by ten fresh and naive volunteers, cycled out of Hammersmith Barracks to start the second Grand Tour of Germany. By 26th August they had covered nearly 1,000 miles by way of Kassel, Wurzburg, Heidelberg and the Rhine Valley. The party covered ground at the rate of 60-70 miles a day, in all sorts of weather, ranging from heavy rain of the first three days to the brilliant sunshine of the last week. A much needed rest day was spent at Bacharach, on the Rhine, at a camp site known as Rice's Folly, where a very well balanced mixture of wine, women and song provided blissful relief from the rigours of the road.

Thanks must be given here to the Burgermeisters of the villages of Wied and Rehbach, on whose sports fields the party camped during the tour.

The last two cycling days, from Bacharach to Herford, were

run as a fast and furious race. Valiant efforts were made by **Signalman Graham Cooper** and **Corporal Mick Wringle,** but on arrival at Herford **Lieutenant Rice** had a 30-minute lead on the rest of the party. **Signalman John Goodfellow,** who had previously been cycling very quickly, lost a lot of time when his chain broke on the last morning. The efforts of all concerned were a credit to their stamina and enthusiasm, but on 26th August, more soldiers of the Regiment were heard to make further vows concerning bicycles, and bicycle saddles in particular . . .



On Exercise Edelweiss—Second-Lieutenant Thomas and party enjoy a break. On the right in the cap is Captain Marley. Their trip coincided with a number of Bavarian Wine and Beer Feasts—which of course they attended

EXERCISE "MORNING GLORY"

By Lieutenant Michael Yolland

"Morning Glory" was a three-part exercise. Firstly, to get from Herford to the Arctic Circle in Sweden, then a trek along the Circle, and finally the long journey home.

The first part was accomplished by 3-tonner, ferry, train, bus, and finally by foot, taking in all two days of hard travel. The base camp site, Arjeplog, was quite by chance in the centre of Lappland and, by a stroke of luck, we met there the most helpful person one could hope for—a **Dr. Wallquist.** With his introduction, Lapp families along our route gave us all the help they could, such as food and shelter, skin-and earth-houses; and six days of arduous patrolling were accomplished without mishap.

Everywhere the people were incredibly hospitable and kind, and a party of 20 brought back a quantity of reindeer skins, boots, rugs and antlers to prove it.

To simplify administration and feeding (and it needs simplifying when one has only five days of food for a fortnight), the party was sub-divided into four groups of five. **Corporals Stuart Bromidge, "Mick" Cornell, Robert Daly** and **Deric Woodford** led the groups and, considering the inaccuracy of the maps, wonders of map-reading were accomplished (at least no one got completely lost!). When it came to the journey southwards for a short rest period at Goteborg everyone was there and ready on time. No more need be said about Goteborg, except that it is in Southern Sweden, that Playboy featured its girls, and that a good time was had by all!



Exercise Loch Ness—Signalman Bobby McSeveny and right, Captain Jonathan Lowe

And so back to Herford after an adventurous fortnight of getting to know Sweden and its people; overcoming difficulties, coping with hunger pangs and earning the right to start with the type of sentence that commands silence: "When I was in Lappland in summer, 1968 . . .!"

EXERCISE "LOCH NESS"

By Captain Jonathan Lowe

The aim of "Loch Ness" was to carry out escape and evasion training in Allgau, Bavaria.

It was a bitter, windy night when 16 men of Bravo Troop, under **Captain Jonathan Lowe,** arrived at their base camp near Kempten, in Southern Germany. The rain soaked through our light summer clothing within seconds. Soon after our arrival three patrols left, led by **Corporals Tony Spencer, "Nobby" Styles** and **Lance-Corporal Dave Ferris** respectively, destined for Obersdorf, Fussen and Lindau. The weather did improve a little, but even so everyone got wet through at some stage. **Corporal "Nobby" Styles'** party discovered one night that their camping field had turned into a lake. **Corporal Tony Spencer's** party trekked through some of the most rugged country in Germany, climbing at one stage to a height of 1,457 metres. By the first Sunday we really needed a rest and the day was spent sightseeing the Hohenschwagan castles and the beautiful Alpsee. The following week we trekked down to Lake Constance and joined Exercise "Sore Thumb" for a day's canoeing. The distance involved was 76 kilometres; a long walk, as **Signalman Gorden Hughes** and **Driver George Mulvihill** (M.T. Troop) will tell you! After counting blisters and sore backs, the rest of our stay was spent teaching the locals cricket, swimming and in another short trek up a mountain 1,656 metres high; our legs were shaking like jelly after that climb! **Signalmen Ken Councill** and **Colin Birnie,** on loan from "A" Troop, took turns to keep us in contact with base camp, while **Signalman George Grey** joined us with his black box and stretcher (which fortunately was not needed) from the medical centre.

(*Continued on page* 385)

(*Continued from page* 384)

EXERCISE "NORTH ROCK"

By Lieutenant Richard Anderson

A small party of five soldiers from the Regiment, led by **Lieutenant Richard Anderson,** went to Norway for one of the summer courses run by the 1 (BR) Corps Outward Bound Centre.

They spent their first 10 days canoeing (a 40-kilometre canoe expedition around the fjords near Kristiansand), swimming (both lifesaving and personal survival) and, in their spare time, feeding jellyfish with compo beefblock.

For their last 10 days they went inland and concentrated on map-reading, moving across rough country, culminating in a four-day expedition. Concentration is the right word for the map-reading. The maps they used had only a 30-metre contour interval, meaning lots of unmarked 99 feet cliffs for the unwary.

Three of the party (**Lieutenant Richard Anderson, Signalmen "Rick" Lee** and **"Ginge" Demaine**) stayed on for an extra week's rock climbing. It was odd how some old songs ("Please help me, I'm falling . . .") suddenly regained their former popularity. In fact, however, nobody "peeled," at least not dramatically.

Throughout the whole time the weather was magnificent and our hearts bled for our comrades in Southern Europe, who were having atrocious weather. Everyone in the party enjoyed themselves, learnt a lot and returned to Herford reluctantly, but refreshed.

EXERCISE "EDELWEISS"

By Captain Tony Marley

On 14th August 15 men, led by **Captain Tony Marley,** left Herford for Rollbach, in Lower Bavaria, on a two-week orienteering exercise.

For the first five days the activities were dampened by teeming rain and bitterly cold evenings; however, no one lost his enthusiasm. To start with our trips were mainly over short distances, but through thick forests, and this tested the skill of the map-readers.

Wherever we went our stay was made very pleasant by the local population, who accepted us as part of the scenery and made us thoroughly welcome.

Coinciding with our exercise were a number of Bavarian wine and beer fests. In our local area, Klingenberg had a wine fest for the first week, and Miltenberg held their Michaelismess (St. Michaelmas celebration). We felt bound to attend both in spite of sore feet and aching limbs and thoroughly enjoyed them.

On two occasions we formed a football team to play local teams, unfortunately we lost both matches, 10-4 and 4-1, but our reward was one which we had an eye on from the start —marvellous hot showers after the matches!

Communications were kept in good order by that well-known firm of **Signalmen "Demmy" Dempster** and **Bill Hutton,** who produced an almost 100 per cent record. **Dempster,** together with **Driver "Robbo" Robinson** (of the R.C.T.), formed yet another team whose job was to watch the girls. His percentage success was not measurable.

Our relations with the people in Rollbach were extremely cordial, thanks to **Driver Young.**

Corporal "Mitch" Mitchell acted as the Senior N.C.O. and his leadership was outstanding.

The final week was very sunny and this completed the ingredients for a good exercise.

EXERCISE "LONG HAUL"

By Second-Lieutenant Richard Farrimond

The aim of this exercise was to carry out five days' orienteering training, followed by a seven-day orienteering exercise. The party consisted of five x three-man patrols plus a base party. The party included **Sergeant Roy Stark,** and we left Herford on 14th August for Schwangau, in Southern Germany.

There was a moment of excitement on the autobahn north of Nuremburg on the way down, when one of the 3-tonners, packed with kit, petrol and stores, severed its drive shaft, and after careering all over the place finally overturned with the rear wheels locked. Fortunately no one was even hurt, thanks to the presence of mind of **Driver Graham Bamber,** and we were able to display quite a lot of initiative in clearing up the mess for the benefit of the Commanding Officer, who "just happened" to come along shortly afterwards!

We all returned to Herford as fit as, and resembling, mountain goats—with blisters!

EXERCISE "SORE THUMB"

By Lieutenant Richard Collins, A.C.C.

This was a canoeing adventure training scheme which took place on Lake Constance, in Bavaria.

Lieutenant Richard Collins, A.C.C., the specialist Messing Officer, led a motley band of signalmen, cooks, drivers and fitters, who left on the 13th August, arriving at Nonnenhorn, near Lindau, the following day.

Our first bit of initiative consisted of agreeing that a barn would be preferable to a tented camp in view of the vile weather. Accordingly, **Sergeant Smith,** who proved himself an amazing scrounger, found a superb site on a fruit farm, on the lake shore. With a flush toilet and other luxurious appliances we were to be the very envy of others.

Signalman Watson, our very able canoeing instructor, quickly began to teach water-shy soldiers. Despite the tendency of **Lance-Corporal Brian Anderson** to capsize in any weather, we quickly progressed. **Private Phillips, A.C.C.,** found that perhaps his muscles had a use after all. It was also realised that water transport was the quickest way to the nearby beaches.

However, time flew too quickly, despite the efforts of **Driver Farmer** and **Craftsman Eden** to sabotage our 3-tonner, and we arrived back in Herford with rather long hair and some tall stories to tell.

EXERCISE "RIVER ROUTE"

By Second-Lieutenant Frank Garrod

The 14th August saw the start of Exercise "River Route." The aim was to trek the length of the River Necka from Mannheim to its source near Schwennigen in the Black Forest area of Germany.

Heidleberg was chosen as the first base camp and from here groups under **Corporals Brian Mumford, Bert Elder** and **Steve Holmes** went out along the river, returning to the base camp each night because of the bad weather.

Frequent drenching from rain and the inevitable sore feet did not prevent the party from enjoying the evenings, however. Parties were thrown for bus loads of Australian, New Zealand and South African girls, who stopped to camp the night nearby and our stocks of food disappeared rapidly.

EXERCISE "SUMMER SURVIVAL"

By Second-Lieutenant Sandy Brill.

Our party of 15 was divided into three patrols with a base party, and our aim was to trek in the Black Forest. We established a camp near Baden-Baden and did a hard day's trek from there before moving to Swenningen in the south, where we spent five glorious days, moving out daily under the leadership of **Corporals Harold Quinn, Francis Ivor Gibbons** and **Peter Spencer.** We then tried a night trek in abominable weather which was quite difficult. However, having negotiated the hill now known as Harry's Folly, we managed to find our way to the Administrative party which was commanded by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Thom.** Our next firm base was at a very pleasant camp site at Tubingen, where we managed to fit in some excellent, if cold swimming and an international football match against West Germany, which, despite the previous night's heavy rain, we won 7—4.

On our return trip we had an unscheduled stay with our American friends at Giessen, while our 3-ton vehicle received attention. Fortunately, we all returned to Herford in one piece.

EXERCISE "CORN CRY"

By Captain Michael Ridlington.

The party consisted of 10 trekkers from Comcen 1 Troop, a Radio Detachment commanded by **Lance-Corporal John Collins,** and that renowned cook/driver, **"Sammy" Pavlovic.**

The first phase of the exercise was a trek from Hallschlag in the North Eifel, through the hills along the Luxembourg border

to Trier, the old Roman city on the Moselle. The three patrols, led by **Captain Mike Ridlington, Corporals James Johnstone** and **Roger Viney,** encountered vile weather; **Signalman "Jock" Brownlie,** who before the exercise has assured us that it never rains on the Moselle, was strangely subdued at this time!

This phase was accomplished in three days, and the next two were spent camped near Trier, where with blisters plastered, and clothes dried out, we were able to have a look at the well preserved Roman buildings and archaeological sites, which most of us found to be fascinating.

Both weather and map reading skills improved for the second phase, a series of treks through the hills along the Moselle between Trier and Koblenz. Time was found to spend an evening at the vineyard town of Bernkastel, and the last day was spent at the Laachersee, a very attractive lake not far from the Rhine.

We returned to Herford fitter, poorer, and convinced that the fifty thou. map is completely inaccurate!

R.H.Q.

By Lieutenant Paul Whittaker.

"New Horizon" was a HF Radio exercise, with R.H.Q. based in Oberstdorf in Southern Germany to command and control the Regiment's Adventure Training exercises. We also held medical and L.A.D. reserves and from the amount of times they were called out, it would appear that our men are very healthy and our vehicles somewhat less so.

Our rear link back to Herford was run with remarkable efficiency by **Corporal John Price,** while the adventure training control set was run by **Corporal David Few** and his men. We heard from all the exercises about their appalling weather, how heavily they had lost at football to the locals, how many mountains they had climbed, and all too often, about how short of petrol they were! Perhaps they climbed the mountains in Land Rovers?

At R.H.Q. we had snow, rain, frost, bitterly cold nights and some of the more enterprising among us got on very well with the locals!



R.H.Q. in Oberstdorf—Signalman Terry and Corporal Joe Hutchinson relax off duty

WILL ALL UNITS PLEASE NOTE

In order to avoid the usual postal difficulties just before Christmas, the December issue of "The Wire" will be published on 16th December.

This means that final copy MUST be in the Editor's hands by MONDAY, 11th NOVEMBER.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Graduation Day

THE reviewing officer for our Summer Graduation Parade was **Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Walker, K.C.B., D.S.O.,** G.O.C.-in-Chief, Northern Command.

On an overcast day, 500 spectators watched an excellent parade under the command of **A/T R.S.M. Callaway.** After the parade the College and spectators went to the cinema for the prize-giving and an address by **General Walker.**

In his address, **General Walker** referred to the high standard of drill and turn-out of the parade and stated that, "when sensibly applied steadiness on parade and a decent turn-out helped to attain a high degree of self-discipline." He went on to stress the vital importance of overseas training and said that the intention is to get every major Unit of Army Strategic Command away on an overseas exercise once a year.

General Walker ended by wishing the Senior Term the very best in their future careers.

After lunch the receiving officers and the guests visited the various exhibitions of trade, education and hobbies.

AWARD OF PRIZES

Army Commander's Prize: "For all-round Excellence."
263 A/T R.S.M. Callaway, J. C. (Scott).

Commandant's Prize: "For conduct, discipline and example."
303 A/T S.S.M. Rainer, P. G. (Rawson).

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award: "Best all-round Tradesman of Term."
329 A/T Sharp, T. J. (Phillips).

Colonel Commandant's Award: "Best all-round Soldier/Tradesman of the Term."
266 A/T Sergeant Crabb, G. D. (Phillips).

Prizes Awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee: "To A/T who have made the best use of their opportunities at the College."

Technician Radio:
329 A/T Sharp, T. J. (Phillips). Toolkit.
Technician Radio Relay:
305 A/T Sergeant Martin, R. E. (Scott). Toolkit.
Technician Terminal Equipment:
327 A/T Roberts, D. (Penney). Toolkit.
Telegraph Operator:
303 A/T S.S.M. Rainer, P. G. (Rawson). Toolkit.

TRADE PRIZES

9th Term:
Technician Radio:
266 A/T Sergeant Crabb, G. D. (Phillips).
Technician Radio Relay:
760 A/T Sergeant McKay, J. K. (Phillips).
Technician Terminal Equipment:
262 A/T Corporal Caldwell, D. A. (Phillips).
Telegraph Operator:
168 A/T Smith, P. J. (Scott).

5th Term. Telegraph Operator: (Best Progress).
742 A/T Corporal Stevens, P. T. (Scott).
4th Term: Telegraph Operator. (Best Progress).
085 A/T Rouse, K. (Phillips).

Swimming

Summer term is a busy term in the swimming calendar. It started off with the Quadrangular Games; the less said about that the better.

We then entered a team for the Northern Command Championships and were runners-up in the Inter-Unit team competition and won the 6 x 66 2/3 yards freestyle relay event. This qualifies us for a place in the finals at Aldershot, in September. **A/T Nevill** (Rawson Squadron) excelled himself by winning the individual 880 yards, 440 yards and 220 yards events.

On Monday, 5th August, we held another families' swimming gala. Once again it proved a very successful evening with most success going to Scott Squadron and the Barron family.

15th August was the date fixed for the Royal Signals v. R.A.F. Signals Command swimming match. Although this was during leave, no fewer than six members of the College were in the Corps team. We unfortunately lost the swimming by one point, but gained our revenge by winning the water polo by one goal.

Next term we look forward to **Captain Tatham,** R.A.E.C., joining our ranks and coaching us to greater things.

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment Bulford Camp

Tiltman's tumble

LIVING up to his reputation **Major Hasell** has organised another Hasell's Happy Holiday and taken away a composite Squadron of 80-odd soldiers to Cyprus for a three weeks' exercise. That's Wales, Italy and Cyprus in just about four months. The rest of us had to make do with a fortnight at Weymouth. There we did range classification, B.E. Tests, swimming, canoeing, sailing, abseiling, rock climbing and orienteering. This left only a very little time for socialising, but that little time was well spent. The only casualty was **S.S.I. Tiltman,** our A.P.T.C. Instructor, who, after leaping about like a gazelle showing us how to climb and abseil and various other foolhardy ways of working up a thirst, suffered the indignity of a sprained ankle when jumping over a little ditch. This spot was immediately marked on the training maps as Tiltman's Tumble.

Lots of soldiers got a day out on Stella Lyra, the Corps boat, and the camp now resounds to cries of "Luff up you nit" and "Helms alee," which **Major Jarrett** insists is more nautical than "Lee Oh." **Lieutenant Pritchard,** the sailing master, nearly created an incident when he sailed into Weymouth and was hailed by the Harbourmaster who wanted to know if he knew the harbour. Being told "Oh yes man. Three times this week already I am bringing my little boat in," led this Harbourmaster to think that illegal immigrants were being smuggled in.

For those of you who don't read the *Daily Telegraph* it may be news to hear that a fair number of soldiers are in Ethiopia just now taking part in "The Great Abbai Expedition" (see page 401 for **Lance-Corporal Davidson's** account of this).

This expedition is travelling down the upper reaches of the Blue Nile, through the gorges and cataracts, a journey which so far has never been successfully completed. Amongst the problems they have to face are giant crocodiles, savage hippos, nasty biting insects and the river itself which plunges down through narrow gorges at a pretty fantastic rate of knots. As reported last month we have some men with the expedition whose job it is to maintain communication with the various groups and the base camp and with the U.K. We are glad to report that communications so far have been excellent and that the Press releases have all come through on schedule.

We are settling down now to the normal routine of exercises and training. The cricket team playing their final game this week and the soccer and rugby teams feeling their way. The rugby team in particular has lost a lot of its old stalwarts, but the new blood looks promising. They have a status symbol now, a Major playing in the team. **Major Colman,** the new O.C. of 3 Squadron, is still an active player.

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7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

THE month of August has been notable for two main activities in the Regiment. Firstly, adventure training in the form of Troop and Squadron Camps, and secondly for the many sporting competitions held. It was a pleasant change for most to be away from the normal routine of vehicle and equipment maintenance although this, of course, still continued around the Regiment. However, even with many away the Regiment was still capable of operating in the field. A Regimental exercise was held and the opportunity was taken for personnel to change appointments for the week. Notable was the exchange of officers and men between 2 and 3 Squadrons where some came down from the hills whilst others entered the areas of lesser oxygen. Despite this effort to disrupt the normal routine, the exercise ran smoothly and we were able to entertain some of our German allies at the same time as communicate. It is certain that our allies found their visit not only informative but also enjoyable.

Hockey

During the month we held an Inter-Troop Knock-out Competition for the Thomson Trophy. At the time of writing these notes we have reached the final stage. The teams left in the semi-final of the competition were Alfa, Kilo and Papa Troops together with a team from R.H.Q. and M.T. Both semi-finals proved to be very hard games with Kilo Troop eventually beating Alfa Troop and the team from R.H.Q. and M.T. conquering the Papa Troop team. The final of this competition is to be held in early September and the result of this should appear in the next edition of THE WIRE.

Cricket — Inter-Squadron Knock-out Competition

During the week 19th-24th August an Inter-Squadron Knock-out Competition was held, much on the same lines as the Gillett Cup although there seemed to be less attractive financial benefits to be gained here. The eventual finalists were 5 and H.Q. Squadrons, who fought out a hard game on the Friday afternoon.

H.Q. Squadron batted first and soon showed 5 Squadron that they intended to raise a handsome total for the second team to chase. **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Cochrane** opened the innings. **F. of S. 'Bas' Hassall** showed some good timing when he arrived at the wicket, whilst **Y. of S. Len Green** ran well in the final overs of the 20 allowed for the innings. **Corporal Bert Taylor** and **Lance-Corporal Van Ross** bowled ably and were well supported by the 5 Squadron fielding. 5 Squadron were left to get just over 80 runs in their 20 overs. They soon found that the H.Q. Squadron side intended to keep the runs down with steady bowling and good fielding. The opening batsmen tried to keep the pace going but wickets fell regularly with **F. of S. Hassall** bowling very well. The most unlucky batsman was **Corporal Taylor** who was bowled off bat and pad, after the ball had pitched well in the rough outside the leg stump. This wicket really saw the end of the 5 Squadron batting and H.Q. Squadron went on to dismiss the remaining batsmen fairly easily, to become worthy Squadron champions.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess v. Officers' Mess

This annual 'event' was held on Sunday, 18th August, a cold but dry day. It was noticeable that the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess team were slightly more professional in their outlook to the game than the Officers' team and were well marshalled by **Sergeant Eric Cook,** R.E.M.E. The Officers' team introduced their secret weapon in the form of **Captain George Mileham** but even with this late addition were unable to stave off defeat. **Major Keith Allwright** in his two overs took three wickets at the start of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess innings, but the innings went on to produce the 58 runs required with five wickets still in hand.

Rugby

The rugby season is under way again and since July cricketers dozing on the boundary have been kept awake by the grunting and groaning of overweight forwards and three-quarters painfully shedding the effects of a hot and thirsty summer.

As if this wasn't bad enough an Inter-Troop 7-a-side Competition was held on 10th August under a blue sky and scorching sun. Amid the chinking of half dead Carly bottles and the slurred cheering from those who had already written off the afternoon, the early rounds produced some quite unexpected thrills—all 5ft. 4in. of Headquarters Squadron's **Burton** slicing his way from one end of the field to the other, while **Yeoman McBeath,** having filled both boilers to capacity well before the kick-off, proceeded to raise enough steam to gallop around the field like a young forty-year-old.

When the semi-finals were reached, and the rugby was becoming a little more serious, it became obvious that it would take a very good side to beat Headquarters Squadron who were under the guidance of **Foreman Bass Hassall, Corporal Chris Thompson** and **Lance-Corporal Joe Cagilaba.** In fact they reached the final without conceeding a point and became firm favourites to beat Kilo Troop who had been under heavy siege from long-range penalties by Sierra Troop under **Corporal Bob Dempsey** (now maritally retired). For Headquarters Squadron the final emphasised the old rugby adage that you can't score without the ball, and after running in five quick tries and four conversions Kilo Troop won by 23 points to 6 points, mainly due to the intelligent distribution of **Lance-Corporal Alan James** and the hard running of **Corporal Bert Taylor.**

After the final the cup and prizes were presented by **Lieutenant-General Sir Mervyn Butler,** the Corps Commander, who also presented **Corporal Seci Drika** with his B.A.O.R. Rugby Colours. **Sergeant Keith Zoing** and **Corporal Jock Cairns** have also been awarded their colours but were unable to be present on the day.

We look forward to the 15-a-side game and are training under the joint managership of **Captain Jack Jenkins,** Q (beer and bangers) and **Captain Roger Thompson,** G (jump and thump). With an autumn tour of Holland and Hamburg, and a spring tour to Paris, the season should not lack interest.

Motor-cycle Trials

At the beginning of the month we again entered the Berlin Motor-cycle Trial and were able to carry off three visitors' trophies using, for the first time, our new B.S.A. 350 c.c. B40 machines. **Sergeant Fayers** gained 1st Individual (Expert), **Lieutenant Gordon Davies** 2nd Individual (Expert) and **Lance-Corporal Lloyd** coming a very close 3rd. The 'A' team once against took first place for the Regiment with **Sergeant Fayers, Sergeant Atherly** and **Lance-Corporal Lloyd** representing us.

Berlin was closely followed by the B.A.O.R. Championships held at Munster. This Trial was also the selection test for the Army Championships being held at Leek in September.

The trial was more difficult than had been anticipated with thrills and spills in abundance, but both the machines and the riders stood up well to the gruelling test with the result that again (seventh successive year) the 'A' team, **Sergeant Fayers, Sergeant Atherly** and **Lance-Corporal Lloyd,** became B.A.O.R. champions. **Sergeant Fayers** also took the rose bowl for 2nd Individual Expert.

Now with the Army Championships upon us we are preparing both ourselves and our machines to defend the Gort trophy and the Royal Signals cup.



TRICKY!
Lieutenant Davies negotiating a hazard in the Berlin Brigade Motorcycle Trial



FOR THE SEVENTH SUCCESSIVE TIME
The 'A' Team of 7th Regiment have won the B.A.O.R. Motorcycling Championships for the seventh successive time. Here is Sergeant Fayers receiving a Rose Bowl from Brigadier D. N. Locke, O.B.E.; he gained 2nd Individual Expert. He had previously gained a first in the Berlin Motorcycle Championships. Other members of the team in the photo are Sergeant Atherly (left) and Lance-Corporal Lloyd (centre)

Camps

During the latter part of the month many Troops and Squadrons disappeared from the barracks to seek the sun. Kilo and Papa had luck in deciding to go to Flensburg, whilst Echo Troop found similar fortune when choosing the Rhine Valley. At the time of writing Alfa Troop are leaving for the Mosel Valley and it is hoped that the Regiment's luck will continue. 2 Squadron decided on a Squadron as opposed to two Troop camps and as seen in the following report by their 'man on the spot' they were not as fortunate with the weather:

2 Squadron had an enjoyable if somewhat wet Squadron camp near Lake Constance. After a 14-hour drive to the site, no-one was more surprised than the O.C. to find that all vehicles had eventually arrived.

The highlight of the camp was the Squadron's day trip on the lake, in a steamer, calling on both the Switzerland and German lakeside resorts for liquid refreshments. Everyone seemed in good spirits and an impromptu swim was taken by various senior members of the Squadron in the middle of the lake. Fortunately the skipper turned the boat round and picked up our Officers and some S.N.C.O.s, though he was tempted by some shouts of "leave them behind" from unknown voices —I wonder who?

It is hoped to produce further reports of other camps in future issues of THE WIRE as the other Troops return from their pursuits.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

After the mud and rain of many months 'bushing it' around N.W. Germany, it was a very pleasant change to see all the ladies and gentlemen in their best bibs and tuckers when on 20th July the Mess had a grand dinner night.

Grand it certainly was, with over 180 guests and members sitting down to what turned out to be a first class dinner followed by a tremendously enjoyable evening. All praise to the P.M.C. and his staff.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-Off Parades

A TOTAL of fifty-six recruits passed-off during August at three parades on the 2nd, 16th and 27th August.

The parade on 2nd August was taken by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., Signalman Ravenscroft** was the best recruit of the twenty-six recruits who passed-off under the command of **Lieutenant D. G. McH. Overton. Signalman Ravenscroft** now goes forward to 24th Regiment for training as a Telegraph Operator.



Signalman C. G. Ager

On 16th August, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass,** Commanding Officer of 8th Regiment, was the Inspecting Officer at the Pass-off Parade of recruits of No. 2 Troop. **Signalman Ager,** nominated as Best Recruit intends to fulfil ambitions in the Army that he was unable to fulfil in civilian life. He now goes to 8th Regiment to be trained as a lineman.

On 28th August, the District Commander, **Major-General J. M. D. Ward-Harrison, O.B.E., M.C.,** took his first Pass-off Parade in the Regiment. Recruits of No. 7 Troop supported by Continuation Training Troop, unfortunately did not have the best of summer days, but this did not upset the performance of those on parade.

Presentation of B.E.M. to Band-Sergeant-Major J. Lee by Major-General J. M. D. Ward-Harrison, O.B.E., M.C.



The presentation of the B.E.M. to Band Sergeant Major J. Lee

During the Parade the District Commander presented the British Empire Medal to **Band Sergeant-Major Joseph Lee. Band-Sergeant-Major Lee** joined the Army in 1949, and has been with the Corps Band for 18 years. It was indeed a proud occasion for the Corps and **Band Sergeant-Major Lee.** Our sincerest congratulations go to him.

Ladies' Night—21st August

A Ladies' Dinner Night was held in the Officers' Mess on 21st August, 1968. The evening was a great success and our thanks must go to the Corps dance band for making it go so well.

Major and Mrs. D. A. L. Charles were officially dined out on this occasion. **Lieutenant-Colonel C. O. Bound,** in a short speech, thanked **Major Charles** for all his hard work as Second-in-Command over the past eighteen months, and payed tribute to **Mrs. Charles** for all the sterling work she has done as a teacher, at the local junior school, and as a member of the Wives' Club. **Major Charles** is not travelling very far. The Regiment has managed to infiltrate him into that esteemed organisation known as Brigade Headquarters, and we wish him luck in his new role as Brigade Major.

Regimental Swimming Gala—22nd August

The Regimental swimming gala, having been postponed on a stormy July day, was held on a sunny hot August afternoon.

The competition produced a keen afternoon's sport, although the effects of the ladies' night did not improve the performance of those officers taking part.

Mrs. Bound kindly presented the winning competitors with the prizes, 2 Squadron winning the inter-Squadron trophy.

Lance-Corporal Lee

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Lee** who has passed R.C.B. and now goes forward to Mons Officer Cadet School on 19th September. No doubt he will link up with **Officer Cadets**

Cooper, Rutherford, Hussey, Dowdle and **Jeffris** (all ex O.R. 1 Troop), who have just started their first term at R.M.A. Sandhurst.

Departures

This month we said farewell to **Lieutenants Don Overton, Alan Jackman** and **Peter Smith,** who leave the relaxed atmosphere of the Regiment for two years' hard and frustrating work on a T.E. course. **Lieutenant Ernie Summers,** our attached 'Red Devil,' has departed for B.A.O.R. **Sergeant Jones** has left for a second career in civvy street. We wish them all good luck in the future.

Arrivals

Reverend A. C. Stockbridge, our new Padre; **Lieutenant J. P. Hayes** from 11 Brigade; **Lieutenant I. C. Double** from the School of Signals; **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Gill,** for his second tour in the Regiment; **Staff Sergeant Purdy** from 249 Squadron; **Corporals Peel, Tuplin** and **Urry** who have joined 1 Squadron; **Lance-Corporal Broad** and **Lance-Corporal Minter,** the former going to the gymnasium and the latter to Weapon Training Wing. A sincere welcome to them all.

13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

Visits

NO, not inspecting officers this time. Members of the Regiment were invited to take part in a smoker evening with 227 Squadron AFCENT, in Maastricht, Holland, during July. The hospitality received from **Major Gordon Hickman** and his merry men was excellent, and many games of snooker, crib, table tennis, darts, football (table size) and skittles were played. A special scoring system was designed, using a miniature computer (F. of S. brain) and a slide rule, and we congratulate 227 on winning a fine evening's entertainment.

We sincerely hope **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Postlethwaite's** damaged arm will be back in use for the return match early in September.

Regimental Tennis Tournament

The opening match was mixed doubles between **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Palmer** and **Sergeant Graham Adlington,** partnered by **Lance-Corporal Jill Sanders,** W.R.A.C.: this produced the first upset of the meeting with the latter pair emerging worthy winners by 6—2, 6—3, after an hour's entertaining play which set the day off to a good start.

Following the lunch break, play was resumed with the men's singles match between **Staff Sergeant Dennis Wilson** and **Sergeant Adlington.** This match did not quite produce the the fireworks that were expected. **Staff Sergeant Wilson** was forced into playing a defensive game by the usual aggressive tactics and hard hitting of **Sergeant Adlington.** He retrieved shots which appeared to be certain winners and the spectators were shown some first-class tennis. The final result was, however, never seriously in doubt and **Sergeant Adlington** won in straight sets, 6—2, 6—0.

The marathon match of the day was undoubtedly the ladies' singles between **Mrs. Palmer** and **Mrs. Willars,** which lasted over two hours. **Mrs. Palmer** finally won 4—6, 6—4, 7—5. The men's doubles, traditionally the last match of the day produced the second upset with **Lieutenant-Colonel Palmer** and **Major Nick Williams** beating the much fancied partnership of **W.O.I (R.S.M.) McLoughlin** and **Sergeant Adlington,** 3—6, 6—3, 6—1. Some inspired volleying and team work enabled the winners to stage a strong come-back after being a set down and produced what was probably the best tennis of the day. The prizes were presented by **Mrs. Yvonne Rogers,** wife of the Second-in-Command, and brought to an end an excellent day's tennis, admirably umpired by **Staff Sergeant Tony Orrell,** and thoroughly enjoyed by the large number of spectators.

Boxing—1,000 Years' Celebration

Included in the nine days festivities of the nearby Dutch village of Weert, celebrating its 1,000th year as a village, was an invitation boxing match.



BEATEN BUT CHEERFUL
Sergeant Adlington and R.S.M. McLoughlin were happy runners-up in the unit tennis

SOMEBODY HOLDING?
Lance-Corporal Neil Harvey mixes it with an opponent from the Royal Netherlands Air Force in local village celebrations

Lance-Corporal Neil Harvey was invited by the organisers to take part in a heavyweight contest. **Harvey** had far greater punching power than his giant of an opponent from the Royal Nederlands Air Force, who was floored three times before the referee stopped the fight in the second round. Well done **Harvey,** who has been the Rhine Area heavyweight champion for the last two years.

Stop Press

No report from 13th Regiment would be complete without mention of golf. The Regimental team of **Corporal Milne, Lieutenant-Colonel Palmer, Corporal Skinner** and **Major Williams** have just won their way into the semi-finals of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Knockout competition by beating 5th Field Regiment Royal Artillery in the third round.

Morrison Cup—Athletics

The Regimental team finished sixth in the Morrison Cup meeting at Sennelager, where several members of our team broke existing records.

Lance-Corporal Oxley had a fine long jump of 20ft. 7½in., and followed it the next day by breaking the high jump record by clearing 6ft. Our 4 x 120 hurdles team, consisting of **Lieutenant Cowan, Lance-Corporals Neilson, Oxley** and **Signalman Graham Dinsdale,** broke the record with a fine time of 1min. 13.9sec.

The team went on the Rhine Area meeting where they finished third, and again broke some of the existing records.

We are very pleased to report that **Lance-Corporal Colin Oxley** for his high jump prowess, has been selected as a member of the Army team against the R.A.F. in Germany.

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Vive La Sport

18th Regiment basks happily on the sunshine island of the Far East. It is hardly any wonder that in addition to all the communicating we do, we earn spurs at sport as well. This month we feature athletics, football, cricket and sailing.

Since our last notes the Regiment has contributed two athletes to the Army and Combined Services' teams in **Lance-Corporal Abdullah,** long jump and triple jump, and **Signalman Hosannah,** who represented both Army and the Combined Services in the 400 metres race in their meetings against Singapore A.A.A.

Football on the island was well served by the Regiment. The season here runs from March to August and regimental players with Army honours were **Lance-Corporal Sutherland,** of the Comcen Troop, 1 Squadron, who played 10 times despite a mid-season illness, and captained the Army side on occasions, and **Lance-Corporal Watts,** also of Comcen Troop, who appeared on six occasions in Army colours. Our three league teams went through a period of changeover of members and did no more than hold their positions, but manager **Captain Gus Kelly** has high hopes for next season. Nearer the heart and mind of most of us was the very active and hard-fought Inter-Troop Soccer League run by **Captain Toby Seymour.** The season finished with a cup knock-out for a trophy presented by the Commanding Officer, and with a plate competition for those teams eliminated in the first round.

The Anderson Cup final was reported as having the highest standard of football seen this season on Dover Road Stadium—the home ground of the Army side! Admin Troop beat M.T. Troop in an all-H.Q. Squadron final before an enthusiastic and sometimes partisan crowd. It is to the Regiment's credit that the majority of the 70-odd games in league and cups were controlled by qualified referees within the Regiment, namely **Major Roberts, W.O.II Meekings, Staff-Sergeant Studd, Sergeant de la Mare** (of 249 Squadron) and two newly qualified referees in **Corporal Easton** and **Signalman Paton,** of 3 Squadron.

The cricket team had a lighthearted season, thoroughly enjoying all their fixtures and deliberately refusing to tell this scribe how many matches they had won—or was it lost? However, they played to a draw on three occasions, doubtless when **Corporal Seales,** 1 Squadron, or **Captain Ovenden** were playing for the Army side. The highlight of the season without any doubt was the Officers v. W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess match, which was an excellent excuse to gather under a marquee and tell stories one rainy afternoon.

Sailing is a compulsive hobby in the Far East. The Regiment has recognised the urge which drives people to mess



THE ANDERSON CUP WINNERS
Admin Troop Team: *Back Row: Left to Right:*—Lance-Corporal Ismail, Staff-Sergeant Pfeiffer, Corporal Fernandez, Major Bird, Lieutenant Kemp, S.S.M. McGilvray, Corporal Dove, Lance-Corporal Mohd Nor and Sergeant Hewitt
Front Row:—Signalman Lim, Corporal Hussain, Lieutenant Patterson, Signalman Zakaria, Corporal Zakaria and Lance-Corporal Abdullah

about in small boats in the form of three regimental sailing courses, run by our Second-in-Command, **Major Mark Barker.** They were eminently successful, since the Second-in-Command and the Quartermaster (General), **Major Peter Johnstone,** the other guiding light, could boast of 36 newly active helmsmen at the end of it all. The courses themselves were at their most hilarious when we were "practising" capsize drill, or were grim-faced and earnest on the first day, frantically trying out our hands in a stiff breeze whilst sitting in boats firmly mounted on trolleys on the Army Yacht Club hardstanding. But for the "advanced" sailors, we have "Brigand." Five groups of soldiers from the Regiment and 237 and 249 Squadrons have recently gone "adventure training" up the East coast of the Malay Peninsula in this beautiful craft, and received instruction in life at sea and basic navigation. In August the party was taken by **Captain Chris Blessington,** who has now left us for 16th Regiment.

All Points East

Some persons make the mistake of considering our 3 Squadron as a mere static training organisation, but the Officer Commanding, **Major David Lycett-Gregson,** altered that image recently by sending 36 of his men in three groups for a fortnight at a time, covering six weeks, to Sabah to support Singapore Guard Regiment by operating A 13s and C 13s. Not only that, but they had to soldier too! The two significant stories that I have heard are that during the operations two vehicles were badly damaged. The first, predictably, whilst being loaded aboard in Singapore harbour! The second, when a driver rounded a Sabah mountain corner to find a water buffalo in his path. He thought quickly and elected to drive into the ditch. His mental arithmetic was proved correct, since the N.M. and D. report quoted £43 10s., whereas to a Sabah-type a water buffalo costs the economic equivalent of £ mercedes 300!

Stamping and Shouting

The dust is now settled, but it is worth recording that we have an Inter-Squadron competition every six months. During the last period points were awarded for the assault course competition, the percentage of marksmen, first class and second class shots in the annual classification, and the percentage passes in annual P.E. tests. The entire Regiment waited until Officer Commanding 2 Squadron, **Major Ron Roberts,** had gone on leave and then had a parade to present his Squadron the lance for winning the competition. (Well, that is his story, and only because he enjoys parades!).

The same parade served to record the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to **Staff-Sergeant Loh Low Bah** and **Signalman Sultan Bin Haji Ibrahim.**

How 19th Signal Regiment tackles the Job

Introduction

WE thought that, once in a while, it would not be a bad thing for your readers to know some of the characteristics of a particular Regiment. When you are posted to us, we will tell you more!

Role and Org

To state that our task is to provide landline communications for the Far East Air Force does little to reveal the full extent of our responsibilities. In Singapore alone, the Royal Air Force has four major stations; at Changi, Seletar, Tengah and Bukit Gombak: the latter being a Radar, Radio Relay and Tropo-Scatter Site. In addition, there are several smaller sites. Outside Singapore there are R.A.F. stations at Penang (Western Hill) and on Gan Island. The Royal Australian Air Force has a base at Butterworth, in Northern Malaya. At all these locations, 19th Regiment has Troops or Detachments. During confrontation we had detachments at the Borneo bases of Kuching, Tawau and Labuan.

To administer this far-flung empire we have a H.Q. Squadron and two Communicating Squadrons. No. 1 Squadron comprises the troops located on Singapore Island. No. 2 Squadron administers the outstations and supports the R.A.F. in contingency operations.

The Men

The Regiment has a very high proportion of technicians, both British and locally enlisted. Our technicians are veritable "Jacks of all trades," as you will see when the equipment they look after is described. The hierarchy of "super-techs" comprising three officers (**Captain M. Y. Miller, Captain (T.O.T.) J. D. Baker** and **Captain (T.O.T.) R. C. Boulter**), and six Foremen of Signals (**Messrs. Milton, Shakeshaft, Chambers, Fison, Hill** and **Thornbury**).

Our linemen, too, are both British and locally enlisted. Besides being expert at lead joints, they are also versed in the latest epoxy resin puttee techniques for joining underground polythene cables.

The Equipment

The military underground cable network in Singapore is vast. The main (trunk) underground network is controlled by our sister Regiment, 18th Regiment. As many of our inter-station circuits are carried on these cables, there is close co-operation between us. We, ourselves, have the task of maintaining several thousand miles of cable on the R.A.F. Stations. These range from Japanese cables installed during World War II to the latest polythene types.

To assist in the maintenance of our auto exchanges we have two technical officers attached from the General Post Office (**Mr. McGurk** and **Mr. Sterrett**). The auto-exchanges in Singapore are STC equipment, whilst that in Gan Island was made by Siemens. A recent project undertaken by the Regiment was the installation of a Siemens Cross bar exchange at R.A.A.F. Butterworth. We believe that this is the first time that Royal Signals technicians have undertaken such a task. **Foreman Chambers** was in charge of the work under the supervision (very occasional!) of a German engineer. In contrast, we have recently overhauled an ancient 5+20/25 manual switchboard, which now gleams resplendant in a new coat of varnish like some upright Victorian piano. If anyone has any spare brass candlesticks . . . .

Many and varied are the other equipments we maintain, telephones (over 1,300 at Changi alone), crash alarms, teletalks, master clocks, audio repeaters and telegraph equipment to mention but a few. One of the most interesting is the telebrief equipment. This allows various agencies to talk to the pilot of a fighter aircraft by landline, whilst he sits in the cockpit on the ground. The connection is made to the aircraft via a snatch lead which pulls away as the aircraft starts to taxi.

System Control

The operational efficiency and safety of aircraft depend on our efficient communications. Response to faults, and changing requirements must therefore be quick. To achieve this we maintain a continuous watch at all the key points in the system, and many of our men, technicians and linemen alike, work in shifts. Our main system control in Changi is run by **Sergeant Rex,** who is kept very busy, not only in keeping the R.A.F. happy, but liaising with 18th Regiment and the Singapore Telephone Board with both of whom we enjoy excellent relations.

The Future

Our prospects (until 1971!) are very bright indeed. We are taking over from the R.A.F. the complex Radio Relay (microwave) network on Singapore Island, and a Tropo-Scatter link from Singapore to Penang. We already have many technicians working on these systems and the numbers increase month by month. Our advice to any technician posted to 19th Regiment: study everything from the Tele "J" to Multi-Channel Tropo equipment with auto telephony thrown in for good measure! Also, whatever trade you have (and we do have clerks, storemen, EDs, drivers and G.D. men as well!), do not forget your bathing dress, hockey stick, football boots, running spikes, and a copious supply of tranquilisers and Alka Seltzer.

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

Departure of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. W. G. Neilson

THIS month **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. W. G. Neilson** left the regiment after a tour of two-and-three-quarter years.

The last few days (and nights) of the Commanding Officer's tour proved to be quite a test of stamina for him. He was dined out by the officers of the regiment, an occasion added to by the presence of **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** C.A.F.S.O., and **Group Captain K. Stevens, M.A.,** the Station Commander, Laarbruch. He was, of course, reminded of the 'highs' and 'lows' of his time with the regiment (for the 'highs' the reader is referred to the last 33 editions of THE WIRE—for the 'lows' C.A.F.S.O. is the best authority!).

Having taken farewell of his Officers, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants claimed him and dined him out in magnificent style, the evening culminated with a group of Arab slaves towing him off on a Saudi Arabia float to his staff car to the strains of 'Queen Ferida.' Finally with his car *loaded* — L.A.D. reaction: "Impossible"—every available man at Laarbruch gave him a rousing cheer to speed him on his way.

In all this hustle and bustle **Mrs. Neilson** was not forgotten. The Wives' Club gave a farewell dinner in her honour and took this last opportunity of showing their gratitude for all she has done, both for individuals and for the regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Neilson was liked and respected by every man in the regiment and Mrs. Neilson charmed us all. They will be remembered with affection by everyone, both Army and Air Force. We wish them every happiness and success in their new appointment.

Arrival of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. N. A. Butler

The reins of command were taken up by **Lieutenant-Colonel N. A. Butler** who spent his first week with the regiment in a whirlwind tour of his Air Formation parish.

We welcome him and **Mrs. Butler** and wish them an interesting and pleasant tour with the regiment.

L.A.D. R.E.M.E. news

On Tuesday, 6th August, the L.A.D., supported by two men from M.T. Troop and one man from M Troop, were knocked out in the final of the Inter-Troop Knockout Cricket Tournament by L Troop. It was a close-run match with L Troop scoring the winning run with eight wickets down and only seven balls to play.

Also 'knocked out' a few weeks ago on Saturday, 13th July, was **Craftsman Peter Greenough** who married **Miss Ann-Marie Fitzgerald** in the Camp's R.C. Church. The groom was ably assisted by **Lance-Corporal 'Tich' Chapman** as 'the best man' and the bride was given away by **R.S.M. Cantle,** who kindly offered his services at the last moment when the bride's father,

(*Continued on page* 393)

(*Continued from page* 392)

R.Q.M.S. Fitzgerald, R.E.M.E., was unable to attend due to his demob and future employment interviews. The happy couple left the Church under a cloud—large, black and providing the lightning—whilst eight members of the L.A.D. provided the Guard of Honour holding extra large hammer and pincers, by courtesy of **Lance-Corporal 'Tanky' Pearce.** The reception was held in the Malcolm Club where **Sergeant Jones** had prepared a superb cold chicken buffet.

L.A.D. successes are a third place in the British Forces Gliding Championships by **Corporal Dave Pretlove.** This is an exceptionaly fine achievement by Dave, who only took up gliding 18 months ago, flew an inferior glider and was able to beat all his fellow R.A.F. Laarbruch Club 'pundits.' One of the pundits was **Corporal Terry Brown,** also of the L.A.D., who came seventh. We and the gliding club will miss them both when they leave us in September.

Arrivals

Captain and Mrs. Greatrix, Captain and Mrs. Siderfin and **Lieutenant Buckley** all joined the regiment this month. We wish them a happy tour with Air Formation Signals.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O 16

August has been Adventure Training month, seeing the culmination of months of planning by Troop Commanders who at the beginning of the year had been given the task of organising independent exercises for their men, to take place in August, and to aim at developing initiative and leadership as well as providing an enjoyable change from signalling. Most Troops have now returned to Lippstadt and a short account of some of their activities follows.

Gliding in the Rhineland

As mentioned last month, **Lieutenant Hood** (2 Squadron) planned a gliding camp for two weeks, based on R.A.F. Laarbruch. The party consisted of two Officers, three junior N.C.O.s and five Signalmen. Some very welcome assistance was obtained from R.A.F. personnel at Laarbruch and Bruggen, who provided the necessary expertise on the winches. For the first week the German gliding club strip at Wissel was used, but due to the weather and the marginal dimensions of the field only dual instruction was possible. During the second week the civilian club field at Wesel was used, and the improved conditions, not least the weather, enabled six of the course to go solo as the first step towards their A and B certificates. The remaining four students are not far from their first solo and will qualify after a few more weekends' practice. These two weeks saw 40 hours' flying and were a very satisfying experience for all concerned.

Canoeing from Border to Border

An assorted party from H.Q. Squadron, consisting of three R.E.M.E. fitters, four drivers, three clerks, a Mess waiter, two operators and the Q.S.M.I., and led by **Lieutenant Tilson,** set out to see the countryside from a different angle. Their aim was to traverse the North German Plain by canoe from the eastern border to the Dutch border, using the canal system. Preparation started in late July at the local lake, the Margaretensee, under the guidance of **Lance-Corporal Wood,** and the budding canoeists soon learned there was more to it than they had imagined. The expedition started at Wolfsberg, and in daily stages of between 20 and 25 miles they covered the 200 miles of waterways to their objective in just under two weeks. The route was the Mitteland canal, which conveniently runs east to west, and took them through Braunschweig, Hannover, Minden and Osnabruck, before finally stopping a short distance from the Dutch border. As most of the party had not canoed before the choice of the canal system was appropriate, and although the water was slack the presence of barges served to keep everyone alert.

Rock Climbing in Bavaria

Second-Lieutenant Lovatt and 35 members of 2 Squadron camped near the Mimsee, in the Rosenheim area, for two weeks. The activities included sailing, canoeing and swimming, but the main aim was an introduction to rock climbing. For this they were fortunate to have the services of Feldwebel Rolf Miller, a climbing expert from a local Bundeswehr unit, who introduced most of the party to the delights of hanging on to bits of slimy rock with the fingernails. The reactions of the victims varied from highly enthusiastic to downright dubious, but all seemed to have acquired a sense of achievement.



"They were introduced into the dubious delights of hanging on to bits of slimy rock by the fingertips"

A party from 2 Squadron 22nd Regiment who went rock climbing in Bavaria. In the centre of the group Feldwebel Rolf Miller, a climbing expert from a local Bundeswehr unit

Poor weather curtailed some of the planned activities, but some visits were made to places of interest, which included Dachau and the inevitable brewery. **Foreman Braniff** and **Sergeant Sage** set off to see the famous "Eagles Nest" at Berchtesgaren, but finished in a salt mine. Dressed in the traditional salt miner's clothing of yesteryear, they were taken on a highly interesting tour of a mine still in production after 450 years. The tour included a film of the history of rock salt mining, and they were shown salt replicas of the Bavarian crown jewels of the last century.

Adventure Training in Sauerland

Unfortunately, 1 Squadron's plans for a period of attachment to the American Special Forces' camp at Bad Tolz had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour and instead an adventure training camp was established on the Biggersee, some 70 miles from Lippstadt. Training included survival and evasion exercises, cross-country navigation by night and elementary field engineering—this last subject producing the hairiest moment of all when **Captain Wilson** had the dubious honour of being the first to cross the bridge that had been built.

Stop Press

Two Troops are now on their way back from independent expeditions to Denmark; too late, unfortunately, for an account of their experiences to be included.

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

THE month of August has seen a facelift for 24th Signal Regiment's R.H.Q. Gardeners using motor-mowers, forks and potted plants, and other workmen wielding hammers, saws and nails, have transformed R.H.Q. into quite the showplace of the Regiment. However, before the work was completed, the R.H.Q. staff were bombarded with the cacophony of cement mixers, lawn mowers and the rhythmic sound of hammer and nail which, for all their insistence, did not interrupt the running of R.H.Q., though it did fray some nerves. The C.O. arrived back from two weeks' leave in France to find that once again the Regiment had won the inter-unit gardening competition and that his H.Q. was fitted with a new covered entrance and new roof.

Brigade Commander visits Adventure Training

On 21st August, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** visited the unit's adventure training camp at Ullswater. He inspected the camp site and then visited the rock face where W.R.A.C. trainees, Driver and Comcen Operator Trainees were climbing and abseiling. After watching for a while the Brigadier decided to have a go. Though this caused some tense moments for the adventure training staff (they have never dropped a Brigadier) he successfully scaled the rock face and also had a go at abseiling. He seemed very impressed with what he saw, though he complained of some stiffness the following day.

Sport

2 Squadron have been taking the limelight this month in the sporting field. They beat 2 Squadron, 8th Regiment, to win their section of the Football Summer League.

In the Regimental Six-a-Side Hockey Tournament, 2 Squadron again took first place, though the W.R.A.C. team nearly shamed them and took a fine second place. It did look at times as though the W.R.A.C. were settling some old scores, as they attacked without fear, wielding hockey sticks at ball or shin with "St. Trinian" like vigour.

2 Squadron's third win came in the Regimental Combat Race, held on 7th September. Sixteen teams of four men were required to complete 15 hazards on a 2½-mile course in a set time. The hazards were designed to test military skills, agility and endurance, and included weapon assembly, scramble nets, balance planks, tent erection, 19ft. wall and barbed-wire tunnel. The 2 Squadron team, consisting of **Corporal Westwood, Signalman Tovey, Lance-Corporal Friedman** and **Signalman Hudson,** completed the course in the fast time of 42 minutes, with very high scores on all the hazards. A very fine effort.

(Owing to space pressure, we have reluctantly had to hold over an article on the Motor Cycle Display Team until the next issue).

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Regimental Week

WE are again in the throes of Regimental Week (where has that year gone?). This year a slightly changed format as we have decided to dispense with the athletics meeting and hold a sports tournament instead. Only one cheese and wine party is to be held as our friends from industry have moved to the 'School' with the Trials Squadron, "gone but not forgotten."

Arrivals and departures

This month we have seen the arrival of **Captain Rex Roberts** from Zambia, **Major Tom Hipperson** from B.D.L.S. South Africa, and **Major Fred Thirkell** from Singapore, and the return from the 'Q' Course of **Lieutenants Mike Baxter, Rodney Dransfield** and **Chris Greig.**

We have said farewell to **Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Weech** who has left the Army after 39 years' service for a civilian job with N.A.T.O., and to **Captain David Insall** who was last heard of clutching a salmon to his breast, the misguided beast having taken him for a waterfall; we wish them both well. (**Colonel Charles** and **David,** of course, the salmon is no longer with us).

Cricket

The Regimental cricket team has had quite a successful season, even though the weather was unkind on a number of occasions.

Consistent performances were given by **Corporal Willock, Signalman Drummond, Lance-Corporals Worrell** and **Spence** throughout the season. **Lance-Corporal Worrell** has been a regular member of both the Army and the Corps teams and his achievements have already been mentioned elsewhere in THE WIRE. **Lance-Corporal Spence** and **Signalman Green** have also featured often in Corps matches.

The Regiment retained the Langbourne Cricket Cup, as a result of winning the triangular tournament against local teams. The highlight of this competition was the scoring of 40 runs by **Lance-Corporals Worrell** and **Spence** from two consecutive overs!

Tennis

Lance-Corporal Dunster was the runner-up in the singles event at the Corps Championships at Salisbury in the first week in August. Partnering **Captain Siderfin,** from the School of Signals, he won the open doubles event.

Rugby

Lance-Corporal Thompson and **Signalman Drew** have been selected to participate in the County Rugby Trials later this month and we hope they are successful in playing for the county.

Exercises

In case readers get the impression that it is all play and no work in this Regiment, exercise commitments involve large numbers from the Regiment, who are to be deployed in Germany, Libya, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Norfolk and the Mull of Kintyre.

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 you 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.

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The island of Pulau Tioman just off the east coast of Malaya. It was here that many of the scenes for the film "South Pacific" were made. Remember the song: "Bali Hai-Your other Island" from this musical?
A Corps party on adventure training found the island somewhat different in fact; it involved them in a hard, tough struggle through thick wet jungle and over mountanous terrain, to achieve their objective of crossing the island.

Shades of 'South Pacific'

By W.O.II Ross

of

19th Regiment

ARE you one of the historical characters who can remember that epic of stage and screen, 'South Pacific'? The filming took place not in Bali but on the island Pulau Tioman, just off the East Coast of Malaya. We decided that a visit there had the promise of romance and adventure and that we wanted a break from routine anyway.

I (S.S.M. 1 Squadron) headed a party comprising **Staff Sergeants Shamsuddin** (1 Squadron S.Q.M.S.), **Abd. Rahim** (Q.M. Troop), **Sergeants Mohd. Yunos** (H.Q. Squadron), **Roberts** (P.T.I.), **Fountain** (Tech.-Microwave Troop), **Beckett** (Armourer), **Cowley** (Tech.-Microwave Troop), **Noordin** (Orderly Room Sergeant) and **Corporal Yahaya** (Pay Office) from our multi-racial Regiment.

First we motored from Singapore to Mersing on the East Malaysian Coast where we boarded a small boat for the trip to Pulau Tioman. The voyage took approximately four hours. The landing point on the island was at the small village of Genting on the West Coast. We arrived at about 4.00 p.m. and began unloading our stores from the boat—this involved wading ashore for 100 yards! Camp was set up on the beach and preparations for our first outdoor meal were soon well in hand. We surveyed the area and learned from the villagers about tracks on the island. They were sceptical when we told them of our plans. They told us that the island had never been crossed from this point and that no tracks existed. After checking the mountain side, which was steep and covered with thick jungle, I decided that to attempt an ascent would be difficult and dangerous. Time was also against us and the only way open was to follow a mountain track northwards up the coast to Kampong Tekek, and then to cross the island to Kampong Juara at that point following a jungle track.

80lbs. per man haversack weight

On Wednesday morning we struck camp and split up the stores and rations amongst the ten of us. When fully loaded each man was carrying approximately 80lbs. in his haversack, and this proved exhausting on the slopes. We left Kampong Genting and started out along the beach, following a trail pointed out to us by the headman of the village. We kept to the beach for quarter-mile then had to turn inland. The trail led along a mountainside up a slope of one in two, covered with banana and coconut trees which later degenerated into thick jungle. On our way up, a Malay appeared from thin air and assumed the position of guide for this part of the journey. We had to climb to 800 feet before descending to a Kampong Paya. According to the map Paya was three-quarters-mile from our starting point but the journey took us three hours! On arrival at Paya everyone was exhausted, and a long rest and a change in plan was indicated. I contacted the local fishermen and managed to hire five sampans to take our kit up the coast to Kampong Tekek, which was another five miles up the coast. **Corporal Yahaya** was sent with the sampans as escort. With hearts and shoulders considerably lighter, we continued our journey through a coconut grove and round a swamp, before taking once more to the hills. Carrying emergency kit only, we were able to cover the five miles to Tekek in about two-and-a-half hours.

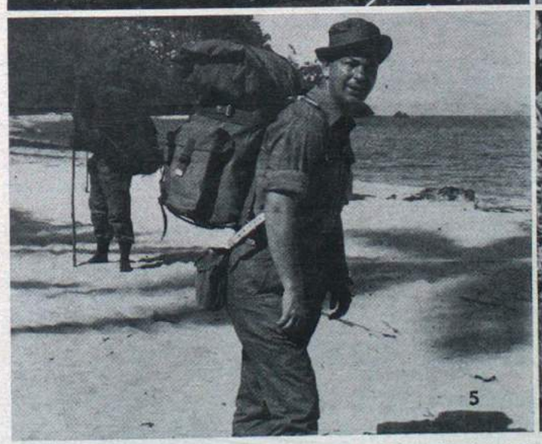
But a Corps party found there was nothing romantic on the island of Palau Tioman where 'South Pacific' was filmed — and these pictures show why













1. **Getting ashore. The party had to wade 100 yards with their equipment to get to dry land** (*"Bali Hai—she'll call you"*
2. **That little obstacle over the party assembled ready to start on the journey across the island—***"Your other island . . ."*
3. **A pole crossing through the thick wet jungle : Left to Right:—Sergeant Roberts, Sergeant Rahim and W.O.II (S.S.M.) Ross** *"I'll stand on my little flat feet and say: I'm in love, I'm in love . . ."*
4. **The party had to negotiate numerous jungle swamps like this** *"I'm gonna wash this . . . right out of my hair"*
5. **W.O.II Ross, leader of the expedition and the writer of the article. Is he looking for those dames** *"There's nothing quite like a dame"*
6. **Hardly** *"One enchanted evening"* **for this member of the party who is finding the going so tough that he is in danger of leaving his hat behind**

The physical training expert gets a fitness test

At Tekek we found **Corporal Yahaya** installed at his ease in the local community hall which the headman had loaned to us for the night. This village boasted a police post, dispensary, school, and four small shops, one of which owned a refrigerator, from which we obtained our first (and last) cold drink on Tioman. That evening **Sergeant Roberts** (our physical fitness expert) stubbed his toe on a rock and split the nail. **Sergeant Beckett** and myself tended him and, much to his dismay, pronounced him fit to continue in the morning. On the same evening I was also able to arrange for our heavy kit to be taken by sea to Kampong Juara, our final destination on the east coast of the island.

Difficult going

We loaded our kit on to the boat next morning and **Staff Sergeant Rahim** and **Sergeant Noordin** escorted it to Juara to make arrangements for our arrival. Headed by **Staff Sergeant Shamsuddin,** we then began to trek across the island and over the mountain. The lowlands, as we started, provided us with our first taste of jungle fruits—mango and jambu. The first part of the climb was difficult because the area was being cleared of jungle and was littered with fallen trees. **Staff Sergeant Shamsuddin** performed miracles in keeping to the track and, at the end of the cleared area, we were only ten yards from the beginning of the jungle trail. The going along this trail was much easier, but the slope was still one in two. At the top of the pass we had a welcome rest at a mountain pool, where we cooled off and replenished our water supply. We continued over a comparatively level stretch of thick wet jungle; the extreme dampness was because the area is usually in cloud during the day.

The downward journey proved much easier as we encountered a road built by the Royal Engineers a long time ago; it is now partly overgrown and washed away. This side of the mountain was almost clear of jungle and appeared to have been fairly intensively cultivated in the past.

" . . . . muttering darkly about ghosts "

On arrival at Juara we met up with **Rahim** and **Noordin,** who had prepared a much needed brew of tea. The village headman had been approached and all was in order for our stay at the village. We camped near a cemetery, which caused some consternation to **Staff Sergeant Rahim** and **Sergeant Yunos,** who muttered darkly about ghosts. For two hours the party busied itself in the jungle collecting poles to make bashas. The prize of originality must go to **Sergeant Roberts** who produced something resembling a pagoda and insisted that it was very comfortable. (He changed his mind after the first night!). Then we all enjoyed a dip in the sea.

We spent four days at Juara. Small parties made expeditions into the jungle and we familiarised ourselves with the area. The sea was in great demand and a number of live sea-shells was collected. These produced a revolting smell and eventually had to be buried.

In dire need of fresh food

We were in dire need of fresh food to supplement our compo rations and discovered, to our horror, that there was little food for sale in the village's two shops. Staff Sergeant Shamsuddin, however, negotiated the purchase of eggs and fish and proved adept at cooking anything edible. He made a delicious dish from a small shark caught by Sergeant Fountain and another from ' umbut ' (the inside of a coconut tree).

On Monday evening we collected fruits to take home with us and this introduced another complication. Durian was plentiful and our Malayan brothers made the most of it. Durian smells strongly. Durian stinks. Eating durian has been described as akin to having strawberries and cream in a badly kept public lavatory.

Superhuman feats . . . .

We left Juara and Tioman at 8.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 2nd July, after a week which had proved to be a valuable experience to us all. It had been a hard, tough, rough struggle involving superhuman feats of endurance but we had managed to overcome titanic obstacles to achieve our goal. It was good military training and not a jolly. It really was not in lieu of leave. Unfortunately the Commanding Officer remains unconvinced. He is a hard, tough, rough man!

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The Trainer's Tale

☆

A personal account of 18th Signal Regiment Exercise "Evergreen VII"

By Captain C. D. A. Blessington



CAMP SITE

On the edge of a white sand beach amid an open palm tree area, backed by hilly jungle—an ideal setting

First impressions

MY legs dangled in space. The slip-stream tugged at my ankles. A pull on the small of my back assured me that the safety-belt was tight and secure. From the doorway of the Belvedere, I could see the sea, two hundred feet below. Four of us were on the way to do a preliminary mainland recce for this year's Exercise "Evergreen." **Captain C. W. Palmer, M.B.E.,** and **Sergeant Davidson** crowded the rear doorway, whilst **Staff Sergeant Gilder** peered over my shoulder at the sea below. The water on the east coast of Malaysia is shallow and crystal clear, Numerous sharks, sting-rays, and turtles were easily identified and indicated with wildly-excited gesticulations. We swept up the coast, keeping the coral white ribbon of beach a hundred yards to port. An hour and forty minutes after leaving Dover Road in Singapore, we were circling the lading behind the beach at Tanjong Ru, nineteen miles south of Mersing.

Choosing a navigational route

The main exercise in this year's camp was to be a jungle navigation exercise. We were to recce a route from the coast to the Mersing/Kota road through the Tengarroh Forest Reserve. This particular stretch of jungle had not been explored for fifteen years and some of it never at all. We could expect an abundance of wild game, and no tracks.

This route proved to be particuarly tough, and Bukit Twiss, a mere 745 feet high, sported some ferocious jungle on its ridge line. Ravines plunged vertically from this ridge. Our tumbling bodies had scrabbled for holds amongst the diabolical " wait-a-bit thorn " and loose rock. In places, the vegetation was so dense that we had to press and squeeze our way through. A day later, torn to ribbons, we burst out of the forest on to the wide sandy bank of the Jemaluang River. Here we saw deep imprints of a tiger's pug marks in the sand as it strode boldly upstream. We had seen this tiger's spore a week earlier by a jungle pool on the opposite bank of the same river. It must have weighed about four hundred pounds and been 4ft. 6in. in length, from the point of shoulder to the base of its tail (quite large for Malaysia).



Tiger's pug marks

This route, we felt, was too taxing. Some days later we explored another a little further south. Here we discovered an entirely overgrown teak track, which led us east from the road for about a quarter of the distance to the coast. The first time we used this track, we had literally to hack our way through, despite the fact that it was evidently a well-used game trail. Elephant sign was all too apparently fresh. There were tiger here, too, and their staple diet of wild pig was evident everywhere. We saw water tortoises and any number of tropical birds and monkeys. This route was interesting, comparatively easy, and took us through old secondary by the track and then a good stretch of primary jungle. Whilst posing some interesting navigational problems, it was by no means beyond the average fit soldier. We chose this route for the exercise.



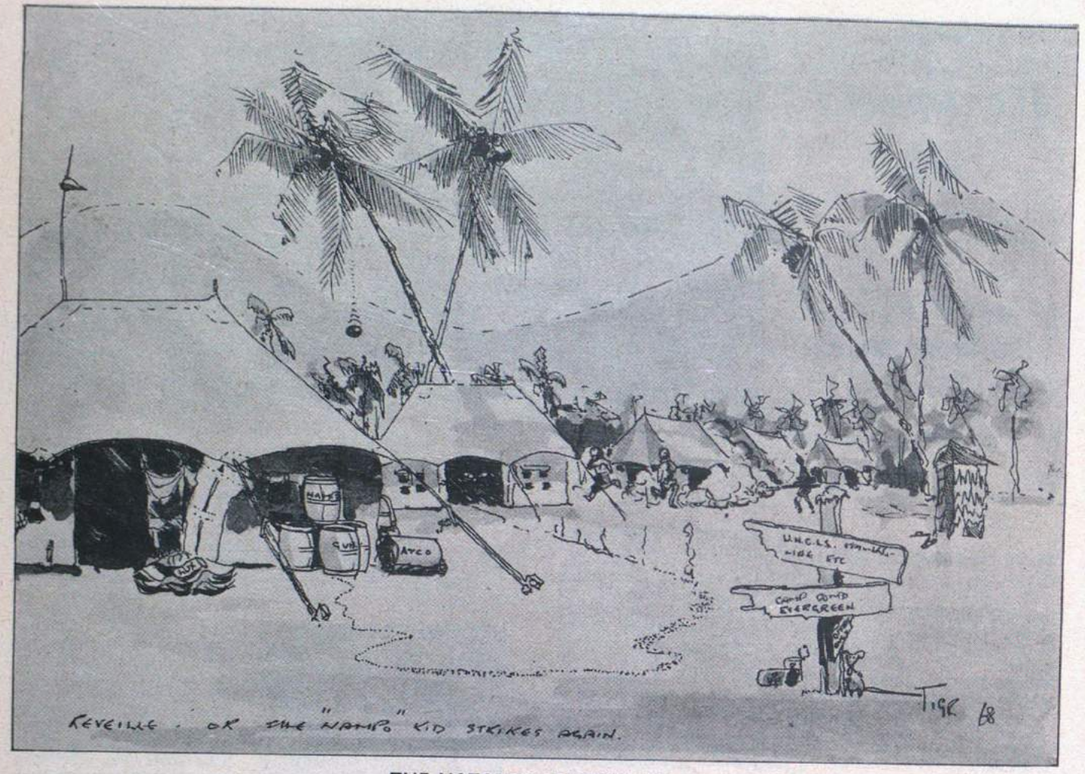
Hole caused by elephants foot

By the time our recces were over the advance parties had started to build the main camp on Pulau Babi Besar, an island six miles off the east coast of Malaysia.

Two beachcomber types

Our first impression of the island, as the RPL manoeuvred for the only gap in the coral, was of a blinding white beach which contrasted vividly with a most perfect azure sea. Soft palms swayed and the four main hill features rose, jungle-swathed abruptly from behind a ladang. Two figures made their way out of the coconut grove to stand—a bizarre pair on the beach. Their ragged, unkempt appearance, shapeless hats, faded shorts and sun-squinting gaze, lent them a "Ben Gunnian" air. **R.Q.M.S. McDonough** and **Captain Howard** (Q.M.) were our welcoming committee. Close to them, in four foot of water lay the fast-sinking wreck of a three-tonner. Our imagination included a hanging white-picked skeleton of the responsible driver.

By the time the first trainee party had arrived, the camp was well set up. A pressed gang from 237 Squadron worked unceasingly in the overpowering heat to provide such wonders as "Thunder-mugs Mk. VI" (with attap roof), four gallon showers for the not-too-modest, electricity, and most essential of all, a never-ending source of cold drinks from their well-appointed J.R.C.



THE HAZARDS OF REVEILLE!
An idyllic setting—but all is not peace as close inspection of the drawing will reveal

A noise-shattered reveille

One Monday morning at 06.30 hours, I was, as was now customary, hurtled from my dreaming world of blankets and soft, warm, morning breezes, to the most immediate and awakening present by a shattering blast outside the tent. A minute later the putrid stench of burning fabric wafted through the door. **Staff Sergeant Gilder** had heralded this dawn with due ceremony, by sitting up in bed and, with unerring accuracy, tossing a thunder-flash into his shirt which was hanging on a line outside his tent. It was **Staff Sergeant Gilder's** proud boast that this shirt had never known soap and water. Although nobody can deny that it was a profound relief to witness the incineraton of this relic, the subsequent odours were hard to stomach.

The Swing-Fog Orderly (Anti-Mosquito Sprayer)

Camp life quickly settled into a fixed routine, and the means to relieve the tedium was for some an end in itself. Around five o'clock in the afternoon some would take tea in the mess solely to watch the Swing-Fog orderly. With a complete disregard for all the niceties, he would go about his hygienic duties. His faced masked with an old 'kerchief and his infernal machine over one shoulder, he would stalk through the tent lines and great billows of dilute creosote and kerosene vapour would be 'burped' into tent after tent. It was a never-ending source of amusement to watch those unsuspecting sleeping victims erupt from the tangle of their mosquito nets and blankets and, like rabbits from a warren, stampede, panic-eyed and gasping for breath into the open air. So predictable did the game become, that it was mooted a book be opened on **Sergeant Davidson** and **Sergeant Duncan.** These two were invariably caught nappng. I thought **Sergeant Davidson** quicker on his pins, but **Sergeant Duncan's** rich vocabulary of Scot's invective was most satisfying to the ear.

Camp life mouldered on. The Administrative Staff (we the directing staff thought) became more and more entrenched in their dull routine. Our life was different. There was always Jacob's Ladder to climb on Monday morning. This was 600 feet of near vertical red clay slope, with a jungle lecture area at the top. It was, of course, sited with all the principles of Methods of Instruction firmly in mind!

Although several gaskets were blown by some of the more sedentary tradesmen on this "ladder," it served as a reminder that some soldiers were not as fit as they might be.

Captain Palmer's lectures on jungle navigation were a pleasure to hear from a quarter-of-a-mile away, and his way of emphasising his main points in the West Country vernacular most edifying.

Atop two of the most fiendish hills

A navigation exercise on Monday afternoon led most trainees to the top of two of the most fiendish hills in the Far East, and for some, this two-hour exercise ended in a midnight beachcombing expedition round the island. A film was always shown on Monday evening, and the last section in were usually just in time to see the final reel.

For **Sergeant Davidson,** the highlight of his week, during the time that W.R.A.C. parties were in camp, was the issue of OG and web equipment. Girls of size 2 and 3 were coaxed and lost in trousers and shirts sizes 6 and 7. Pouches and goloks and water bottles, etc., hung around a minute waist

(*Continued on page* 401)

(*Continued from page* 400)

belt left little space for anything else. It was sometimes very difficult to distinguish any female person in the midst of all this warlike apparel.

Goodbye, Corporal Buxton

The week's training culminated in the 48-hour exercise on the mainland. The teak track became so well worn that on a wet day it became a muddy morass. Teak logs spanned all streams, and although **Captain Palmer** became best known for his agility on these logs, the prize for water divination was actually jointly awarded to **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hall** and **Corporal** (now Sergeant) **Buxton.** The latter earned the undying gratitude of those in his platoon by volunteering his place on a log across the Sungei Ambat. With pure unselfishness, he stepped off the log into seven feet of water with an A41 on his back. His attempts to swim were laudable, but vain. As **Corporal Buxton** and his radio were being hung upside down to dry, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hall,** with equal verve, earned his joint award by gracefully toppling sideways, full-length, into the turgid water.

Hornets cause stampede

Three platoons per week, on converging bearings, made for the RV on the beach. Although the same bearings were used each week, I do not recall that any platoon, with one exception, came across the bivouac area of a previous party. All game was unfortunately very soon driven away from the area and little was seen after the first two weeks. It was, therefore, with some surprise that I received the news, at the beach rendezvous, that **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Alison** had injured his leg in a stampede. I was later told that he had been injured by bees. Both tales seemed incredible and incompatible. As it turned out, the Foreman had been in the midst of his platoon when a hornet's nest had been disturbed. An immediate panic ensued, and as the Foreman turned to see what was happening, he was trampled in the stampede to escape from the hornets.

Like Venus from the waves

The RPL used to lie a mile off the coast on the afternoon of the second day and send in assault boats to ferry platoons from the beach. The one fathom line on this piece of coast is a mile from the shore. The platoons would generally reach the RV late in the morning and spend their time soaking their blisters and sores in a blissfully soothing sea. One afternoon the heavens opened and the rain drove down in pencil-thick shafts that were too painful to stand under. Our attap hut was being shared by most of the refugee trainees, and by an enormous red scorpion, too! Half-a-dozen gallants discovered that the sea was warmer than the rain, and were lounging in the shallow water. Our intrepid **Captain Palmer** was amongst them. As the rain ceased, a fishing boat could be seen nudging the beach. Two figures splashed into the sea from her bows. The scene was set for the moving little ceremony that was to follow. The leading figure's height and characteristic gait made him instantly recognisable as the C.O. Brown and white bodies tumbled for their soaking clothes, drew on squelching jungle boots and salvaged the remains of abominable mugs of sea-salted tea. Like Venus from the waves, a figure drew itself from the sea as the Colonel approached. Clad only in the most disreputable pair of sagging underpants and a streaming jungle hat, it executed a precise salute, the water lapping about its knees. The C.O. returned the compliment and both he and **Captain Palmer** sloshed through the sea and rain towards the beach.

Late Night Departure

A week before this episode, the RPL had been late for the RV and one of the two assault boats had had engine trouble. Consequently the last platoons were still on the beach as night fell. A beacon was lit on the beach to guide the last boats into the shore. The tide was ebbing fast, and the last two sections waded out to meet their boats. It was an eerie sensation to be standing waist-deep in inky water some 200 yards from the beach. Phosphorescent plankton and sea lice glimmered in the water around the waiting soldiers. The glow from the beacon fire seemed a long way behind, and the sputter of the approaching outboard motors hardly distinguishable through the closing night. Thoughts inevitably turned to sharks crocodiles and all the unimaginable horrors of the deep. However unfounded these fears might have been, it was not without profound relief that the last soldiers hauled their soggy-wet way into their boat and felt the reassuring forward surge towards the waiting RPL.

A shark drops in

The sea provided us with the main part of our recreation during the non-duty periods. The waters around Pulau Babi Besar were clear, and the reefs an ideal spot for skin-diving. One particularly rocky cove on the northern tip of the island provided a perfect setting for both novice and experienced divers. Most species of tropical fish were seen and identified. Giant clams were abundant. Most of our soldiers now use their "beauty soap" from half clam shells. I believe **Major Roberts** has had personal experience in these matters. **Captain Brady,** W.R.A.C., and **Staff Sergeant Gilder** spotted a large garoupa which probably weighed about eighty or ninety pounds. Next day, near the same place, they attracted the attention of a curious shark. In the tradition of all good fishing stories, these two grew a foot in length with each telling. The shark, I believe, is now well over 16ft. in length.

Giant clams

During a visit, **Colonel Tonry,** C.R. Signals, was inveigled into trying his hand at this game, and he spent some time diving on the edge of the reef. The day after his dive, a 6ft. shark chased another party of shell divers out of the sea at precisely the same spot. I cut myself to ribbons in my anxiety to get out of the water on this occasion. These shells were fossilised and almost certainly pre-historic. The largest shells to be found were a set of three giant clams, which were over 3ft. long and each shell weighed more than 200lb. One pair was brought back to the camp. They had to be levered out of the sand by crowbars and it took four men to carry them. I wonder which lucky mess, Officers, or Warrant Officers' and Sergeants, will be lumbered with these trophies.

A host of pleasant memories

Now the tents, so faithfully swing-fogged, are struck. **S.S.M. Boyle's** meticulously-cleared ladang has now reverted to coconuts, palm fronds and debri. The newly-painted community centre, school and rest house, fade in the sun, and all that remains of our visit is a jetty and a host of pleasant memories.

☆ *Report from Ethiopia* ☆

3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment write:

This is a letter from Lance-Corporal Davidson, who is with the Great Abbai Expedition, to his Squadron Commander at 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment in Bulford. Lance-Corporal Davidson does not know that we are sending it to The Wire, but in our opinion it is just the sort of uninhibited stuff that we want. It has in fact been slightly censored, as Lance-Corporal Davidson did let his hair down a little and we should hate to get "The Wire" involved in a libel suit.

(Editor's Note: The Great Abbai Expedition)

Specially modified inflatable boats with double hulls and the crews wearing crash helmets and armed with heavy revolvers for defence against huge crocodiles, were just one aspect of the Army's latest expedition to the upper reaches of the Blue Nile, known as the Great Abbai in Ethiopia. **Captain John Blashford-Snell, R.E.,** was the expedition's leader, and some of the best experts in the Army were included in the party.

The objects of the expedition are to carry out a survey at river level in the monsoon season because of the immense difficulties of following the course on land. Even so, there had to be much climbing in high, humid temperatures, as well as the skilful navigation of swiftly flowing waters. The Great Abbai rushes through deep gorges and the party had to descend from the rain-swept plateau of the Chokai Mountains to the hot floor of the gorge a mile below. All in all, the expedition took two months and it was hoped to make a scientific survey of 500 miles of the Great Abbai from its source in Laka Tana on the Blue Nile.

Soldiers from various units took part, including members of the Corps, who were in charge of communications, and reports were radioed daily to the expedition's representative in the United Kingdom through 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

Lance-Corporal Davidson, of 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, writes to his C.O. as follows:

Dear Sir,

You may or may not know what is happening out here. The expedition arrived in Addis on 1st August. It then took us two-and-a-half days to clear all the kit from customs. To my surprise they kept all the Signals' equipment. When we actually came to clear them they wanted all the serial numbers from the sets. Every hamper had to be opened for the Customs Officer, who was then quite dubious about it all.

To get vehicles to transport all the kit up to Debra Marcos, our first main base, **Colonel Shepherd,** our L.O. in Addis, had to go to the Minister of Transport to get one 10-ton truck. Unfortunately, our Landrovers were not due until the 8th August in a C130 lift, plus the kit we had left behind. To get three 2½-ton trucks from the Royal Imperial Ethiopian Army he had to go to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff. Eventually we got them. We loaded up our kit and made a quick flip out of Addis before we were stopped again.

We proceeded up on the main Addis Abbaba-Debra Marcos road, which is metalled for most of the way, up to the Sharfartak Bridge. The bridge itself crosses the Muddy Abbai or Blue Nile. The Nile itself is a huge gorge, which rises well over 8,000 feet either side. A really fantastic sight.

In the gorge the temperature is over 95 degrees and the humidity is just about 85 per cent. When we went over it the river was a little low, much to the disgust of **Captain Blashford-Snell,** who prays for rain, as the boats will ride over the cataracts.

Someone has answered the Captain's prayers, because it has rained every day, pretty hard, for about three or four hours at a time.

The main base itself is on the edge of the Debra Marcos airfield, which is a grass mud bath on the top of a small plateau approximately five kilometres from Debra. Our Beaver aircraft has been busy doing recces of the North gorge and the Didessar basin. The first resupply was done yesterday to A.I. group in the gorge. Three parachute drops and two free fall drops. Two of the zoologists, who were more interested in their work than the air drop, were nearly the expedition's first casualties when a box of 24-hour packs missed them by a few inches. Flying in the gorge, so I am told, is a game of chicken. In some places it is less than two wingspans width.

The "V" antenna was very carefully sited. Then it was found that one leg went straight into some trees. After a bit of hacking we had a clear path. An extra set of stakes and some D.10 made another set of top guys, just to take the weight off the top. Our mast is now, you will be glad to hear, as straight as a die.

I opened up at 15.15 local time and got, with no trouble at all, Cyprus. Then cleared the immediate traffic and asked them to inform MUB4 what frequency we were on.

I think our greatest trouble is that we cannot get up high enough. 15690 kc/s just is not any good by 11.00 in the morning. First thing it is good, but a lot of QRM this end. By midday all I can hear on the Racal and the R210 is DAH's no DITS. So it makes it a bit difficult to receive anything at all. I try to get the Press report on the sitrep off as quickly as I can.

The forward link has three schedules, one in the morning starting at 06.45 and finishing at 09.00, then the next is at 12.00 to 14.00, then at 16.00 to 18.00. The base camp is on a permanent listening watch to the forward link. The out-stations come up at all times of the day outside their schedules. The frequencies for this particular link are far from good and the static does not help any. Sometimes it is continuous and very nearly impossible to work through.

We are using the spare C11 for the forward link, which helps a bit and seems quite compatible with A16 and A13 and the Sonair in the Beaver.

The A13 batteries have such a short life (1½ hours TX), that most of the operators prefer to use the A16's. The TRA 906's are not being used at the moment, but they will be used on phase three. We are trying them out in the Landrovers when they go out locally. They seem O.K., but we are having a lot of trouble with the battery connections which do not match. We have not yet tried them to the C11. May do it tomorrow if we have enough time. The midnight oil burns most nights with paper work, diaries and general planning.

The generator has been a problem. As we are over 8,000 feet, Thor, as it has been nicknamed, does not like the climate. One of our bright boys filled a jerry can up with water. That was why we were off the air for 24 hours. Three of us stripped the whole fuel system down and sweated all the water out. The second time it caught fire in the heat of the day. We now do not dare stop it during the day because the petrol is vaporising in the carburettor. Oil changes, etc., are done at night, after all stations have closed down. The octane content is so low and petrol is so expensive that the Landrovers and Thor are running off a mixture of Avgas and Ethiopian petrol. The generator is now running quite sweetly. No lighting kit was brought by the expedition, so we have been buying wire and light bulbs locally. We had the offer of a generator from a local who has become a good friend, so I went to see it. To my disappointment it was only 110 volts. As everything is 240, the conversion would have been a major job. The R.E.'s decided against it. It was a diesel engine, which would have meant we would have had to buy diesel, which is very expensive.

It is now well after midnight, so I must finish. I will let you know how things go later on. Thanks to all at MUB4 for all their help and patience.

I remain, Sir,

Yours,

Lance-Corporal Davidson.

With the temperature 110° in the shade

Journey into the desert hinterland of the Trucial States and Muscat

. . . or how to break the M.T.O.'s heart

Contributed by 222 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 63

IT goes without saying that Sharjah is a very hot and humid place. This in itself gives rise to problems, but these are nothing compared to the more harrowing ones. Everything conspires against the four-wheeled traffic. There is a tarmac road into Dubai, 12 miles away, but nearly all other roads are simply tracks over the sand, gravel plain, rock plain or through the wadis. They were all right for camels in the old days, but. . . . What follows is an account of one of the many sallies into the unhospitable hinterland of the Trucial States and Muscat.

* * *

The infantry and artillery in Sharjah have, of late, taken to walking around the mountains of Muscat. Helicopters take them from the airfield in Muscat, up to the Jebels. The R.C.T. run regular convoys, carrying Avgas to Muscat to keep the helicopters on the road (or whatever the expression is). To keep the R.C.T. on the straight and narrow the Squadron provides two detachments for these convoys, to give front to rear communications, and communication back to Sharjah.

The most recent journey started on 10th August. The intention was to travel at night and during the cool of the day, and rest during the heat of the day, when temperatures during August are from 100°-110° F. in the shade. Accordingly we left Sharjah just before midnight on the Saturday.

Village of the "nibbling fish"

The first 50 miles were across undulating sand dunes. No great problems, as nearly all the vehicles had sand tyres, and at that time of night the sand was cool and hence comparatively firm. We then passed through the mountains to the Batina Coast. This entailed winding our way through a rock strewn wadi and by this time, it was 10 o'clock on Sunday morning, it was rather dusty and hot. In the early afternoon we arrived at the mid-day stopping place. Nearby was a village complete with mosque and public bath house; this consisted of an open concrete conduit, which carried water from the nearby hills to the village. The channel, or falaj, was alive with tiny fish, no more than an inch-and-a-half long. These fish, like miniature



RUGGED TERRAIN

Passing through the mountains. 222 Signal Squadron Detachment with the convoy carrying Avgas to Nizwa



WATER IN THE DESERT

Corporal Altham on the road from Sib to Nizwa. Water and green trees, a rare sight in the Trucial States and Muscat!

piranhas, have a taste for human flesh. As one sat in the water bathing, so the fish would gaily nibble away. Very stimulating. *I wore swimming trunks!*

* * *

That evening we continued on our way down the Batina coast to Sib. The coast road had its own charming character. It was mile upon mile of bone jarring corrugations, as if it had logs across it every three feet or so. Needless to say dust was everywhere and the sun beat down! It was now early afternoon. Here one of our two FFR's gave up the unequal struggle. The gearbox mountings had sheared off with the incessant jarring!

The Jebel Akdhar—A most impressive sight

In Sib was the headquarters of the Oman Gendarmerie, the parachute military police force of Muscat. Here we found **Captain Guy Symonds,** who retired from the Corps in 1966. He is now a contract officer, working for the Sultan of Muscat, and earning, allegedly, £7 a day tax free! Very early the following morning we left for the final leg of the trip to Nizwa. The two Signal vehicles and the cookhouse waggon remained in Sib, to await our return that evening. The mountainous country through which we were now passing was the most interesting and beautiful of the entire trip. The mountains are known as the Jebel Akdhar—the green mountain —so called because of its greenish appearance. The Jebel is a most impressive sight, great grey slabs rearing a mile straight up out of the valley floor. The greenness of the mountain is not apparent, but its peculiar shade of slate grey was seen by the inhabitants as nearer to green than anything else. It is not so much their height which makes them so impressive; it is the altogether startling abruptness of their leap up from the floor, the sheer smoothness and steepness of their rise, which make them look like the walls of a titanic fortress, rather than mere mountains. The track we were taking was known as the Sumail Gap.

The villages along this wadi were often picturesquely situated, nestling amongst seas of green palm trees, with the mountains rearing abruptly behind. Nizwa was reached about midday and the drums of Avgas unloaded. At Nizwa itself is a company of the Desert Regiment, the Sultan's Armed Forces, complete, of course, with its quota of British Officers.

We obtained spares for our sick Rover here and shortly began the trip back to Sib, which we reached around six o'clock in the evening. The majority of the road from Sib to Nizwa is like the M.1 compared to the coast road. The Nizwa road is maintained by the oil company who are drilling successfully in the hills. During the next two days we returned to Sharjah, again stopping at the village of "nibbling fish."

Signalman Howard, one of the FFR drivers, is either a most persuasive man, or **Lance-Corporal Knott,** his crew commander, is very fond of driving, for **Howard** spent the majority of the trip kipping in the back of the vehicle! **Lance-Corporal Hanlon,** the other driver, grew a most impressive moustache during the trip. That, and his hat ridiculous, gives him a real "man of the desert look." **Lieutenant Hanbury,** meanwhile, the aforementioned M.T.O., pretended not to notice the terrible beating his vehicles were taking. Not surprising **Sergeant Braithwaite,** the new M.T. Sergeant, has been two months late in arriving. Somebody must have told him!

The busiest man during the convoy trip was undoubtedly the R.E.M.E. fitter. This gallant fellow repaired numerous U/S water pumps, electrical faults, overheated engines, made safe a shorting C11 and, of course, repaired our Landrover. This would be an ideal place to send new equipment for field trials, instead of civilised B.A.O.R.!

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Letter from East Africa

Written by Major J. R. E. Cross

Jambo Effendi,

THE other day there was a letter in the "East African Standard" from a tourist who commented on the strict game shooting laws in Kenya and then went on to ask how the vast number of souvenir shops obtain their stocks of game trophies and items made from game skins, etc . . . the tourist has a point. Some game is plentiful, such as zebra and gazelle, and skins and things made from them are likewise plentiful and may be related to the permitted numbers shot. But when it comes to lion and leopard claw jewellery, and skin-made things, it is very difficult to relate permitted numbers killed to produced items. I suppose the claws could be plastic, although I haven't seen any obvious ones—perhaps there is a back-street factory in Birmingham exporting them! Talking of exporting, did you know that there is a firm in England which still produces flints for guns and sells them to Africa? . . . True! I should think that a lot of these souvenir items come from the game departments cropping system and, I suspect, quite a few from poachers.

* * *

I am not an anti-blood sport type, although I have no desire to shoot game for the fun of it—food, yes, Tommy curry is wonderful grub. I do spend many a happy hour sitting under a bottle-brush tree in my garden shooting mouse birds with a high-powered air gun. These wretched beasts swarm all over the place and delight in tearing seedlings to pieces, but when it comes to real game, I get a lot of pleasure just watching it and taking the odd photograph. There are types here who shoot to their licensed limit and, I presume, flog the resultant trophies at a high price (a good leopard skin will fetch anything up to £100). They may even keep a few for their Africa Room (as a contrast to their Far East Room) on retirement. I have never subscribed to the souvenir collecting fetish. We were at a friend's house the other evening, who had arrived from the Far East two years ago—they didn't have a Hong Kong/Malay Room, they had a Hong Kong/Malay house! . . . you name it, they had it—fans on the wall, camphor wood chests, tinkly brass bells, Chinese pictures, brass ashtrays —the lot! We even had our supper out of rice bowls and off Malay plates; the cruet was inlaid brass. They did have some nice stuff, but a lot was tourist bait. We spent the evening playing Mah Jong! People have their own pleasures, but I am always struck by the incongruous look of such a collection in a house at home. I shudder to think what a possible final house I might have at home would look like if I was a "present from Singapore" collector—the West Coast Room, the East Coast Room, the Egyptian Entrance, the Hong Kong Kitchen, the Singapore Study and the Lebanese Loo—oh dear!

* * *

Have had an interesting time recently, surveying throw paths and mast sites for the military part of the Multiplex communication system out here. This is a GEC, VHF system, which will carry military and police operational, static circuits and could be related to a sophisticated radio relay with multi-circuit 1 plus 4 (let the technical bods shoot that one down!). This involved a pleasant air trip to Mombasa in the K.A.F. V.I.P. aircraft to sort out the Navy end. The first of the C IIs SSBs (MEL SL557) have arrived as phase in replacements for the steam-age C IIs, and the first batch of the 906 pack sets should be here any day now. One snag with the 906 is that it cannot be fitted into an AFV as a replacement for the B 47 as an Infantry/Armour liaison radio because chronic break-through from the C 13 occurs, due to the wide band amplifiers in the 906—we hope that the new synthesizer controlled 921 'Syncal' will do the job.

* * *

Let's go all English and talk about the weather. As old Kenya hands know, local residents always tell that the weather is not what it should be, but this year the locals are right. The rains started very early and have not stopped yet—if we are not careful our 'long rains' are going to run into our 'short rains.' Floods everywhere and strong winds are blowing down gum trees like ninepins—the crocodiles like it though.

Kwaheri

CRO.

Overseas Appointments (East Africa)

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PLESSEY
Electronics

19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn., Colchester

AUGUST has seen two major events, namely Exercise "Barney," which was held in Cyprus, and block leave. The former deserves a mention.

Exercise "Barney," 1968 (some Exercise!)

Introduction

Despite the claims made in the last issue for Baker's Dozen IV, this was "the" Brigade exercise of the year. Exercise "Barney" took place in the Episkopi S.B.A. and adjoining areas.

Fly out

The Headquarters and Signal Squadron flew out in three phases. The advance party, consisting of **Major Colin Bunce,** from Headquarters, and **Lieutenant Martin Jones,** from the Signal Squadron, flew by Argosy on the 23rd July, and after an overnight stop in Malta, arrived in Akrotiri on the 24th July.

The main body left by Hercules on 28th July and arrived the same day after 6½ tiresome aircraft hours. The advance party found little room for sympathy, having taken 30 hours themselves. The "tail" arrived by Britannia in Nicosia, after the closure of Akrotiri, bemoaning their pallid complexions.

The work up

The advance party spent its time confirming, or otherwise, the exercise information received in England, though the remainder would have you believe they had other commitments.

Our FFRs were collected from the vehicle depot in Dhekelia and O.C. "A" Troop, **Captain Jeremy Ventham,** spent many head-scratching hours puzzling the vagaries of B44s. **Sergeant Hudson,** our Radio Technician Sergeant, seemed slightly over-



DON'T LOOK NOW GIRLS!

Members of 19 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron evidently find the sun and the beaches of Cyprus very much to their liking. From left to right the party includes Major Westlake, Private Snell, Lance-Corporal Hall, Private Mullins and Signalman Price

worked at this stage, and reckons to have repaired each set at least once a day.

As an administrative convenience, the H.Q. and Signal Squadron was based on the R.A.F. Regiment Operation Room in Episkopi for the exercise work-up, part of this was Exercise "Sun God." This was a 36 hours' scheme operating as higher control to 1 P.W.O. **Second-Lieutenant Gary Maddren,** during this period earned the new appointment of "Sun God Minor."

Exercise "Barney"

Sssssh!

After the Exercise

After the exercise the Squadron had five days' rest and recuperation! We moved from Episkopi to 9th Signal Regiment at Ayios Nicolaios; **Lieutenant Martin Jones** was left at Episkopi—for personal reasons it was rumoured. Everyone had a most enjoyable time at the Famagusta end of the island. 9th Regiment laid on a couple of trips for us, most people took advantage of these, but some managed to find their own amusements. (Many thanks to 9th Regiment for their generous hospitality).

So it was with tanned bodies that the main party returned to the U.K. by Britannia on 13th August. They were seen off at Nicosia by Second-in-Command "A" Troop and his rear party of seven, who then spent ten days of absolute hell—horizontal on Famagusta beach. They were eventually beaten by the lack of funds and forced to return to the U.K. on 24th August.

Conclusion

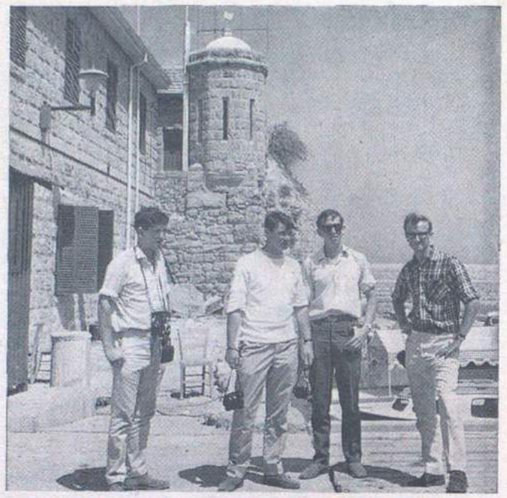
We were all sorry to see Exervise "Barney" end, though had it taken place in England, I doubt if the same could have been said.

The Ionosphere

During a recent exercise a subaltern (who shall remain nameless) was asked to define the Ionosphere. His carefully thought-out reply was:

"Despite what many people think, including the staff at the School of Signals and the Signal Wing at Hythe, there is no such thing as an Ionosphere.

The skywave properties of HF radio are due to a duty angel whose specific job is to bend, or sit on, upcoming radio waves. His tour of duty is from sunup to sundown or sunset. He is tasked to keep a wary eye open for certain waves, for example, these from Colchester, and not to bend these, thereby causing frustration, the reaction to which goes down in the ledger at Brigade H.Q.



I rather like her myself—or looking over some of the local "beauty" spots

Left to Right:—Private Snell, Signalman Donnelly, Private Mullens and Lance-Corporal Hall of 19 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron find much to interest them during their visit to Cyprus

The term Ionosphere is a Russian term, put about by them, because the Lord is really on their side."

Arrivals and departures

It is with considerable regret that we say goodbye to **Staff Sergeant Jepson, Corporal Graeme** and **Private Vincent,** A.C.C. We would like to thank them all for their hard work for the Squadron and wish them good luck in their new appointments. We wish to extend a warm welcome to **Staff Sergeant Duncan, Lance-Corporal Such, Lance-Corporal Ramsay, Lance-Corporal Collins, Signalman Harvey, Signalman Kemp, Signalman McEvoy, Colour Sergeant Johnston, Corporal Holt,** A.C.C., **Lance-Corporal Searchfield,** R.P.C. We hope their stay will be enjoyable.

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (212) B.F.P.O. 36

"HAD a good leave?" . . . A familiar cry in early September, as those lucky enough to have got away for August start returning like migrating birds for the Autumn exercise period.

A newly-arrived member of the unit was heard recently to comment: "When I heard I was coming here I quickly looked up all my back numbers of THE WIRE to see what went on. To my horror, I read about exercise after exercise, and wondered what type of unit I was being posted to." To this end, your scribe faithfully promises not to mention exercises again in this article.

The Masterpiece

August has been a very quiet month and has been devoted to a certain amount of training. **Lieutenant Michael Rowbory,** on loan from the R.M.C.S., with the assistance of **Corporal Pete Hallsworth,** has just completed training eight new FV430 series drivers, all of whom successfully passed a very stiff driving test conducted by **Captain Ken Adrian,** R.C.T., our M.T.O. **Lieutenant Rowbory,** at the beginning of his course, decided that the existing lectern in his lecture room was not big enough for the copious notes required by the instructor of a FV430 series course and commissioned a new design to be

built. At last, on the last day of the course, it was finished and available for the closing address! Unfortunately something went wrong with the centimetres and inches. Any unit having an instructor who is eight foot tall is welcome to come along and take the masterpiece away!

In early August, the sports field in Quebec Barracks saw a complete change, and we were the hosts for the Osnabruck Garrison Horse Show. No one from the unit entered the riding events, but **Signalman Trevor Jones** managed to win the first—and very alcoholic—prize in the raffle. Anyone who has to run the public address equipment and the N.A.A.F.I. beer machine at a similar function is strongly advised not to use the same generator for both, especially if "galloping-type" music is being played. It appears that a lot of power (electrical) is required to pull a pint of Watney's Red Barrel, and it is the music and not the beer that suffers!

A "Mention in Despatches"

The yearly R.E.M.E. inspection of vehicles and radios was completed at the end of August. Everybody was very surprised to hear that **Signalman Eddie Booth's** Land Rover had a special "Mention in Despatches" as being the best cared-for vehicle the inspecting team had seen for a long time. The Second-in-Command, **Captain Paul Webb,** for whom Signalman **Booth** drives, claims that at least half the credit for this must go to him for doing most of his recces by air instead of by road.

Mid-September saw the Brigade Skill-at-Arms Meeting. **Lieutenant Ian Pattison** has been training up a team and we are going to have a fair crack at beating the Infantry Battalions in more than the one match we did last year. The Brigade Commander, **Brigadier H. M. G. Bond,** has been coaching our pistol team and we are expecting great things from them.

Cross-country training has started under **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston,** and we are aiming for the Army Championships, so watch out! The cricket pitch has ceased to exist and football and rugby goalposts have appeared on the sports field, and although we are not entering the Army Cup this year, we hope to make a name for ourselves in the B.A.O.R. Minor Units League.

These notes cannot be concluded in a better way than by reprinting a paragraph which appeared recently in Part I Orders. This must surely be claimed as the howler of the year, especially in a Royal Signals Unit. It would make Mr. Ohm turn in his grave!

"Electrified Railways—Danger from Overhead Cables

The Bundesbahn electrification programme has now reached the Osnabruck area. Extreme care must be taken to ensure that radio antennae do NOT catch on the overhead electric cables on level crossings. There is a lethal current involved —some 15,000 volts!"

It should be noted in our defence that this was inserted by a member of the M.T. staff (who shall be nameless) but wears a Royal Corps of Transport cap badge.

216 Parachute Signal Squadron Aldershot

General

The Squadron has visited Libya, Iceland, Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malta in our overseas trips, most of England, Scotland and the Channel Isles in our U.K. trips, provided communications at Bisley for the A.R.A. for a month amongst other local commitments, become runners-up in the Army Minor Units Athletics in our sports, achieved the highest standard of tradesmen that we have ever had in our work, acquired a new Squadron Commander and O.C. Communications Troop in our personnel movements. All this in one short summer.

Exercises

Lieutenant F. P. Wilkinson and his party returned after three months at the Administration Base Unit in Libya with healthy tans. During this Libya duty the Squadron went to Libya for an exercise in which the unit was fully committed in support of the Brigade.

Second-Lieutenant Hugh Smith, Sergeant Lawbuary and a detachment went to Malaysia for jungle training with 2 Para. **Sergeant Lawbuary** and four returned after this training and the remainder moved on to Hong Kong.

Second-Lieutenant David Hughes took another detachment to Malaysia with 'D' Company, 3 Para, also for jungle training. The whole detachment returned to U.K. in good heart after their exercise, which lasted six weeks.

Other exercises have been in Malta with our Brigade Air Contact team, a N.A.T.O. exercise in Iceland with 1 Para, where **Corporal Kennington** was in command of a detachment of eight, another Air Contact team exercised in Scotland and several visits to Stanford P.T.A.

Training

Summer camp was at Shorncliffe for ten days and was devoted exclusively to skills other than signalling. In the main, it was range work: S.M.G., S.L.R., G.P.M.G., grenade and rocket launcher—no Carl Gustav for us yet! Half the Squadron were also treated to a fortnight in Alderney (in the Channel Isles for the uninitiated) where we lived in an old fort—Fort Tourgis. A great amount of work was done here, both on and off duty, from which we, and we hope the island, benefited. It may help to add that the island has duty free liquor and no licencing hours! Two events in particular must be recorded. The first was the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **R.Q.M.S. Tasker** by the Island President, at a special parade. The second event was the return to duty of **Lieutenant F. P. Wilkinson,** after an attack of jaundice. Being barred from alcohol by the doctor, he was seen entering bars with tears in his eyes, creeping to the bar and heard whispering his order—lemon juice on the rocks!—shaken not stirred!

Trade Training

The Squadron Commander's policy of running a continuous training cycle, at Class II and I level, in all trades, and ably organised by our **Y. of S. Kelly,** has resulted in there being little more than a dozen Class III tradesmen in the unit and 40 per cent of the Squadron are now Class I tradesmen. A very fine achievement.

Sports

Our best result was in athletics. The team was well organised and coached by **Sergeant Cowell,** who has now left us to go on his Foreman's Course. We won the 16 Para Brigade Minor Units atheltics competition, the South East District and Southern Command athletic competitions and were runners-up in the Army Minor Units athletics competition.

From the Far East we have reports that **Signalman Grace** has represented the Army in the Inter-Services Meeting in Singapore, where he was throwing the javelin.

Our swimmers, too, have done well. A large proportion of the Corps team, which competed against the R.A.F. Signals Command at Cranwell on 15th August, being made up from the Squadron. In the Corps team were **Captain J. A. Hood, Staff Sergeant Wells, Corporal Davis, Corporal Newman, Corporal Cunningham, Corporal Mills** and **Signalman Whittick.**

Movements

Captain W. J. P. Robins left the Squadron on 1st July to take up the post of G.S.O. 3 (Liaison) in Brigade Headquarters, not to R.M.C.S. as previously mentioned in last month's WIRE.

Major C. N. Last left the Squadron on 13th September for Staff College. We are sorry that his tour as O.C. has been only for fifteen months.

Captain J. A. Hood arrived from Sharjah to take over Communications Troop.

Major H. R. Williams returned to the unit from a tour with the Trucial Oman Scouts to take over as O.C.

We wish **Major Last** and **Captain Robins** good fortune in their new postings and extend a warm welcome to **Major Williams** and **Captain Hood.**

229 Squadron (Berlin) B.F.P.O. 45

Domestic news

Arrivals.—Firstly, to **Mrs. Holmes,** wife of **Signalman Holmes,** and **Mrs. Measures,** wife of **Lance-Corporal Measures,** we send our greetings and wishes for a pleasant tour in Berlin.

Secondly to our new 2 i/c 'Q' Socks—**Sergeant Hamill**—may all your troubles be 1157s, and if a spare moment you find, may your leisures be entertaining.

Departures.—Our best wishes for a safe journey and good fortune in their new stations go to: **Signalman** and **Mrs. McKnight,** to sunny Cyprus; **Lance-Corporal Coates, Sergeant** and **Mrs. Molloy** and **Signalman Hendrie,** to "Civyy Street"; **Lance-Corporal Bird**, seconded.

Attachments.—A word of welcome to the following who are attached for a short period . . . I have heard that some want to stay: **Corporal Sizeland** (28th Regiment); **Corporal Davies** (16th Regiment); **Signalman Hughes** (16th Regiment).

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on their promotions: **Lance-Corporals Gibbons, Skells** and **Boldacchino** to Corporal; **Signalmen Sheehan, Shaw, Givens** and **Hibbins** to Lance-Corporal.

Berlin Brigade Motor-cycle Championships, 1968

After a frustrating week of delays in arrival of motor-cycles and spare parts, and finally a complete change of machines 24 hours before the start, our two teams rode a tremendous round to achieve the following results:

Teams.—("A") **Corporal Butler, Signalman Morgan, Signalman Dean.** ("B") **Corporal Bark, Lance-Corporal Stretton, Signalman Hornesby.**

Team "B" came runners-up in the Minor Units. **Corporal Bark** came second best expert.

Word has filtered back that an elderly chap with a crown on his wrist was seen attempting to enter disguised as **Geoff Duke,** but alas, was recognised at the last moment . . . never mind old chap, your constant support was more than appreciated.

Annual summer dance—on land and sea

It was decided to have a change to the usual event and hold our annual event on land and sea.

The evening opened with all being collected by bus and conveyed to the River Havel to board the Ferry "Bussard." Here, the Purser for the day, **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Brown,** duly welcomed all aboard, wearing his Chichester-type cap and sea-going sweater. On the arrival of the O.C., **Major Foote,** he was duly appointed captain of the ship for the journey and presented with the captain's hat.

With music provided by the boys of the "canned music" department, and a bar by the Corporals' Club, we set sail on what turned out to be a great three hours' trip.

At approximately 22.00 hours the lookout sighted the Yacht Club and we all took to the shore for a barbecue and dancing to the R.A.F. (Gatow) Band.

This was the climax to a wonderful evening, and for those who have now found their "sea legs," we are sure to have another go next year.

Children's boat trip

After the success of the Squadron trip, this was even better, with a small taste of mishaps to make it even more exciting for the children.

Mishap No. 1.—Transport arrived at the wrong time and left 60 children stranded outside houses.

The Squadron emergency service went into action and a mini-bus followed by a convoy of cars rounded up the first batch and duly delivered them to the boat.

Mishap No. 2.—The boat broke down, offshore, with half the children on board and the other half on the landing bay.

Emergency service No. 2 went into action. **Y. of S. Brown** attempted to repair the fault while **Captain Bayfield** secured the help of a boat engineer. In the meantime the boat crew and stewards — **Corporals Green, Clarke, Lance-Corporal Sheehan** and **Corporal Robinson** were busy feeding the children ice cream and keeping them entertained.

After a short delay all was fixed and the remaining children helped aboard amidst wild cheers of delight.

During the trip the children were given sweets, ice cream, cakes, and all washed down with Coca-Cola.

The day ended, with the mishaps adding a sense of adventure to the children, but grey hair to the organisers. All went home to Mums and Dads with tales of the buses that broke down or crashed, and the ship which nearly sunk—all the time holding tummies which were aching through eating goodies.

Stop Press

Other activities for the month: Games night, Officers versus Seniors and the ladies in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess, which turned out as a draw, but a wonderful night.

Squadron monthly discotheque—our third to date, and another very good, loud, boisterous, booming evening it was.

The Squadron Wives' Club has come out of summer recess and will be organising their various outings once more, with the added support of **Mrs. Foote,** wife of the O.C.

Sport

With the end of cricket it has been noted that footballs and hockey sticks are now to the fore. So watch this space for news.

1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron (257), B.F.P.O. 102

WE ARE ESTABLISHED

After years of wrangling and reams of paper we have at last been officially recognised. The unit, which for so long has had to function on "proposed establishments," borrowed and left-over equipment, with the "Sword of Damocles" in the shape of threatened disbandment ever hanging above its head, can at last utter its long awaited sigh of relief. An establishment number has actually been allotted and the space, so long filled by uncertainty, has blossomed into a fully fledged member of that oft criticised and much discussed club of integrated Signal Squadrons.

There were many who did not believe that this would ever happen; there are many who still believe that it should not have happened. To all these "infidels" we say, these are the facts:

The theatre is B.A.O.R.

The role—Heavy Gunners.

The emblem—a Ram's Head.

We are here to stay! We are established!



GETTING INTEGRATED

Lance-Corporal Mate in deep concentration traversing an M107 with Signalman Ball "helping"



"Y" TROOP CRICKET TEAM

Back Row: Left to Right:—Signalman Lewendon, Lance-Corporal Trayford, Lance-Corporal Forbes, Signalman Price, Lance-Corporal Crowley, Sergeant Thomas, G.

Front Row: Left to Right:—Staff-Sergeant Rogers (Capt.), Corporal Brown, Signalman Boyle, Lance-Corporal Radley, Lance-Corporal Woodall

260 Signal Squadron (SAM), Shoeburyness

With the main part of the Squadron dispersed across the country on block leave, there is little of note to report this month, except perhaps to sum up the season's activity of the Squadron cricket team.

Staff-Sergeant Frank Rogers and **Lance-Corporal Pete Radley** played regularly for the Shoeburyness Garrison team, and also during the latter part of the season, so did **Corporals Ian Brown, Howard Loates, Wilkie Wilkins** and **Lance-Corporal Woodie Woodall. Lieutenant J. Roberts** has also made his debut since his arrival early in the month.

Our season was brought to a climax by "Y" Troop winning the Gunner Inter-Troop knock-out competition, which was won by eight wickets.

Special mention can be made of **Lance-Corporal Pete Radley,** who has had a particularly good season—he has also, in his fitter days, represented the Corps at Rugby.

Arrivals and Departures

The only movement during the month has been among the Officers of the Squadron, and we have said goodbye to **Captain V. H. Stephens** and **Lieutenant R. W. Barry. Captain Stephens** has been our Administrative Officer since the Squadron formed in April of this year and also the writer of these notes, he leaves us for 38 Regiment (V), where he becomes a Quartermaster. **Lieutenant Barry** has moved to the School of Signals for a long course.

We welcome to the Squadron **Captain K. Mogridge,** from 16th Regiment and **Lieutenant J. Roberts** from the School of Signals.

649 Signal Troop, B.F.P.O. 656

Football

"EE-AYE-ADDIO, we won the cup!" Not London, 1966, but Bangkok, 1968, as the Troop football team became winners of the local European Communities Football League. Teams of Swiss, Germans, Americans, Scandinavians and



VICTORY!

Corps footballers in Bangkok who pulled off an international victory by winning the Paul Pitack Cup

British fought each other for top place in the "Farang (foreigners) League," and for the prize of a huge silver cup, presented for the occasion by **Mr. Paul Pitack,** of Krating Tong Breweries. Competition was keen from the start, a fact which did not escape the attention of the two local English newspapers, who gave full press coverage of the matches. Tension mounted as it became clear that the final game would be a battle between the Swiss team and 649 Troop. With a one point advantage to the British team at the start, the Swiss tried desparately to gain a quick victory, but were unable to penetrate the 649 defence. Instead, their own defence was hard pressed, and a final score of 3—0 showed the superiority of the British teams tactics. The cup was presented, and all teams invited to the Krating Tong Brewery, where a very pleasant evening was spent by all. Special thanks go to **Betty Cochrane (Mrs. F. of S.)** for leading the support at every match, and to **"Barnie" Barnes,** who stood in for players who would otherwise have been on duty.

Bowling

Sad to relate, the bowling team have not had the same success as the football team. In fact, they finished up third from last, and even this position was gained at the expense of two other teams who dropped out of the league before the final. If our standard of play is below that of the many American teams, at least we are their equals in turnout, thanks to the splendiferous bowling shirts sported by the team members. We have decided to accept the excuse that this first league was a mere practice, and look forward to great things in the near future.

The White Inn

Farewell to Grand Hotel and hail the White Inn. The oft rumoured move has finally taken place. Settling in was speeded by a barbecue party held at our new home. The party began at the pool-side, but later everyone (including one or two very wet members of the Troop) moved upstairs to the new bar, where a dance was in progress. About 100 people attended the very successful evening which was organised in the main by **Brian Thornburn** and **"Snowy" Holloway.** Even the press turned up, and it has been rumoured that **Bernie Burnett** and **Warren Ballantyne,** whose faces appeared in next morning's edition, have refused further invitations unless they are guaranteed full press coverage.

Round and About—To the Bridge on the River Kwai

A sight-seeing bug seems to have bitten most of the Troop. Recently, a party of ten, chartered a minibus and set off on a day's outing to the Bridge on the River Kwai. A new bridge has been constructed up-stream of the original one, the supports of the old bridge, and the nearby large and well-kept war cemetery serve as a reminder of the thousands who died in the construction of the notorious death railway.



649 TROOP BOWLING TEAM

They were not so successful but their shirts were outstanding *Left to Right*:—Pete Whitbread, 'Bovine' Barnes, Frank Smithurst, Phil Stapeley, Chris Endean

Other trips have been made to the beach resorts of Pattaya and Bang Saen and to Ayuttaya, the ancient former capital of Siam. The city was sacked by the Burmese in 1737, whereupon a new capital was set up at Thonburi. Still later, the king moved across the river to construct a new city which became known as Bangkok. The trip to Ayuttaya was made by boat, still one of the main means of travel in Thailand, and a pleasant day was spent in looking over the ruins.

However, there is work to be done, all the more since we are looking forward to a visit from the British Ambassador in the near future. To **Pete Whitbread** and **Chris Endean** went the unenviable task of clearing out the klong (waterway) surrounding the compound. This was a necessary job, since the klong forms the water supply for our fire trailer, and we were very glad when they "volunteered" for the job, though we still cannot understand how they managed to acquire such a suntan through all that dirt. We were all looking forward to being entertained on this project by "**Snowy**" **Holloway** when, at the last moment, and at very small expense to himself, he hired some help, and became an overseer instead!

The S.O.-in-C Goes Hebridean!
Was there ever a programme like this?

Story of General Anderson's visit is told by 632 Troop (Hebrides)

IT is perhaps fitting that the long silence from '632' should be broken by a report on the visit of the S.O.-in-C.

The date selected for the visit, 23rd July. The scene, O.C. Troop's office mid-June. Conversation between O.C. and Seniors as to how best to present the Troop. Remarks float out of the window—"Can't show him any rocket firings—we haven't fired any for two years." — "He'll have a fit if he sees our 7b teleprinters." — "We can always take him fishing." — "Let's look in the file to see what they did for the last S.O.-in-C."

With last year's file clutched in hand a programme is built up. First problem—how best to introduce the S.O.-in-C. to the Troop wives—a buffet luncheon. Cries of "It went very well last year." "What about cost?", cries a pessimist. "Easy, make it a local seafood buffet, all fish/shellfish to be caught by members of the Troop." (O.C. Troop sees opportunities for frequent 'official' outings to cast a fly!).

"What about after lunch, there is another one-and-a-half hours?" "Send him to St. Kilda" (O.C.'s eyebrow raises one



"WELCOME TO THE HEBRIDES, SIR"

The S.O.-in-C. is welcomed off the plane by Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Oakley, Commandant R.A. Range, and Captain J. D. Bromley, O.C. 632 Signal Troop

point), "and back—of course, by airdrop plane." "Excellent idea, and if the plane is grounded we can take him to the tweed shop."

Was there ever a programme like this?

* * *

The programme is despatched via C.S.O. Scotland to the S.O.-in-C. for approval—and accepted!

The 23rd arrives. This must be the only unit which spends the time immediately prior to the S.O.-in-C.'s arrival 'cockleing' and wheedling lobsters out of local fishermen. Still the buffet must be got together, as long as we are out of wellingtons and waders before he gets here! The salmon centrepiece, its source cloaked in mystery, does not arrive. Thoughts of digging up **F. of S. Moxon's** 29lb. tope which was caught and buried three days ago, for use as a centrepiece.

Finally all foods have been collected and passed to the cookhouse for preparation. Everyone is still asking **Sergeant Snow** how he managed to get the local fishermen to part with lobsters at 6/- a lb.!

All is ready. The Beaver comes in to touch down at Benbecula Airport on time. Out steps a life-jacketed S.O.-in-C. (its the done thing to arrive informally dressed in the Hebrides) accompanied by C.S.O. Scotland, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. Y. Ferguson,** and pilot (naturally) **Captain Bill Price.**

The day's visit progresses, Troop personalities meet, sights seen. **Corporal Maynard** introduced all but clutching his Singapore green (he had three days to do). **Corporal Davidson** trying to describe the fly which produced his latest trout. He called it a "Donegal Wonder!" We all feel it was more likely to be "Garden Tunneller."

* * *

Lobsters, trout and cockles were all consumed. Some people may question the wiseness of a trip in a light aeroplane over to St. Kilda and back after such a meal. The weather was good as was the visibility. The twenty-minute trip to St. Kilda was uneventful and smooth. The Strathair pilot did the passengers proud, not only circling the island of St. Kilda but visiting the nearby stacs of Stac an Armin and Stac Lee and Boreray. These stacs are the breeding ground for the largest colony of gannets in the world, in fact the colony totals a quarter of the world population of gannets. The sight of the stacs and their birdlife is a thing which cannot easily be forgotten. Messages were exchanged between the S.O.-inC. and the three-man Pronto detachment on St. Kilda via the aircraft radio.

* * *

So the visit came to an end. As the S.O.-in-C. and C.S.O. boarded their Beaver to return to the mainland long ice-cold parcels were thrust into their hands, parcels which looked suspiciously like freshly caught trout.



HEBRIDEAN INCIDENT

General Anderson drops in on two men at work—Corporal Maynard and Signalman Saxton—during the S.O.-in-C.'s visit to the Hebrides

The Troop continues to thrive

The Troop continues to thrive on a diet of Kilda tours, sea angling, fly fishing and shooting with the odd sprinkling of communicating.

Expansion of the R.A. Range has provided some interesting project work. On the recreational side, the Troop still has a representative in the sand yachting team, **Corporal Jones.** The team recently attended the National Championships in Scotland, enjoying an instructive and exciting competition. Despite their inexperience, they obtained very creditable results.

A Troop driving team led by **Signalman Gale,** comprising **Signalman Saxton, Corporal White** and **Corporal Pickup,** have won their way through the unit driving competition to represent the R.A. Range in a similar competition at the Edinburgh Tattoo in September.

Fishing, as ever, provides the most entertainment. Someone once called us 632 Angling Troop, certainly the majority of the Troop are either fly or sea fishermen. The annual unit angling championships, which ran for the full twelve months, is as far as the sea section is concerned well under the control of the Prontos with **Corporal Maynard's** 4lb. 8oz. haddock and 15lb. cod, **Sergeant Snow's** 14lb. 8oz. saithe and **F. of S. Moxon's** 29lb. tope.

Departures and arrivals

We have recently said goodbye to two stalwarts. **Corporals Maynard** and **Rooke. Corporal Maynard** is off to strengthen the British ramparts in Singapore, whilst **Corporal Rooke,** the Troop's Poet Laureate, moves towards the wilds of London. **Corporal Rooke,** during his tour, spent a total of nearly eighteen months on St. Kilda—and remained rational to the end, a remarkable achievement.

Captain and Mrs. Bromley are in the process of departing for Staff College. In their place we welcome **Captain and Mrs. Ellis** for their second Hebridean tour.

Other arrivals to whom we extend a welcome are **Corporals Sargent** and **Fitter** and **Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Spinks.**

Visit of Royal Signals Sub-Unit, University of London Officer Training Corps, to 4th Division Signal Regiment

Editor's Note: This short article was written by Second-Lieutenant D. A. Williams, General List. Two weeks after writing it he returned to B.A.O.R. to join 4th Regiment as Second-Lieutenant Williams, M.Sc., Royal Signals.



GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE REAL THING . . .

Officer Cadets of the University of London at 4th Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment getting a briefing from Captain J. McD. Edgar before leaving on exercise, when they were allowed to get their hands on "real equipment"

At 6.30 one Saturday morning in July, four university students, one Civil Servant, a B.B.C. executive and a Regular W.O.II gathered in a T.A.V.R. Centre just south of King's Cross, London. A quarter of an hour later three Officer Cadets, three Officers and one Warrant Officer were on their way by omnibus to their annual camp. The first leg of the journey was from London to 16th Regiment via Folkestone-Ostend-Brussells-Antwerp. At Antwerp a minibus from 13th Regiment took the party to Krefeld.

Arriving rather exhausted at Krefeld, we were glad of sustenance and, indeed, for the four nights at Krefeld we achieved a good bar propping record, usually being the last to leave. In fact, it was not until the following Tuesday that we left for Herford as 4th Division Signal Regiment were still returning from exercises. So the mysteries of 16th Regiment were expounded at some length and slightly unrehearsed. The tour of the Regiment stopped short of nothing, including toilets, squatting, 1 man, which a Major invited us to inspect closely.

On Tuesday a minibus from 4th Division Signal Regiment, complete with conducting Officer, **(Second-Lieutenant Thomas).** arrived to take us to Herford. There we joined forces with the remainder of our party who had flown in on the Monday. When liquid refreshment had been taken we were introduced to the croquet lawn. This remained a source of entertainment throughout our visit.

On our first few days at the Regiment we were briefed by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson,** Officer Commanding 1 Squadron, **Major R. A. King,** and our conducting Officer, **Second-Lieutenant G. J. Thomas,** on the role of the Regiment and the equipment it uses. The rest of the visit was of a practical nature, utilising the equipment. We had a map reading exercise in the first week which familiarised us with the German countryside and a visit to 4th Guards Brigade Signal Squadron, where, before having an excellent lunch, we had a rough riding trip in a FV.432.

One evening an ex-member of U.L.O.T.C., Royal Signals subunit, **Lieutenant Barrett,** came from Minden. In the time honoured manner we "did" most of the notable landmarks between Herford and Minden that evening.

One Sunday we went to Hameln and saw the ceremony of the Rattenfanger. This is a playlet re-enacting the tale of the Pied Piper and was acted in the colourful costume of the period.

We spent the rest of the visit on one-day exercises. These included radio line and radio relay. For the radio relay exercise we had to chose our sites from the map, recce them, and on the next day we tried them out with radio relay detachments.

Socially, too, we had a very enjoyable time. The Commanding Officer invited us to a cocktail party at his house. This gave us a chance to meet informally the officers of the Regiment and thier wives, and a chance for any prospective regular officers to find out how regular officers relax! We also had ample opportunity to indulge in German night life and sample the local beer.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the O.T.C., the Commanding Officers of 4th Division Signal Regiment and 16th Regiment and all their staff for a useful and enjoyable visit to Germany. We were very pleased to come to units which let us "get our hands on the equipment" rather than just have to watch trained operators at work.

The party consisted of the following T.A.V.R. personnel: **Major D. Robinson** (O.C. Party), **Second-Lieutenant R. Jenkins,** Royal Signals, **Second-Lieutenant D. Williams,** Gen. List, **Officer Cadet R. Ives, Officer Cadet N. Humphrey-Smith, Officer Cadet Pidgeon, Officer Cadet J. Platts, Officer Cadet J. Poole, Officer Cadet W. Redaway, Officer Cadet R. Thwaites.**

And also with us we had our Regular P.S.I., **W.O.II J. Paxton.**

621 Troop, H.M.S. Fearless B.F.P.O. Ships

Joining the Ship

AFTER completing the commissioning training at 30th Regiment we moved by road to join H.M.S. *Fearless* at Drake Barracks in Devonport, on 24th June. We were most grateful to 30th Regiment for all the help they gave us during our training and were looking forward to discovering what life was like in the Navy. The ship's company were all busy making ready the ship for the move on board on 4th July. Six months in the dockyard had left the ship in very bad order. There was scaffolding all over the upper structure and cables and hoses covered the decks. Down below there was dirt and grime and the paintwork overall looked like a psychedelic mural in place of the usual ship's side grey.

We soon got stuck in with brooms and paint brushes and were painting with the best of them. Even the O.C. was seen painting one evening with the Commander and the First Lieutenant and a large group of volunteers. On 4th July, the ship's company moved on board and conditions very quickly improved.

Ex-Profiteer

On 9th July, a detachment from *Fearless*, consisting of O.C. (Y. of S.), a naval radio supervisor, eight Army operators and seven naval ratings from the rest of the communications department embarked in L.S.L. *Sir Percival* in company with 24 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. We were to help to establish the communications ashore for a supporting Arms Co-ordination Centre, such as is used in *Fearless*. The aim was to co-ordinate a joint service live firing exercise at Cape Wrath, in the North of Scotland. The accommodation in *Sir Percival* is more comfortable than *Fearless*, but the food we found not as good. The passage was pleasant and we opened the army radio room and succeeded in making all the equipment work. Indeed we used the facilities to control the disembarkation by mexifloat pontoon.

Not wishing to miss any experience of a pongo's life in the field, two of the naval ratings insisted on sleeping in bivouacs and refused the brick built accommodation that was available to them. They said afterwards that they had enjoyed living with an army unit in the field and taking part in the exercise. Here are the impressions of **R.O.2 Painter:**

"Exercise Profiteer, as far as the naval detachment is concerned, gave us the chance to see how the Army worked and the difficulties to be overcome, no matter how well it was organised.

"The only gripe a few of us have is that you have to change the length of your aerials almost every time you change frequency any appreciable amount. Be warned next time we are taking a funnel.

"On the whole though, we think it went well and we enjoyed the few days we spent at Cape Wrath.

"The majority of the naval personnel went straight on leave on completion of the exercise, so we, at least, had about 14 days to recover from the effects of living rough. No doubt our local chemists made a few pounds on Beechams Powders and Milk of Magnesia (of stomach upset fame).

"We look forward to working with you again and hope that further exercises will prove to be as equally enjoyable."

Commissioning H.M.S. *Fearless*

On 19th July, the Commanding Officer, **Captain M. W. B. Kerr, D.S.C.,** R.N., read the commissioning warrant to the ship's company fallen in on the tank deck. The Royal Marine guard gave a Royal Salute and presented arms, and the ensign was broken by **Lance-Corporal Wilson,** Royal Signals, and two naval communication ratings. It was a splendid day. The sun shone. The ship's company were in their best rig and the many guests who had come to see the ship commissioned, added colour to the ceremony. We were very pleased to see **Brigadier Gray** and **Colonel Piddington** as official guests. There was a huge commissioning cake with an icing model of the ship on top and all the representative crests round the sides. The Chinese Chief Cook, mistaking the sex of Jimmy when copying the Royal Signals crest caused much laughter when he had it pointed out to him while we stared at the athletic figure of a busty woman. She was reduced in time for the day.

First day at sea

We went to sea on 12th August to do our sea acceptance trials. We took with us a C41 radio relay detachment from 24 Brigade Signal Squadron. The equipment was conected through the ship's exchange and the military exchange. The same telephone service, as when alongside, was maintained throughout the week at sea. The maximum distance was 70 miles on this occasion, but we expect to make it work even further next time.

We were pleased that none of us were seasick, and indeed, the converse happened when the Troop went ashore after four days to set up the communications for the ship's disaster organisation. Standing on "terra firma" made one feel very dizzy!

34 (N) Signal Regiment (V), Middlesborough

After Camp Comes Cupid

After annual camp those fortunates who have two holidays disappear from the scene and those left struggle on. This being the "off" season, two Officers, **Captain Peter Varty** (R.H.Q.) and **Lieutenant Alan Crusher** (50 (N) Squadron), decided to get married, and our congratulations to both. **Captain Cedric Platt** (49 (W.R.) Squadron) follows this excellent example in September. **Alan Crusher** married **Miss Pauline White,** an ex-W.R.A.C. member of the Squadron, whom he met (so it is said) when they turned over the pages of the Book of Remembrance in Darlington Church.

The Regimental Band has been in the news after Beating Retreat at the Teesside Eisteddfod in front of a crowd of 2,000 with the Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,** taking the salute. They also added to the international flavour of the Billingham Annual Folklore Festival by again closing the festivities by Beating Retreat in front of the Mayor and Mayoress of Teeside. We were flattered by the Northern Television news commentator referring to them as the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals. No doubt the Corps Band are sometimes mistaken for ours! Additional recent engagements include a band concert in Croft Gardens, Hartlepools, and the inauguration of the Borough of Teesside on which occasion they again appeared on television. Future events include the Durham Old Comrades' reunion and Battle of Britain Sunday.

The Regiment has taken a stand at most of the local shows and have either provided stands and/or communications at the Leeds Printers' Gala, White Rose Horse Trials and Leeds United driving competition.

The Sergeants' Mess have taken two very successful outings —to the Strensall Army Display and to the Ghurkha Beating Retreat ceremony at Catterick. The Officers are looking forward to the annual ball in September.

Regimental training starts up again in September—busily preparing for the annual administrative inspection!

Aspiring Commanding Officers and R.S.M.s may like to note for their training that two recent dates for ours were to judge a juvenile jazz band competition and to present the prizes at a local dog show.



THE BACKBONE OF A LIVELY VOLUNTEER REGIMENT

Members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess of 34 (N) Volunteer Regiment with their Honorary Colonel, Brigadier Claude Fairweather, and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. Evans, taken at their annual camp at Crowborough

32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), Glasgow

ROYAL REVIEW, 1968

Ceremonial Troops

ON the evening of Tuesday, 2nd July, 1968, Her Majesty The Queen accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, graciously consented to carry out a Review of Her Majesty's Troops in Scotland.

The Review took the form of a ceremonial parade flanked by troops, with equipment on parade, in their functional role.

The ceremonial troops, commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Gregor MacGregor of MacGregor, Bt.,** Officer Commanding 1st Battalion The Scots Guards, comprised two Guards from 1st Battalion Scots Guards, one Guard from each of 1st Battalion Royal Scots, 1st Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers, two Guards from 1st Battalion Black Watch and one Guard of Honour from the R.A.F. Regiment. Each Guard carried a Colour, while the R.A.F. Guard of Honour carried the Queen's Colour of the R.A.F.

Military bands from the Royal Marines, Scots Guards and R.A.F Regiment and Pipes and Drums from 1st Battalion Scots Guards, 1st Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers and 1st Battalion Black Watch, played the music for the parade.

All the ceremonial troops were, of course, Regular soldiers.



[*Photo: Courtesy Murray Donald, 238, Dalry Road, Edinburgh*

ROYAL SIGNALS REVIEW DETACHMENT

Detachment formed from the 61st (City of Edinburgh) Squadron of the 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V)

Functional Troops

The functional troops, commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel P. Brown,** Commanding Officer 154th Regiment R.C.T. (V), were drawn mainly from T. & A.V.R. troops in Scotland.

Elements of R.A., R.E., Royal Signals, R.C.T., R.A.M.C., R.A.O.C., R.E.M.E., Provost and Infantry Units in the T. & A.V.R. in Scotland were represented at the Review.

The Royal Signals detachment was provided by 32nd (Scottish) Regiment (V). The personnel and vehicles were drawn from 61 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron (V). On parade were five Landrovers fitted with, respectively, 1 x C41, 2 x C11/R210 HF radio and 2 x line layers. The personnel were two Officers, **Lieutenant W. R. Crook** and **Lieutenant D. C. Macfarlane, W.O.II Weddell** and seventeen soldiers.

After intensive activity in the T.A.C., Chesser Crescent, Edinburgh, and after two weekends of rehearsals, at last the day of the Review dawned. Alas, the weather, which on the rehearsals had not been unkind, was threatening and black. It seemed as if the famous "Wet Review" of the last century was about to be repeated. Sure enough, as the functional troops approached the F.U.P. the sky opened and down came the rain in "stair-rods." This continued until just before H.M. The Queen arrived at the parade ground. Then the rain stopped and the sun shone briefly. Although everyone on parade was soaked our spirits were not dampened. The morale and military bearing of all ranks were beyond reproach.

H.M. The Queen, after reviewing her troops, drove to the saluting base outside Holyrood Palace and took the salute as the ceremonial troops and the functional troops proudly marched and drove past.

All Officers and soldiers were justly proud and honoured to take part in the first Royal Review in Scotland since just after the turn of the century.

To Denmark in Petasus

CORPORAL Bob Moffat, of the 4th Division Signal Regiment, writes for "The Wire" an uninhibited and enthusiastic account of his first real taste of open sea sailing in the Corp's yacht "Petasus." From time to time we have published similar stories, but this one particularly, captures the thrill of "going places and doing things," that nowadays can come the way of so many soldiers in the Corps.

End of an Exercise

The end of our Exercise "Summer Sales" heralded the beginning of our Denmark adventure training exercise via the British Kiel Yacht Club, (B.K.Y.C.). I myself was feeling fairly whacked from a strenuous but self-satisfying task of providing good communications when **Sergeant Armstrong,** my Troop Sergeant arrived from Division H.Q. in a Land Rover on his way back to barracks to pick me up. Clutching my kit I bundled myself into the back and we set off to 4th Division Signal Regiment, Herford.

The first task next morning for myself was to get together the stores for the trip which had been promised to us from various sections of the Regiment. With our own kit as well, a veritable mountain grew in the Squadron office. However, we managed to load it all on to the Land Rover and make ready for the drive to Kiel.

The crew of the yacht was: **Major Gregory** (Skipper), **Major Hartnett** (First Mate and Chief Engineer), **Corporal Doughty** (Spoute to his friends), **Signalman Terry Low** and myself.

We climbed on board, and with **Doughty** driving, we left at 2.30 p.m. from Herford for Kiel.

A good start

We arrived in Kiel at 8.30 p.m. with **Doughty** feeling the strain of a fairly longish drive, and I must say neither **Terry** nor myself felt right on top of the world as petrol fumes give me a headache, anyway. No sooner had we stopped though, than the Skipper met us and as soon as we had parked up he hustled us into the Club House for a really good supper. We all felt fine after that lot, and whenever we had a meal in the British Kiel Yacht Club House, whether breakfast or supper, it was always very good.

As it was getting late now, about all we could do that day was to remove our kit from the trailer and stow it on board. Quickly choosing our berths, and throwing out our sleeping bags we flaked out. Previously that evening, just as I was falling asleep. I remembered the first view of *Petasus*, our ocean-going yacht, as I looked down at her from the jetty and it was one of a compact, well-designed, clean-looking craft.

Next morning we stowed our kit properly and all the rations we had, and my first impression of good design was enhanced by the way our equipment just disappeared into cupboards and drawers.

Something about "Petasus"

Perhaps I should give you an idea of what our Corps ocean-going yacht is all about for those who have not yet seen her. *Petasus* is, as I have just mentioned, an ocean-going racing yacht and therefore, of a fairly broad beam. She carries about 50 square metres of sail when fully rigged and can stand a really heavy seas, as obviously at times she is called upon to do so. Her interior "below decks" furniture is all in excellent condition with five berths, two forward, two amidships and one quarter berth astern on the starboard side. The sixth is a cot affair that is collapsible and can be arranged on the port side amidships above the other berths when at sea. With the careful removal of a board or two these berths accommodated all our spare kit. Between the two berths amidships is our dining table and for cooking we have a small stainless steel sink and a two-ring calor gas stove. All of this equipment acquitted itself most admirably throughout the eight days that we used it. *Petasus* is equipped with an engine, a two cylinder four stroke, quite a powerful job, feeding a single propeller with a gear lever for "ahead" and "astern." The cockpit from which the setting of the sails and steering can be done is aft of the cabin. Forward, set into the deck, is the "foc'sle" hatch from which we did our foresail changing.

Finding our feet

During the weekend we sailed around in the Fiord being taught how to crew the yacht properly and the correct procedure to adopt in certain navigational manoeuvres, mainly "Man overboard" and a normal change of course and resetting the sails. I must admit I was quite baffled at first but after the weekend's practice I was confident that in my capacity of 52nd mate I could perform my duties properly. We practised sail changings, going about and gying, with each of us taking turns at the helm.

A small adventure

On the second day the wind blew up to Force 6 gusting 7, and the smaller 30 square metres and Dan boats were having a hard time of it in the races, so much so that I was asked, as I was spare at the time, to replace a woman crew member of one of these "thirties" as she, like myself, was fairly new at sailing. After the skipper of the boat had briefed me on the sailing fundamentals of this type of boat we cast off, and after stooging around the committee boat (a powerful launch), for the starting gun, we raced out from the start for the centre of the Kiel Fiord and also into a stiff Force 6 wind and driving rain. I was, of course, well done up in oilskins with the old towel around my neck to keep out the sea, but in that sort of weather when racing a "thirty," one may as well just wear swimming trunks.

It was my first real race and a rough weather one at that. We keeled right over with the water pouring all over us. Every time I poked my head out over the cabin, I got a face full of wave. How we made it round the centre channel buoy, I'll never know. Manoeuvring a yacht in this weather was beyond my comprehension. One of the other yachts struck trouble. The wind was so strong by this time that as it rounded the buoy and went head on into the wind, it just could not make it and was thrown right back. The crew just had to run before the wind and sea down the fiord and retire from the race. This left four boats in it and we were chuckling to ourselves on our good seamanship as we managed to make the protection of the "Mole" at the yacht club, when there was a sudden lurch and we were firmly aground. The committee boat raced up and threw us a towing line and pulled us off with everybody thinking it quite a joke. We were most embarrassed as we moored up and I for one kept out of the way for a while rather than say: "Yes, it was me who went aground."

Nosh with the C.O.

On the afternoon of this same day the weather had improved considerably, and with **Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson** and **Mrs. Jackson** (the C.O. and his wife), we took a short trip round the Kiel Fiord. That evening the C.O. took us all out to dinner in one of the local Gasthouses, where we all enjoyed ourselves immensely along with heapings of "Pommes-Frites," and, of course, wonderful steaks.

More excitement

Next day we were all up early around 6 a.m. Coffee was made and we tramped up to breakfast in the Club House. From then on we were to leave our very comfortable B.K.Y.C. mooring behind. We set off about 11 a.m. to sail up to Maasholm with the C.O. and his wife aboard.

It was a nice breezy trip up and apart from getting involved with two tugs manoeuvring on the edge of the range area, we made it quite well. And all had a spell on the tiller. The channel from outside Schleimunde to Maasholm is very narrow and as the wind was right on our nose we were about to drop sail and motor in when to our horror we discovered that there was no drive from the engine. We had no alternative but to press on under sail. With the skipper at the tiller we beat past Scheimunde and part of the way up the channel to Maasholm. It was all too rapidly becoming evident that we were getting nowhere fast and in attempting to turn round to run back to Schleimunde we went aground. I thought to myself that to run aground in the first two days on two different boats might get me a bad name, however, it turned out third time lucky for me this time. The lighthouse quickly sent out a small motor launch that easily pulled us off. When we were off he was good enough to tow us up a mile of this very narrow channel where we put ourselves into Maasholm.

As soon as we were moored up, the Harbourmaster charged us our day's due—about two marks, I believe (mainly because we had snaffled the best berth, as always). He proved to be a friendly old chap, after we had laced him with a can of beer, and helped us organise a mechanic to attend to our gearbox.

Sondeborg—and the beer is expensive

The next morning we set off playing safe by motoring down the narrow Maasholm Channel and then set sail outside the harbour mouth. We set a northerly course for Sondeberg. The rumours of gale-force winds did not become reality, and the trip was pleasant and smooth. Sondeborg is a very big Danish port, and we were first struck by the size of the bridge that spans the fiord, just beyond where we moored. I bought a very nice Danish pom-pom hat in the very well equipped ship's chandlers ashore and, of course, the inevitable stack of post cards for the folks at home. The main thing I noticed was that Sondeborg people were quite young and extremely friendly and courteous. The girls were quite something! The mate went shopping for some Copenhagen china, which, when we found it, impressed us by its beauty, but staggered us by its price.

When the party went ashore in the evening we were very shocked at the price of the beer. Denmark is, to my experience, one of the most expensive countries in the world, where one pays 6 kronen 50 ore for a half-litre (about six shillings)—it's good beer though.

An amusing evening out

Sondeborg bridge opened for us early next morning, when we flew our courtesy flag at half mast. The first mate literally hooked a lift on the prop-shaft of a large ocean-going cargo ship that also went through. Afterwards he said he felt safer in that position, just in case the bridges closed too early and tried to batten our mast to the ocean bottom. We were, of course, taking photographs of us sailing underneath. We motored *Petasus* up the Sondeborg channel and out to the open sea of the Little Belt. This took four hours, and I wished it could have been longer, for the scenery was marvellous. After a while the wind got up, the sails filled and we set course for Faabourg, on the southern coast of the Island of Fyn. The wind dropped again and we were in the doldrums. After a couple of hours of absolute calm, the skipper decided to alter course for Assens, on the west coast of Fyn, a much closer port.

Our highlight of the evening ashore in Assens was one of the locals, having dressed up as a very presentable young lady, proceeded to fool around on the dance floor of the local gasthouse, to everyone's delight. This fellow had us all laughing our sides off for most of the evening.

That night the wind rose and we had a good fast sail the next morning into Fredericia on the mainland opposite the north-west tip of Fyn, arriving about lunch time. It was raining when we went ashore for our inevitable post cards. I think we all looked like a group of yellow penguins waddling down the jetty in our oilskins.

After we had had a rest, digesting our tea-time "skipper's curry," we decided to split up and go ashore at different times, as some of us had outstanding work on board. Doughty and I went to the local discotheque and had a rip-roaring time; in fact everybody enjoyed Fredericia.

A record passage

Returning at 04.30 hours, I made the tea, ready for us to cast off and set sail for Faabourg. We did a record trip for *Petasus*, speeding at an average of 6.5 knots to Faabourg, a 50-mile passage, which we made in approximately eight hours. Later we discovered this was a world record, but what else could you expect from a top-hand crew, and besides, it was my turn at navigating that day! Arriving at 12.30 hours, with the sun shining, it was a really lovely day. We had dinner on board and then flaked out dead tired. That evening we took our dinner out, by kind permission of our kitty, and really had an entertaining dinner. There is a most interesting discotheque in this port.

Wonderful scenery

Next morning we set sail for Lohals, via the Svendborg fiord. As it was such a super day, we set to to clean ship prior to entering the fiord. The sail through the fiord proved to be well worth while from both the sailing and the scenery point of view. On clearing the fiord, we entered the waters of the Great Belt, which lies between the Islands of Fyn and Langeland to run down to Lohals. This proved to be one of the best ports of call on our trip. Although a small harbour, it seems to be very popular amongst sailors and provided a very pleasant evening's stop. Unwittingly, we had stumbled on the last day of Lohals tourist fest. By nightfall the harbour was packed with small craft.

We set sail next morning to round the northern tip of Langeland, ready for the long reach down the eastern coast to Bagenkop on the south-western tip of the island. A rather monotonous sail for our last day in Danish waters, but necessary to get Petasus within striking distance of Kiel. Bagenkop has a very good harbour and is the ferry terminal from Kiel, but offers little else.

Last day

Our last day saw us set off early towards Kiel in a south-easterly force 3 wind, with very little visibility. A course of 210° set and held found us approaching the new Kiel Lighthouse on the starboard bow at about 12.00 hours. By 13.00 hours the lighthouse was still broad on the starboard beam and the wind by this time practically nil. We finally motor/sailed into B.K.Y.C. at about 17.00 hours a rather mundane way to end a great cruise.

The time of my life

I could, in fact, write so much about the trip, but these notes are far too long already. All I can say basically in summing up the complete cruise and the regattas, is that I can't remember when I have enjoyed myself so much. I did, in fact, thanks to the organisers, literally have the time of my life and the countryside was in places absolutely beautiful.

As adventure training, it certainly made me a little tougher—my stomach anyway—sharpened up my wits, and gave me a very realistic sense of responsibility. I am now looking forward to my colour slides arriving back from the developers, with scenes of a beautiful countryside, that perhaps, one day I'll be lucky enough to visit once again.

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MR43

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1968

Vol. 22 *(New Series)* **No. 11**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture this month shows one of Britain's new wonder aircraft — the Harrier — taking off in front of the Joint Headquarters, Rheindalen, Germany.

We feature this powerful new addition to Royal Air Force resources as the communication support for the Harrier may well be a new and exciting task for the Corps in the future. While the whole question of command and control of Harrier Squadrons is still under consideration there is a very distinct possibility that each Squadron will have its own associated Royal Signals unit to provide most of the necessary ground radio communications.

LOOKING through the pages of THE WIRE, one cannot help but be impressed by an independence of outlook, initiative and capability of standing on their own feet, that shows itself increasingly amongst our young regular soldiers.

So often in the past the initial drive and enthusiasm behind some activity has had to stem from Officers and senior N.C.O.s. It is with pleasure that one reads now of young N.C.O.s and Signalmen organising things for themselves especially in the more remote stations where the Corps is only represented by a troop or a detachment.

The ability to fend for themselves with distinction is particularly well exemplified by **Corporal M. Sully** (Near East Land Forces expedition to Murzuk) and **Lance-Corporal A. S. Davidson** (Great Abbai Expedition).

Details of the Murzuk expedition can be read on page 444 of this WIRE.

Corporal Sully received a G.O.C.'s commendation for his "tireless devotion to meeting his leader's requirements" in keeping through a vital communication link under very difficult circumstances where there was no recourse to an officer or senior N.C.O. with technical ability. Apart from his job on the rear link he pulled his full weight as a useful member of the expedition in many other ways.

Lance-Corporal Davidson functioned in a similar capacity with the Great Abbai expedition and a letter from him to his C.O. was published in the October/November WIRE. This letter—which incidentally was in no way intended for publication on the part of **Lance-Corporal Davidson**—revealed how he, with the able support of **Corporal D. Fisher** (a technician), wrestled with difficulties over aerials, frequencies, stubborn charging engines and a host of other problems in a remote corner of Ethiopia. As a result the daily press reports from the expedition came through accurately and on schedule. Modestly **Lance-Corporal Davidson** finished his letter: "It is now well after midnight so I must finish. I will let you know how things go later on. Thanks to all at M.U.B.4 (U.K. terminal) for all their help and patience."

With young N.C.O.s such as these the reputation of the Corps is in safe hands indeed!

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE CORPS

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps a number of functions are being planned for 1970. Of particular interest to Old Comrades and retired members of the Corps will be a two-day reunion at Catterick Camp over the week-end 27th/28th June, 1970, and a one-day reunion at Blandford Camp on Sunday, 21st June, which it is hoped will include a special Service at Salisbury Cathedral. More details will be issued as and when they become known. Meanwhile all should make a particular note of these dates in their diaries now.

Special Mention

A MONTHLY miscellany of Corps happenings which have come to our ears or have been sent in by readers, and are deserving of SPECIAL MENTION.

—— *Student Bandmaster R. G. Tomlinson, A.R.C.M., L.G.S.M., of the Corps Band*

for winning nearly every worthwhile prize on the Prize Day held at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, on 19th September, 1968. **Tomlinson** won the following: Worshipful Company of Musicians Medal for the best all-round student of the 1968 class; the Commandant's Prize for the best quick march (silver plaque); the Besson Cup and Medal for the student gaining the highest marks in the M.O.D. examination; the Barsotti Award for the best Student Bandmaster of the British Army; the Loder Prize for elocution; the Adjutant's Prize for the best Church Service. **Student Bandmaster Tomlinson** enlisted as a Boy under **John Judd,** late Director of Music of the Corps Band.

—— *Signalman Duncan Bailey and Lance-Corporal Alan Moss, of 9th Regiment*

for being chosen to ride in the six-day cycle race sponsored by the Israeli Sporting Federation to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Israeli Independence. The event is taking place in Israel. **Signalman Bailey's** selection was of course in the nature of a certainty. He is well known in Army cycling circles; he is current British Army Champion at 25 miles and at 50 miles, the latter title he only won in May this year. He has cycled for the Army since 1965. **Lance-Corporal Moss** has been out of the saddle for some time and is making something of a come-back, but his determined riding and experience should give his opponents something to think about—even against an international field which includes Swedes, Danes, Austrians and, of course, top Israeli riders.

—— *The Corps Hockey Team*

for meriting the highest praise from no less an authoritative source than the *Hockey News* on their performance at the Bournemouth Hockey Festival held some time ago. The Summer Edition of this journal just published says: *"Royal Signals making their first appearance at this festival put up a fine performance by winning three of their four games and giving the best display of hockey seen for many years."*

NEXT S.O.-in-C. APPOINTED

Although it has been notified officially not all will have heard that the present S.O.-in-C., Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., is to become Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals) in the latter half of 1969, and that Brigadier P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., will be taking up the appointment of S.O.-in-C. in August, 1969.

From our "In" Tray

Recording Requested

Sir,

Through the medium of THE WIRE may I please make the following request. I am most anxious to obtain a good tape of The Corps Band playing retreat, The Corps March, etc., etc. Is there any member of the Corps prepared to make up a tape for me from either a record or from a "live" performance, or from both?

I am naturally prepared to pay for *all* expenses involved. By *all* expenses I mean a reasonable amount of "likker" consumed as the kind person discusses the possibilities in Mess or canteen, cost of tape, postage, etc.

May that same kind person please note that I would like the tape to be 3¾ I.P.S. Mono. Unlike the modern Corpsman, I cannot afford the luxury of Stereo!

Without looking a possible gift horse in the mouth, may I please request a first class recording. I'm up against a bit of competition here, and am determined to show the Corps Flag at its best. What better medium than our Corps Band?

Yours, etc.,
G. B. Symonds, M.B.E., Captain.

Oman Gendarmerie, Sultan's Armed Forces,
Muscat and Oman, B.F.P.O. 63 'A.'

Heartfelt Thanks and Warm Greetings

Sir,

Today I start what might be described as my last overseas tour, but this time it is a pay-your-own-passage and, more significantly, an open-ended tour; today, I emigrate to Canada.

Some months ago in Malaya both my wife and I had mishaps. It is, however, not to mishaps that our thoughts turn in our last few hours in Britain, but to those who brought us comfort and such wonderful help.

May I, perhaps, take a little space in your columns to send our heart-felt thanks and our warmest greetings to **Colonel 'Able' Dacre** and all those good companions with whom we served and lived in Gurkha Signals and who tended to our needs so magnificently, and to **Colonel Douglas Hibberd** and his staff of 10th Regiment who were so hospitable to us on our return to this country?

Yours, etc.,
P. E. C. Davies, Major (retired).

London Airport, Heathrow,
Hounslow, Middlesex.

Extending that Chain!

Sir,

Having read in the August-September edition of THE WIRE the account of Exercise "Lath" by 17th Gurkha Regiment, I feel I must put their C41 radio relay chain into some perspective compared with 'normal' links operated in W. Malaysia by R.R. Troop of 249 Squadron (FARELF).

This Troop has for several exercises established and maintained chains, using three relays, from the Tanglin Exchange in Singapore to exercise locations in the Gong Kedah area. This is a total distance of 385 miles. The longest duration for this link was for five weeks last year, the only trouble experienced being due to electrical storms.

Yours sincerely,
T. A. Woodhouse, Lieutenant, Royal Signals,
249 Squadron (FARELF) attached
2nd Australian Signal Regiment.

2nd Signal Regiment,
Royal Australian Corps of Signals,
Watsonia Barracks, McLeod,
Victoria 3085, Australia.

Farewell to Brigadier C. H. Howarth, O.B.E.

Colonel John Collins, late of the Corps, writes:

On 30th August, the *Edinburgh Castle* steamed out of Southampton, carrying **Clifford Howarth** and his family to South Africa. Fittingly, it was his first Regiment — 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals, T.A.—which came to wish him well as he went. There were: **Eric Moore, Frank Moules, Charles Ray, Fred Durnford, Freddy Strong, John Taylor, Les Illingsworth, John Collins,** together with old friends of **Clifford's, Captain Sherwin, R.N.,** and his wife.

Typically, there was not one of us **Clifford** did not seek out on the dockside, and I have since had a letter expressing his warm thanks.

We shall miss him very much.

Brigadier Howarth's new address is: The Lobster Pot, Umhlanga Rocks, Natal, South Africa.—(Editor).

MAJOR-GENERAL R. T. NELSON, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

His many friends in the Corps will be saddened to hear of the recent death of **Major-General R. T. Nelson,** Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army (1959 to 1963).

Messages of condolence were sent by the S.O.-in-C. and the Colonels Commandant, and **Colonel I. G. Swan** represented the Corps at the funeral.

General 'Tom' Nelson was a much-loved personality, and the relationship between him and the Corps was a very close one. In 1962 he visited the U.K., when he stayed with **Major-General A. M. W. Whistler,** then S.O.-in-C. During his visit he was given an official lunch by the Colonels Commandant and was presented to H.R.H. The Princess Royal at St. James's Palace.

Major-General A. M. Whistler writes:

"I first met **'Tom' Nelson** on a military aircraft in the States at 7 a.m., when we boarded a special aircraft in which we were cooped-up together for over eleven hours. What an introduction! But I have never enjoyed a flight more, nor learned so much in one day. Only a man of his understanding and character could have made such a thing possible. We emerged at the end firm friends.

He was then C.S.O. of the U.S. Army—head of the biggest Signal Corps in the world—and I was making my first tour as the newly-fledged S.O.-in-C. From his vast experience I was able to learn and crystalise so many of the ideas which proved of value to us in Royal Signals. So also was cemented that close and valuable co-operation between our two great Corps.

As we toured the U.S. together, I realised more and more in what respect and, indeed love, he was held amongst all ranks of all Arms in the States. Later, when he and his charming wife, 'Chris,' stayed in our home in Britain, and we toured the U.K., his flair for seeing the best in, and getting the best out of people, became more and more evident. With all his knowledge and experience, he remained so humble. He was firm but friendly, and coupled with his shrewdness was a delightful sense of humour. He is the only General I know who, repairing his own car, drove it through the garage doors—shut at the time—with his head on the accelerator. Even Chris's normal aplomb was strained.

He was truly loved and respected by all who served with him. I am proud to have been known as a friend. We, Royal Signals, owe him more than we shall ever realise."

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were most gratefully received during September, 1968:—

	£	s.	d.
30th Regiment (Silver collection at Corps Band performance) ...	15	0	0
28th Regiment (Autumn Fair)	190	0	0
H.Q. Adv. Base (British Forces), B.F.P.O. 21 (Profits of Fete) ...	12	10	0
W.O.II B. J. Styles	5	0	0
Mr. K. J. Williams	2	15	0
Mr. T. H. Southgate	1	10	0
Various individual donations	1	14	10
Total Receipts	£228	9	10
Expenditure during September, 1968	£589	8	4

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

ANNUAL LONDON LECTURE

Thursday, 28th November, 1968, at 6 p.m.

COMMAND AND CONTROL IN THE 1980s

In war, the commander who, by making the best use of his resources, is able to react first will have the greatest probability of success. Future communications systems, providing unprecedented security, speed, mobility and data-handling facilities, suggest new dimensions to the vital functions of intelligence-gathering, of the planning and execution of operations, and of logistic support. It may be, however, that present-day command and control systems and methods will need radical modification to take full advantage of this improved communications potential.

by

ANTHONY VERRIER

in

THE COMMONWEALTH HALL
OF THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

16-20 Craven Street, off Northumberland Avenue and Strand, London, W.C.2.

The general arrangements will be as on previous occasions and the bar will be open before and after the lecture.

There is seating accommodation for 400, which we would like to see filled. Tickets are not required by members of the Institution and their accompanied guests, or by members and ex-members of the Corps.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted finacially in September	**34**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**34**
Amount spent in grants and loans	**£589 8 4**

One of the Month's Cases

EX-SIGNALMAN, nine years' regular service. He lost a leg as result of a road accident in March and is still on the sick list. He and his wife have managed to keep out of debt, but there is no money to buy clothing replacements for their six children. The Association made a grant of £20 for this purpose, and clothing parcels are also being sent.

One of the Month's Letters

"THANK you most sincerely for your help with a grant for the boys' clothing. We are doing the best we can in very difficult times. As you know, I am waiting to go into hospital for an operation. My world is a bit upside down at the moment, and I didn't know which way to turn, trying hard all the time but getting nowhere. It's made me a little bitter; after all, my husband died for Britain. It's all piled up on top of me, and, to be truthful, I didn't think you people would help either, as I have been turned down on so many things. I would like very much to thank your Committee for their understanding and trying to buck me up."

AND THE PART PLAYED BY 621 SIGNAL TROOP

DAY-BY-DAY STORY BY YEOMAN OF SIGNALS G. E. RAWLINS

EARLY on the morning of Thursday, 3rd October, we were informed by signal that Exercise "Lovat," for which we had prepared (embarked an advance party), was postponed. We continued with arrangements as the delay was only likely to be 12 hours or so.

On Friday, the 4th, we disembarked the advance party and embarked 4 Wessex from Culdrose, then left Plymouth under very highly classified sailing orders. It was not until we were well out to sea that we learned that our destination was Gibraltar to carry out a mission of "great prestige" to Great Britain. The day ended amid massive speculation as to the nature of this mission.

. . . the impression that something really big was in the air

Early Saturday saw us in the Bay of Biscay with the nearest land 2½ miles away beneath the ship. Captain's rounds took place. A great deal of painting and hucking out began to give the impression that something really big was in the air. The ship Signal Troop played their part in getting the gear in tip-top order and **Corporal Davis,** with his radio relay detachment from 24 Brigade, turned to with the Chief Yeoman (R.N.) to produce a sparkling flag deck. At this time we were steaming well below full revs to time our arrival in Gibraltar for Tuesday. There was still no official clue of what was happening although in the news the Opposition Leader Mr. Heath suggested that it was time the Government again met the Rhodesian P.M. Mr. Smith. The Troop O.C. **Captain M. P. Walker** was at various stages seen to be wielding a paintbrush and tin of battleship grey. Unfortunately, I was too slow to catch this unique event on film.

The rendezvous with H.M.S. *Kent*

The Captain announced that we would be joined by County class guided missile destroyer H.M.S. *Kent* in the morning, also we were to prepare conference facilities and quarters for a party of some 40. The R.M. detachment under **Q.M.S. Les Gordon** started practising a guard for the Flag Officer, Gibraltar.

At 9 a.m. Sunday we kept our rendezvous with *Kent* at sea. **Captain Clayton, R.N.,** transferred to us by chopper for a conference with **Captain Kerr** (*Fearless*). More and more areas of the ship were now becoming inaccessible as they were cleaned and sealed off. A Harvest Festival Service took place on board. As yet still nothing had been heard on the radio to indicate our true mission.

We passed Cape St. Vincent on the Monday morning, water at 70 degrees. We didn't stop for a swim although it would have been welcome. All painting was finished at noon and communicators were briefed on their tasks although not the purpose. From B.B.C. news: "R.A.F. Comet to Salisbury to take **Sir Humphrey Gibbs** and **Mr. Ian Smith** to Mauritius." **Mr. Harold Wilson** replied: "I'm not going to Mauritius." Ship's signature tune became "We know something you don't know." British Prime Minister to make a statement on Tuesday in the Commons.

The Prime Minister comes aboard

Tuesday morning gave us first sight of the Rock in brilliant sunshine. We disembarked the Wessex helicopters to Gibraltar at 1 p.m. B.B.C. announced that after a cabinet meeting the Prime Minister was going to Gibraltar to meet **Ian Smith** on board the warship *Fearless*. Suspicions confirmed. **Captain Kerr** announced confirmation for the record. On arrival we went ashore and established a radio relay C41 site at O'Hara's Battery, 1,363 feet above sea level. This gave a shot into the harbour, through the straits and into the Mediterranean if needed. The Prime Minister came on board at midnight followed shortly afterwards by the remainder of his party.

The next day saw the arrival of **The Governor of Rhodesia, Mr. Smith, Mr. Lardner-Burke** and the remainder of the Rhodesian delegation. It also saw a large number of the ship's company ashore to buy rabbits (presents). I think that we all hoped for a settlement although we would have (selfishly) liked to have stayed a little longer.

From Tuesday, the 8th, until Monday, the 14th, **Corporal Davis** and his crew continued to function with their R.R. detachments both on board and at O'Hara's Battery on the Rock. The purpose of the radio relay was to provide a one-to-one circuit for engineering to the system control of Gibraltar comcen while in harbour for both H.M.S. *Kent* and H.M.S. *Fearless*. The shore terminal was also connected to the exchange at R.A.F. North Fort and then over their R.T. circuit to Whitehall. This was to provide the Prime Minister with the facility of dialling 0 on the ship's exchange, which is operated by the Troop, and asking for 10 Downing Street, in the event of the ship going to sea for any reason. The record for this connection through the dockyard exchange while alongside was 1 min. 53 sec.

Meeting Signal Troop

The **Prime Minister** and **Sir Elwyn Jones** spent some time walking around the ship on Saturday and met the Ship Signal Troop on the flight deck during the morning. We also had a visit from the C.S.O. Strategic Command, **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray. Brigadier Gray** also managed to fit in a visit to the detachment on the Rock. The **Prime Minister** and **Mr. Smith** could occassionally be seen around the ship but for the best part they semeed to be hard at it. On Sunday evening the P.M. went for a trip round the Rock in the ship's "Huntress" escorted by an L.C.V.P. **Mr. Smith** left for Rhodesia later in the evening.

On Monday the Prime Minister visited the ship's communications office and again met the Ship Signal Troop before addressing the ship's company. He was extremely flattering in his praise of the ship's efforts. Furthermore, whilst en route to London he sent a message of thanks and goodwill from his Comet, to the ship's company.

At the time of writing we are on our way back to U.K. and Exercise "Swap." As yet no announcement has been made of the conference results. We sincerely hope that they have been successful.

This was the first time in the present commission that the communications department had all three Services working togther. The R.A.F. comcen lent four tape operators for the conference. All three Services worked very much in harmony and thoroughly enjoyed taking part in an operation that might well make history.

'CAT' TIES FOR FORMER MEMBERS OF 15th REGIMENT

A limited number of 15th Signal Regiment ties are available for sale. They bear the Regimental crest of an Egyptian Cat with the Roman numerals 'XV,' in red on a dark blue background.

They may be obtained by writing to:

Major M. J. T. O'Connor, Royal Signals, c/o MOD (Army), AGII, Stanmore, Middx.

enclosing a cheque or postal order for 18s. 6d. each.

This is the last chance to secure an historic tie, which is no longer being made.

Movements

NOVEMBER

Captain A. W. Bird	To	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Major L. S. Bamber	,,	School of Signals
Lieutenant A. J. Briggs	,,	661 Troop (Intrepid)
Captain G. D. A. Blessington	,,	16th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Baynham, G.M.	,,	SHAPE (G.S.O.1 LIVEOAK)
Colonel J. R. Cubberley	,,	School of Signals as Comdt.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. A. Collyer	,,	Fort Monmouth, U.S.A.
Captain (T.F.C.) G. H. Cowsill	,,	644 Troop (UNFICYP)
Major F. F. Ellis, M.B.E., T.D.	,,	H.Q. Malta
Major J. G. Fleming	,,	18th Regiment
Major N. C. Grayson	,,	261 Squadron
Captain D. J. Henning	,,	249 Squadron
Lieutenant R. N. C. Harrison	,,	1st Battalion D.E.R.R.
Major A. M. Hewson	,,	234 Squadron
Major T. W. Hackworth	,,	R. Canadian School of Signals
Captain P. A. Lenthall	,,	Malaysia
Lieutenant A. C. MacGregor	,,	24th Regiment
Major J. L. McKellar	,,	7th Regiment
Lieutenant D. F. Moir	,,	249 Squadron
Captain (Q.M.) T. P. O'Connor	,,	4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Captain W. J. Pearson	,,	2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. T. Paterson	,,	School of Signals
Major D. Pitkin	,,	School of Army Aviation
Second-Lieutenant R. C. J. Rhodes	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.) (Course)
Captain J. Radford	,,	11th Regiment (Cadre)
Major (Q.M.) J. Smith	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.) (Retiring)
Major (Q.M.) A. F. Stubbs, M.B.E.	,,	H.Q. Brunei Grn.
Lieutenant R. W. Simmons, B.E.M.	,,	11th Regiment (Cadre)
Major N. D. Shaw	,,	H.Q. 3rd Group
Lieutenant L. R. J. Tilson	,,	222 Squadron
Major (Q.M.) M. E. Truscott	,,	School of Signals
Captain A. M. Willcox	,,	264 (S.A.S.) Squadron
Lieutenant C. G. A. Whitehead	,,	H.Q. & Trg. Centre, R.A.P.C

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I (F. of S.) E. E. Nugent	To	646 Troop
W.O.I E. Ormond	,,	Station Staff Office, Bielefeld
W.O.I L. Dathan	,,	39th Regiment (V)
W.O.I (Y. of S.) D. Reed	,,	Army of the Federation of Malaysia
W.O.II (F. of S.) A. G. M. Buckland	,,	249 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) M. J. Waite	,,	18th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. L. Stanhope	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II (F. of S.) D. O'Connor	,,	Army of the Federation of Malaysia
W.O.II R. Jones	,,	H.Q. Western Command
W.O.II D. G. Boughton	,,	10th Regiment
W.O.II B. Turner	,,	3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) P. H. Iverson	,,	10th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) H. E. Wright	,,	18th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) E. J. Brooks	,,	C.V. H.Q. & Training Wing
W.O.II (Y. of S.) B. Abbiss	,,	7th Regiment
W.O.II E. Bailey	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II S. C. Stuckey	,,	7th Regiment
W.O.II W. R. D. Clark	,,	3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
W.O.II G. J. Fisher	,,	14th Regiment
W.O.II W. Forrest	,,	249 Squadron
W.O.II B. Fisher	,,	227 Squadron
W.O.II M. Morphey	,,	Bristol University O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant M. T. Kinrade	,,	24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. D. McMahon	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Stretton	,,	28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Moss	,,	10th Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. Kennington	,,	19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. J. Mathieson	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. P. Mortenson	,,	253 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) T. C. Jones	,,	229 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. Wills	,,	19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. G. M. Thomson	,,	223 Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. J. Sharp	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. J. Courtney	,,	38th Regiment (V)
Sergeant P. J. Birkett	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant M. Moorcroft	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant H. R. J. Lewis	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant A. Bowes	,,	653 Troop
Sergeant L. Goodwin	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant A. Ingleby	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant P. L. Marsh	,,	249 Squadron
Sergeant P. G. Cook	,,	4 Div. Regiment
Sergeant P. Royle	,,	Battken
Sergeant N. Glassdorow	,,	4 Gds. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. T. Hall	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant P. W. Gray	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Laidler	,,	19th Regiment
Sergeant A. W. Smith	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant G. A. Wilson	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant J. B. Bennett	,,	4 Gds. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. McGonagle	,,	2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. J. Griffiths	,,	R.M.A. Sandhurst
Sergeant J. A. Wraith	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant C. J. Tapp	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Bouzan	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant V. T. Zimmer	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant A. E. Phillips	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Nicoll	,,	22nd Regiment
Sergeant D. R. Blackmore	,,	5 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. R. Crabtree	,,	249 Squadron
Sergeant F. Smithurst	,,	249 Squadron
Sergeant E. Bryar	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant M. S. C. Inglefield	,,	38th Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. D. Anderson	,,	10th Regiment
Sergeant L. Duncan	,,	257 Squadron
Sergeant P. B. Neal	,,	11 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant F. A. Quinn	,,	19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant F. Atkins	,,	School of Artillery, Manorbier
Sergeant N. M. Horton	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant M. G. Springer	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant S. Taylor	,,	34th Regiment (V)
A/Sergeant M. F. Denniss	,,	222 Squadron
A/Sergeant E. E. Page	,,	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sergeant J. Phillips	,,	28th (Comwel) Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. J. Milne	,,	21st Regiment
A/Sergeant B. Steele	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant R. Crabtree	,,	36th Regiment (V)
Sergeant A. J. Cowie	,,	632 Troop
Sergeant R. Simon	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant W. D. Dyke	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant H. A. McHugh	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant A. Simpson	,,	B.M.M. Libya
Sergeant I. Sleightholm	,,	222 Squadron

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

			Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Hammerton, R. W. J.	1380	2210	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Cokayne, F.	5550	7780	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Boxall, S. H.	5560	7920	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Evans, J. T. E.	5570	2500	(Admin.)
	Sgt.	Wallace, W. G.	5580	3450	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Markie, C.	5590	10260	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Nutter, F.	5600	10390	(Op.)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	W.O.II	Gill, P.	1410	1730	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Jepson, B.	3360	4840	(Sgt. Tech.)
	Sgt.	McMullen, A.	3510	5515	(Sgt. Tech.)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Hitchcock, G. E. C.	640	970	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Moat, D.	1950	11210	(Op.)

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To W.O.II	A/W.O.II	Fairhurst, R. V.	1090	990	
To S Sgt.	A/S Sgt.	Mays, J. G.	1490	2650	(Admin.)

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Sobers, C. C.	6935	13406	
	Cpl.	Howes, A. K.	7060	13359	
	Cpl.	Smart, W. B.	7144	13069	
	Cpl.	Geer, S.	7240	14435	
	Cpl.	Lehany, J. F.	7245	13750	
	Cpl.	Davis, P. H.	7335	13409	
	Cpl.	Wilson, A. F. J.	7350	13782	
	Cpl.	Fergusson, P. J. C.	7370	13700	
	Cpl.	Cort, G. E.	7380	13190	
	Cpl.	Nicholas, L. J. R.	7400	13553	
	Cpl.	Lloyd, R. V.	7440	13500	

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Creedy, H.	14910	27620	
	A/Sgt.	Robinson, M. N.	14940	30570	
	Cpl.	Chapman, G. A. M.	14980	30430	
	Cpl.	Brister, J. W.	14990	30510	
	Cpl.	Ferguson, E.	15020	30840	
	Cpl.	Clark, K. R.	15030	30880	

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Melhuish, D. F. H.	5230	3040	
	Cpl.	Moxon, K.	5260	3510	

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Mills, C.	3500	5410	

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	820
S Sgt.	710

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	970

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

W.O.I	350
W.O.II	1050

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.II	1390				
S Sgt.	490				
		TECHNICAL ROSTER			
Sgt.	3340	6050	6618		
		OPERATING ROSTER			
Sgt.	5290	9680	10854	13740	13770
		FIELD ROSTER			
Sgt.	30				
		ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER			
Sgt.	920	2300	3040	3250	

A Canadian Officer likes what he saw there . . .

and has this to say about the School of Signals

AN IMPRESSION AND A MEMORY BY CAPTAIN R. M. LENAHAN

WE are happy to publish below an unsolicited view of the School of Signals as seen through the eyes of Captain Lenahan of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

Captain Lenahan attended No. 1 Fast Telecommunications Engineering Course at the School which ended on 22nd June, 1968. Earlier he had spent some ten weeks on attachment to 225 Squadron, B.A.O.R., so he has been quite a time with the "Brits." He is currently at Canadian Forces Headquarters in Ottawa engaged on comsec engineering in the Directorate of Communications Requirements and Support.

Captain Lenahan writes:

Having completed an eight month course at your new School of Signals in Blandford, I would like to take this opportunity to put in writing the impressions and memories that I have taken away with me (tax free, thank God, since I had to pay duty on everything else that I imported).

The most striking feature of the School is the architectural design of the new buildings. One heaves a sigh of relief to see the final break from the traditional block-house and H-hut contemporary stylings, to structures that are not only functional but also pleasing to the eye.

* * *

The School building itself is jam-packed full of modern electronic equipment such as the ICT 1903 computer. This unit alone is enough to cause other institutes of higher learning to be envious.

All equipments now being employed in your Army seem to be contained within the building with the exception of a BRUIN set-up. However, I am sure that steps are being taken to rectify this situation. One encounters E.D.C. equipments, multiplexes, radio-relay sets employing P.C.M., radio sets, secure equipments, microwave set-ups and close-circuit T.V. and video recorders.

At present the only edge the Canadian School has is a 1,000 line P.A.B.X., which may not be so at the time of printing of this article as steps were being taken during my departure to instal an auto-exchange.

* * *

Combined with the transmitter and receiver sites the School is able to offer high-grade instruction, both operational and technical, in the field of modern communications and data-processing.

Also, remembering the fact that the Corps is a fighting arm, a versatile Tactics Wing has been included. Without this vital training one does not progress far in promotion. The School has devoted a great deal of thought to the problem of how to present this material in the best manner without cramming it down one's throat in a dry "talk-to-you" lecture. By employing such training aids as tape-recorders, slide-projectors, view-graphs, cloth models and mechanical models in conjunction with ultra-violet lighting the subject takes on a new dimension.

Supporting the School is a well-stocked library which subscribes to a wide variety of technical and general interest magazines and periodicals.

* * *

Finally, I would like to make mention of the members of the instructional cadre. In general I found them quite competent and knowledgeable in their subjects. All of the lecturers were willing to give of their own time to provide extra tutorials and guidance to any who desired it, especially the members of the data processing section.

The only comp'.int that I would offer comes to mind when I recall during the cold season (one must visit Canada to experience winter), sitting in the classroom first thing in the morning, shivering somewhat, waiting for the electric heaters to heat up enough hot air near the ceiling to force some warm air down upon the attentive students below. Of course, there were some who took refuge in heavy, woolly sweaters, or else sat near the front of the classroom to take advantage of the extra B.T.U.s being generated by the lecturer.

* * *

Leaving the School building I shall now move on to the Mess. The accommodation was the best that I have come across in the Services and I was especially impressed with the desks provided in the rooms.

Fortunately, instead of providing a billiard room, a bar was built, held together by stout Canadian pine. It is here that one can judge the type of Mess he is living in. The mood of the Mess is generated by those who frequent it and in this instance by the members who lived in. I was very fortunate in that my fellow-course officers (I've seen that written somewhere else) "struck-it-off" from the beginning and, I feel, provided character to the Mess during our stay. The other stabilising forces were the "Commns" courses and the "Q" courses. If no other course provides life for the Mess the "Q" course certainly will. They appear to be a bunch of happy-go-lucky characters not yet suppressed by traditionalism —a breed of half-ape and half-hippy. I enjoyed their company very much and would like to pass on my gratitude to all ex-lemmings that I met.

I found the Mess dinners very similar to ours with the exception of the types of games that are indulged in afterwards. I never really expected to see scrum-downs in the Mess or a Morris Minor in the main lounge.

In closing I would like to add a word about sports activities. The School offers a wide range to choose from such as rugger, soccer, sailing, fencing, badminton, tennis and cricket (something similar to baseball), to name a few. The one which I enjoyed the most and which makes me envious of British military camps was squash. The game over here is not as popular as I wish it was.

All in all the eight months were very enjoyable and fortunately I was able to see other areas and points of interest of your country. Hence, in conjunction with **Major Paul Mornault**, I was pleased to put the stamp of "Canadian Approved" on the Mess. This was on the occasion of Canada's birthday—just a young whipper-snapper in British terms—on 1st July, 1968, when the Canadian National Flag was flown outside the Mess.

In conclusion I would again like to say that I appreciated the hospitality extended to me and I look forward to serving with the "Brits" again.

EX-BOYS' REUNION

Owing to the unfortunate death of **Ken Uttley** and the consequent dislocation of records and addresses, the Reunion scheduled for October, 1968, could not take place.

Major (Q.M.) "Vic" King (1930-1934), at present with the School of Signals in Blandford, Dorset, has assumed the task of Secretary.

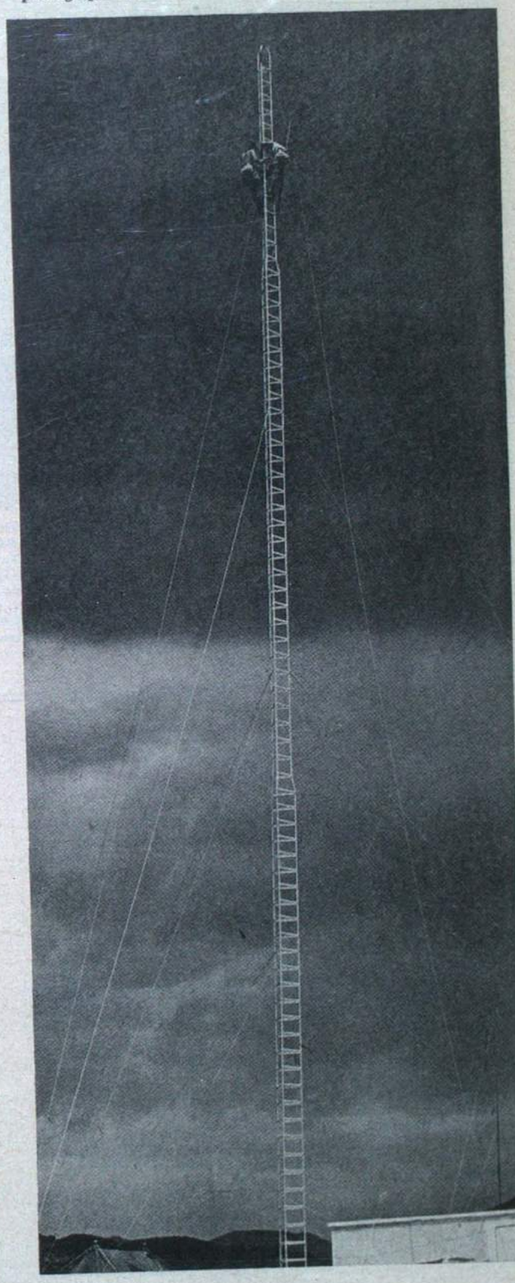
In order that the address book may be brought up to date will all Ex-Boys desirous of keeping in touch please drop him a line.



COMING DOWN FROM THE HEIGHTS
Signalmen 'Taff' Gunter and 'Les' Hartley on their way down the 100 foot mast shown in the adjoining photograph

TRICKY JOB

Two Corps operators completing the erection of an American 100 foot radio mast for a UNFICYP communications link in Cyprus. The two intrepid operators are Signalman "Taff" Gunter and "Les" Hartley, who can be seen in the adjoining photograph descending the mast after completing the job.



Headquarters United Nations Force in Cyprus

Communications for UNFICYP are under the control of CSO UNFICYP. Communications between H.Q. UNFICYP and National Contingents (from Austria, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden) are provided by 644 Troop, a large mixed British/Canadian Troop.

The majority of Royal Signals soldiers do a six-month unaccompanied tour, and are provided by 30th Regiment. One or two key posts are for one year, or longer, and are accompanied.

Royal Signals are very much in the limelight in this "international" headquarters, where patience and perseverance are necessary in view of the different languages and procedures. However, the common language of UNFICYP is English, and the British voice procedure has been adopted as the Force procedure.

An extensive communication system has been established throughout the island, using C43 radio sets and automatic rebroadcast for command communications, and rented teleprinters and telephone lines for trunk circuits. For communications between the military and the U.N. civil police the American V.H.F. Motorola set is used. There are three types: a base station (60 watts), a vehicle station (40 watts) and a hand walkie-talkie. The American Joynz mast, which can be erected in sections up to 200 feet, is used at strategic points throughout the island to carry the Motorola antennae. This gives communications down to patrol level, island wide.



SIGNAL OFFICERS AND SENIORS OF THE STAFF OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS, AND 644 SIGNAL TROOP

Standing (Left to Right): **Sergeant C. A. Davis (lines sergeant), Sergeant T. Tanner (D.S.O.), Sergeant R. S. Mawson (D.S.O.), Sergeant G. White (D.S.O.), Sergeant M. P. Farquhar (Canadian lines sergeant), Sergeant C. Nurse (D.S.O.), Sergeant G. H. Young (Radio sergeant), Sergeant M. Kennedy (C.S.O.'s clerk), Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.), R. W. Briggs**

Sitting (Left to Right): **Staff-Sergeant J. Y. Prees (S.Q.M.S.), Captain (Tfc.) J. J. M. Nutt (Tfc. Officer), Captain H. Scott (O.C. 644 Troop), Commandant E. D. Doyle (G. 2 Signals Irish Army), Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Ranft (C.S.O.), Commandant W. A. McDonnell (G. 2 Signals (designate) Irish Army), Captain A. T. Hanway (Canadian Lines Officer), Second-Lieutenant A. R. Edwards (Admin. Officer), W.O.I (Y. of S.) T. Johnstone**

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

TWENTY YEARS' LIAISON WITH THE ROYAL MARINES SIGNAL TRAINING WING

SINCE 1948 the Corps has maintained a Liaison Officer with the Royal Marines Signal Training Wing at Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. In turn, a Royal Marines Officer has been attached to the School of Signals.

On Thursday, 5th September, during the inaugural visit to R.M. S.T.W. by the Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, **Brigadier K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E.,** a presentation was made by the outgoing L.O. to the Chief Signal Officer, Royal Marines, **Major Sir Steuart R. Pringle, Bt., R.M.,** of a framed list of the names of the L.O.s who have served at S.T.W. over the last twenty years starting in 1948.

For the historical record the list of past L.O.s showed the following officers in chronological order of appointment: **Captain D. H. Baynham, G.M.** (now Lieutenant-Colonel); **Captain W. A. Sykes** (now Lieutenant-Colonel); **Captain M. M. Barker** (now Major); **Captain I. C. Spear** (now Major); **Captain I. E. Simpson** (now Major); **Captain L. D. Edinger** (now Major); **Captain J. Walmesley** (now Captain, R.M.); **Captain K. G. White** (now Major); **Captain F. R. Fletcher** (now Major); **Captain P. R. Davies.**

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



CLOSE TIES

Presentation of a framed list of Corps C.O's who have served with the Royal Marines, Signal Training Wing

Left to Right: Captain S. Pope, R.M., Chief Instructor, C.S.O. Southern Command, Captain P. R. Davies (outgoing C.O.), Captain A. P. Fielding (New C.O.)

THE . . . . COMMANDING OFFICER!

C.O.'s are a fortunate lot, for, as everyone knows, a C.O. has nothing to do—this is, except . . .

* * *

To decide what is to be done; to tell somebody to do it; to listen to reasons why it should not be done, why it should be done by somebody else, or how it should be done in a different way; and to prepare arguments in rebuttal that shall be convincing and conclusive. To follow up to see if the thing has been done; to discover that it has not been done; to inquire why it has not been done; to listen to excuses from the person who did not do it; and to think up arguments to overcome the excuses.

* * *

To follow up a second time to see if the thing has been done; to discover that it has been done incorrectly; to point out how it shall be done; to conclude that as long as it has been done it might as well be left as it is; to wonder if it is not time to get rid of the person who cannot do a thing correctly; to reflect that in all probability any successor would be just as bad, or worse.

* * *

To consider how much more simple and better the thing would have been done had he done it himself in the first place; to reflect satisfactorily that if he had done it himself he would have been able to do it right in twenty minutes, and that as things turned out, he himself spent two days trying to find out why it is that it has taken somebody else three weeks to do it wrong, and to realise that if he undertook these jobs himself it would have a very demoralising effect on his unit; because it would strike at the very heart of the belief of all soldiers that a C.O. has nothing to do.

ANON

The British Forces, Germany Gliding Championships, 1968

A Personal View, by Captain W. C. Lombard, 7th Regiment

ON Saturday, 20th July, there assembled at Detmold airfield a motley collection of 13 pilots and their crews with nine gliders of varying performance and beauty, from the sleek Ka-6E and three other Ka-6 types, down through the Olympia 463 and the medium-performance Skylark II and Ka-7, to the rugged Swallows (affectionately referred to as "lead-sleds"). Seven of the pilots were from the Army, including two officers and two private soldiers, and the remainder from the R.A.F., including one officer. The Army pilots shared four machines whilst the R.A.F. pilots had a machine each. The clubs represented were Eagle (Army, Detmold), Two Rivers (R.A.F., Laarbruch) and Phoenix (R.A.F., Bruggen).

My own feelings at being invited to share the Ka-6E with **Major James Adair,** of A.A.C., H.Q., 4th Division, in my first competition, varied between elation at the prospect of competing in the "hot ship" and near panic at the thought that I might let my partner and the club down. (I was relieved to find out later that he had similar misgivings at first!). We were very fortunate in our retrieve crew—**Major Jack Hart, W.O.I Graham,** R.A.O.C., both of H.Q., 4th Division, and **Mrs. Adair.** They were to help tremendously.

A brief word about the competitions, the rules for which are rather complicated and contained in a 28-page booklet, issued and controlled by the British Gliding Association. The basic object is to find the best pilot and glider, although the points are awarded to the glider, not the pilot. This allows for sharing. Gliders are handicapped by the B.G.A. and points are scored according to distance covered over a course, or task. If more than one glider completes a task, then some points are also awarded for speed. Tasks are set each day, as soon as the weather forecast is known, and unless ten per cent of the gliders cover a minimum set distance, the day is declared "no contest." Pilots have to produce photographic evidence



The Ka-6E Team: Author, Mrs. Adair, W.O.I Graham (R.A.O.C.), Major J. Hart (Royal Signals) and Major A. J. Adair (A.A.C.)

of rounding the turning points and written evidence of landing place and time.

Having all prayed hard, we hoped for a fortnight's good weather and got a fair proportion—seven contest days.

Day 1.—103 km. triangle, Detmold - Hameln - Minden - Detmold

The weather was unpromising and it was after 2 p.m. before I crossed the start line at 3,000 feet. I was soon struggling at 1,200 feet, between Barntrup and Hameln, but a last-minute thermal took me up to 3,500 feet and I reached Hameln without further difficulty. Flying with the left hand and trying to take an accurate picture of the bridge at Hameln with the other hand in a confined cockpit was harder than it sounds, as must have been obvious to anyone who saw the involuntary aerobatics I performed. However, I got two pictures and set off for Minden. Navigation on this leg was easy as the visibility was excellent and the Weser runs conveniently to Minden. Lift became a little more difficult to find, and I had to dodge about a bit in what was now a cross-wind to find it. I reached Minden after what seemed an age, feeling sure that the others must have overtaken me. After photographing Minden Bridge, I spent an hour searching around, managing to maintain height at about 1,200 to 1,400 feet, but I could not climb enough to confidently set off over the high ground towards Detmold (this was the first day, remember, so the pressure was not on), and I was reluctant to take the slightest risk. In the end, I landed at Vennebeck Gliding Club and lived to regret it. When I phoned in for my crew, they told me that another 10 kilometres would have put me in first place! As it was, only three gliders had scored: **Medland** (Ka-6 Phoenix) first; myself (Ka-6E Eagle) second, and **Hook** (Olympia 463 Eagle) third. So after 3½ hours and 72 kms., I was alternately pleased and kicking myself. If only . . . .

Day 2.—160 km. out and return Detmold - Damme - Detmold

Adair's turn to fly the 6E. The conditions were much better and most pilots got away at about 4,000 feet. Just under four hours later there was great joy in the Eagle camp to see the 6E come screaming in at about 80 knots to score 1,000 points. He had had a good flight with only one low "scraping" point. **Pretlove** (Skylark II, Two Rivers) did extremely well to come second.

On Tuesday and Wednesday it rained all day, but the task for Day 3 was announced on Thursday morning as a race to Kassel (85 kms.). The briefing contained dire warnings on the consequences of over-flying the ADIZ (Air Defence Identification Zone) or indeed the East German border!

I was the only one to succeed in getting away, using strong lift on the front of a black, rain-shedding cloud. Unfortunately, I got over-confident and left it, only to land after 23 kms. at Alhausen, where, to my horror, I found the telephone cables out of order. I wandered about the village trying every shop and gasthaus to call up my crew for a "re-light." The sun had come out by this time and I had visions of everyone else well on their way to Kassell. Eventually I found a working telephone and was relieved to hear that the day had been declared "no contest."

***Day 3.*—303 km. triangle, Detmold - Bassum - Hopfen - Detmold**

This task was set to give pilots a chance of obtaining "Gold C" Distance (300 kms.), but the forecast proved wildly optimistic, the weather clamping in over the first leg and bringing everyone down except **Medland** in the Minden area (about 37 kms.) **Medland** showed terrific determination by detouring 50 kms. to the west and reaching the first turning point (91 kms.). I achieved second greatest distance, but my handicap placed me fourth, whilst **Collins** (Ka-6, Two Rivers), who landed behind me in the same field, was second!

***Day 4.*—Cat's Cradle, Detmold - Minden - Hameln - Holzminden - Paderborn - Brackwede**

The object on this task is to cover the maximum distance using the given turning points in any order without flying a reciprocal of any leg.

Most of the field set off for Minden or Brackwede, but **Adair** decided Paderborn was the best bet and set off in fine style. Unfortunately he came unstuck at Paderborn, but we managed to excel ourselves and retrieve him for a re-light in just over two hours. By this time the leaders had covered two legs, but he did well and covered 140 kms. before being forced down west of Holzminden to take fourth place. **Heslop** (Olympia 463 Eagle) took first place with a 200 km. 6½ hour marathon. (He *stood* at the bar all that evening!) **Cutler** Ka-6, Phoenix) was second.

***Day 5.*—161 km. triangle, Detmold - Landesbergen - Hameln - Detmold**

This was my most satisfying day. After a struggle over Minden, I went on up the Weser and rounded the Landesbergen chimneys at 4,000 feet. Then across to Hameln, via the Steinhuder Meer. At one point I got rather low over a rocket site before climbing away again under a good cloud. After rounding Hameln I only used one more thermal (unnecessarily as it happened) and romped home to Detmold with 1,000 feet in hand. Only thre finished—**Medland,** with a fantastic 83.5 km.h., myself with 43 km.h., and **Cutler** with 41 km.h. The 6E was now lying a close second to **Medland** overall.

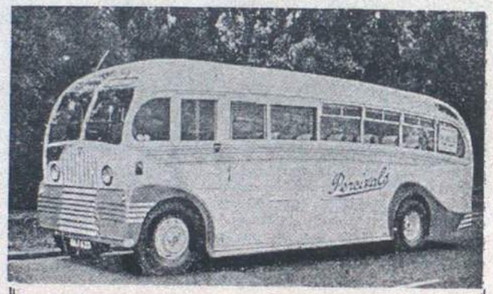
***Day 6.*—300 km. triangle, Detmold - Eder Dam - Munster - Detmold**

Adair had a great day and managed to round both turning points before coming down east of Munster, having covered 232 kms. in five hours. However, **Medland** beat him on handicap and thus strengthened his lead.

***Day 7.*—Cat's Crade, as for Day 4.**

Everyone had difficulty getting away as the thermals were very difficult to work, low down. I had three winch launches and finally an aerotow before creeping slowly off to Minden and even more slowly on to Hameln. I spent so long at a low level over B.M.H., Rinteln, that I think they made a bed ready! At Holzminden I was reduced to hill-soaring before gaining enough height to dash for the bridge and take my picture. Fortunately I got a good thermal right over the town. This carried me nicely on course over Schwalenberg. By this time I was getting so physically and mentally exhausted that I recognised the road and town, but could not for several minutes find it on the map! Haze then built up and I very nearly arrived at Lemgo instead of Detmold. This cost me 500 valuable feet before I round the airfield and set off once more for Minden. There the lift was almost gone, and, having rounded the bridge for the second time, I finished the flight with an exciting low-level final glide downhill to land at Exter. Here I received my only complaint of the competition from the farmer's wife. She rocketed me for about ten minutes for landing, without doing any damage as it happened) on her freshly-planted beet field. However, she simmered down and eventually signed my landing certificate. I had taken 5½ hours to cover 187 kms., finishing in fourth place. (**Medland** did it again).

The overall result was that the Ka-6E came second to **Medland** in his Ka-6. and who was undoubtedly the outstanding pilot of the meeting, and we were very pleased to take second place to him. Phoenix won the Club Trophy with Eagle in second place. Thus ended an extremely successful competition, which was unique in that not a single glider was damaged in any way, in spite of the considerable number of field landings carried out. Everyone—pilots, crews, organisers and spectators—enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and I for one, can hardly wait till the next time my life will be dominated by the clouds and half-a-dozen swinging needles in the cockpit.



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WIRE FRONT COVER PICTURE FOR SALE

Copies of the attractive coloured picture of the Association's Standards and Escorts marching past during the annual Catterick Reunion as featured on the front cover of the August/September Wire are now on sale at Association Headquarters price 7/6 post free.

The picture is reproduced to the same size as on the original Wire outer cover mounted on a backing of art cardboard and ready for framing. It should be particularly attractive to Association members as a souvenir or gift.

SALES ENGINEER

Vacancy for an ex-Technical Staff Officer

Thinking of fighting your way into civilian industry? There are real possibilities with the Data Systems Division of STC.

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STC



SCHOOL OF SIGNALS MARKSMEN COLLECT THE CUPS

Back row: Left to right: **Lance-Corporal G. Callaghan, Corporal J. S. Weir, Corporal A. H. Goldthorpe, Lance-Corporal N. A. Collins, Sergeant M. Winder, Lance-Corporal D. R. Hadland, Corporal K. Teare, Lance-Corporal R. Hunter**

Front row: Left to right: **Corporal G. Owen, Corporal C. M. Blowman, Major G. A. S. Exell, Brigadier J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E., Captain R. J. Haywood (Team Captain), Lieutenant P. E. A. Chaddock, Sergeant M. J. Hollins**

Absent on duty: **Corporal M. E. Arnott**

School of Signals, Blandford Camp

MANY moons ago our Sub-editor was reminded to get THE WIRE notes out—he forgot—he has been duly kicked in a "tender" spot.

Success after success has greeted us at sport this season, but, due to space, only a few can be related below.

Association Football

A pleasant and enjoyable season culminated with a victory in the South-West District Six-a-side Tournament, for which 35 teams entered. This was a particularly appropriate farewell to **Major T. P. Canham,** the football officer, to whose keenness and guidance over the past couple of seasons the team owes its successes. He is now posted and our good wishes follow him to his new unit.

Cricket

The most successful season on record, reaching the final of the Southern Command Cup and the semi-final of the Army Cup, where we met our only defeat of the season at the hands of the School of Electronic Engineering, R.E.M.E., who lost in the final to the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

Though there were only a limited number of players available, no less than six of them were selected for representative games: **Corporal M. G. Kilvington** (Army, Royal Signals, South West District and Dorset); **Lieutenant S. A. Coltman** (Royal Signals and South West District); **Signalman G. R. Williamson** (Royal Signals and South West District); **Lance-Corporal J. R. Commons** (Royal Signals and South West District); **Lieutenant C. W. Collier** (Royal Signals); **Major J. R. Stephenson** (Queens and South West District).

In addition **Captain P. A. C. Howgill** played for the Royal Marines, but he was eligible for friendly and not representative matches.

Apart from the six listed above the following also played in Army Cup matches: **W.O.II Ayres, Sergeant Hassell, Sergeant Cross, R.A.P.C., Corporal Owen, Corporal Tunney, Captain D. G. Mitchell, Corporal Bell, Major D. Shaw, Sergeant Cook.**

The mainstay of the batting was **Lieutenant Coltman** whose last score was 90 not out in the round prior to the semi-final. **Signalman Williamson, Lance-Corporal Commons** and **Major Stephenson** also had useful innings. The bowling honours were shared by **Corporal Kilvington** and **Sergeant Hassell** with **Lieutenants Coltman** and **Collier** and **Corporal Tunney** also taking wickets. With the exception of **Signalman Williamson** the fielding was mediocre.

Two cups were won by the team, namely the South West District Cup and the Southern Command Runners-Up Cup.

A summary of all matches played, friendly and cup competitions, is: Played 12, won 11, lost 1; a record that speaks for itself.

Shooting, 1968

You will have read elsewhere in THE WIRE of the success of **Corporal Blowman,** a member of the School shooting team. This further article now records the many successes throughout the season of the full team, a season which ended with them carrying all before them at the Dorset County Service Rifle Meeting held at the end of September.

The formula for the success of the team has been, firstly, the wonderful spirit shown by all members and their willingness to train hard in order to achieve complete fitness and, secondly, the constant struggle for individual supremacy within the team that continued throughout, both in practice and match shooting. Even the efforts of those who, as the season progressed, had to be left out of the more important team matches were vital to success for without their constant efforts to gain a place in the team, the successful members would not finally have reached such high standards.

The captain of the team, **Captain Haywood,** aided (sometimes) and abetted (always) by **Major Exell,** worked the team hard from the beginning and both achieved their moments of glory, **Major Geoff Exell** winning the individual championship at the Southern/Strategic Command and Dorset County Rifle Meetings, and **Captain Dick Haywood** becoming the Corps Champion Shot and winning the Elizabethan Bowl at the London and Middlesex Rifle Meeting.

A final count of Challenge Trophies revealed that the team won a total of twenty-two throughout the season, and in addition to the representative honours accorded to **Corporal Blowman,** two other team members earned places in the Army 100, and two represented the Corps. We also feel particularly proud to have won the Team Championship Trophies and filled the first three individual placings in both the Southern/Strategic Command and Corps Rifle Meetings.

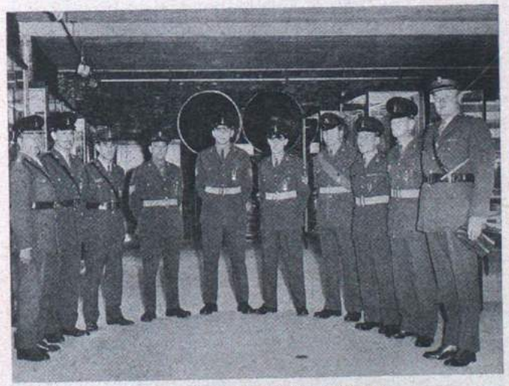
Personalities in the team included **Lance-Corporal Hadland,** who shot consistently and earned his share of the limelight by qualifying to shoot in the Army 100, and being runner-up in the Elizabethan Bowl match at the London and Middlesex Meeting.

Sergeant Hollins improved by leaps and bounds as the season progressed, until he, too, was runner-up in the Dorset County Meeting. **Lance-Corporal Collins** shot particularly well in the L.M.G. matches, providing, with **Corporal Blowman,** the best L.M.G. score in the Small Arms Cup at Bisley — no mean achievement when competing against so many crack Infantry Battalions. **Corporal Davies,** making a brief appearance with the team, won the S.M.G. Championship at the London and Middlesex Meeting. **Corporal Owen** shot with remarkable consistency throughout, and although gaining no individual honours helped the team tremendously by his steadiness. **Lance-Corporal Callaghan,** our remaining Class "B" shot in his first season of rifle competition, and a late inclusion in the team, performed with distinction despite his lack of match experience. Recognition must also be given to our Team Adjutant, **Sergeant Winder** (R.E.M.E.), who carried out his exacting work with enthusiasm and still found time to produce a list of "Your 100 Best Excuses for a Bad Shoot," which unfortunately, for obvious reasons, may never be made public.

Finally, appreciation is recorded of the efforts made by **Corporals Goldthorpe, Weir, Teare, Arnatt** and **Lance-Corporal Hunter** who, whilst finally and regretfully being excluded from the Bisley team, performed so well and provided such staunch backing throughout the season.

Presentation of eight L.S. and G.C. Medals

Eight L.S. and G.C. Medals were presented by the Commandant, **Brigadier J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E.,** on 25th September. Eight medals = eight pints = congratulations to **W.O.Is (F. of S.) Lund** and **Hughes, Staff Sergeants Crosbie, Beddingfield, Harrison** and **Williams** (A.P.T.C.), **Sergeants Billett** (R.E.M.E.) and **Winter.**



8 L.S. and G.C. MEDALS—8 PINTS!

Left to Right: Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins (Admin. Comdt.), W.O.I Lund, W.O.I Hughes, Sergeant Billett (R.E.M.E.), Sergeant Winter, Staff-Sergeants Crosbie, Williams, Beddingfield, Harrison and Brigadier Brett (Commandant)

The School finds a top class Marksman

The peak of any rifleman's ambition is to be chaired off the ranges at Bisley to the strains of "See the Conquering Hero Come."

This honour has never yet been accorded to a member of our Corps, but **Corporal Malcolm Blowman** came within one hit of doing just that at the A.R.A. meeting this year. He had already shot a highest possible score in the Whitehead Cup (something that all the crack shots in the Army had **never** previously accomplished). The old hands at Bisley smiled to themselves and waited to see if it was a "flash in the pan" or whether this young N.C.O. could keep up the standard when the going got tough in the final stage of the championship. It says much for his nerves that he could produce a 10 hit snap in the very last practice to clinch his place as runner-up to the Queen's Medalist and win the Manchester Regiment Cup for the best Class "B" shot. This was a magnificent effort which gave **Corporal Blowman** the highest position ever achieved by a Royal Signals competitor in the Army Championship. It is worth noting that **Corporal Blowman** had never fired an S.L.R. in competition before the Corps Skill-at-Arms meetings at Bulford in June (where he was also Champion Rifle Shot), but these achievements were only a start. **Corporal Blowman** consolidated his reputation by being selected for the Army United Service Cup team. Finally to crown what was for him a memorable Bisley, he was selected to shoot twice more for the Army and for Yorkshire, in their Long and Short Range Target Rifle teams. This young N.C.O. hails from Driffield in Yorkshire and is a product of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, having been trained there as a Technician T.E. His unflappable, quiet manner and unassuming modesty has earned for himself well merited reward and recognition, and brought added lustre to the Corps' name in the world of shooting; may he continue to do so for many years to come.



AN OUTSTANDING CORPS MARKSMAN

Corporal C. M. Blowman of the School of Signals with his trophies

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment Bulford Camp

NOW where did September go? There is one thing certain about serving in a Divisional Signal Regiment, or indeed any field force formation, and that is that time hurtles past. It seems like only last week that we were writing last month's notes, and here we are wondering what did we do in September.

Well, we went up to Cannock Chase on an exercise, named with a degree of subtlety "Cannock Chase," and from there

we communicated to our Brigades in Colchester, Portland Bill and to H.M.S. *Fearless*. Needless to say, we succeeded in our intentions, though we had hiccoughs at times, but then, that's what exercises are for. In addition, we have had "E" Troop detachments away to Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, testing radio paths back to various places in England. "E" Troop are still maintaining that they had nothing to do with the disturbances in Northern Ireland.

When we talk of exercises, I wonder if the normal type of field unit in B.A.O.R. appreciates the difficulties we have. In B.A.O.R. you normally have sufficient unit transport to lift all your men and equipment in one go. With us, equipped in the airportable scale, this just does not work. In our role, most of the men and equipment are moved by R.C.T. transport to an airfield and then fly to another airfield, where we would set up J.F.H.Q. This is fine when we do go by air. But when one moves by road, simulating an air move, it causes lots of complications and improvisations. A typical example is the Airtech container. On its bogie it cannot be towed at much more than 15 to 20 m.p.h., and it's not really meant for road work. What is more, it requires a 4-ton vehicle to tow it. The answer is to load the airtechs on to 4-tonners, two at a time, without bogies, travel to where you want them and unload them; take with you two or three sets of bogies for manoeuvring purposes at these locations and that's it. Oh, not forgetting the heavy lift crane you have to borrow to lift them on and off.

The men travel by civilian coaches, which is an improvement on ¼-tonners or 4-tonners, but the coach operators have an aversion to driving them down unmade lanes and taking their luxurious buses over cross-country routes, which means a long walk sometimes.

An interesting psychological point is that whilst everyone agrees that you can't expect a Hercules aircraft to trundle round the Comcen and TX site unloading, and that it's no problem to unload at this dispersal strip and double hump your equipment from there, most people have great difficulty in seeing that those three 4-tonners are representing an aircraft and that it must unload at the deplaning point, and that it's not just the Unit Freight Officer being bloody-minded. We are now heavily engaged in preparation for a large scale exercise to test various aspects of joint force working. More of this next month.

We'll mention them . . . Well done, cricket team!

Our cricket team won the final of the Divisional Cup, after being runners-up three times, in a real cliff-hanger of a match against 1 R.H.A., when we beat them by four runs. The C.O. and a lot of other people watched this exciting game, and there were still three overs to go when their last man was caught out. The team played eight games and won seven. The stalwarts of the team being **Sergeant Basham** (captain), **Lance-Corporal Thomas** and **Sergeant Eggbeer.**

The soccer team have asked us not to mention them. The rugby team are not ashamed to admit that they were beaten 55—3 by the School of Electronic Engineering, R.E.M.E., in the first round of the Army Cup. The hockey team are doing quite nicely, thank you.

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4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

Where are we?

The month of September has been noteworthy because of the appearance of so many faces one had almost forgotten. Leave has been taken and the chill of autumn has brought back the adventure trainees. Preparations for the autumn exercises are now well under way and individual detachments of the communicating Squadrons have been busy getting their kit ready to provide assistance to other formations' exercises. This pooling of resources to help out the other chaps is a feature of life in B.A.O.R. at this time of the year, and one has to produce a programme of assistance to guard against "double bookings." One is never busier than during a non-FTX year!

C.S.O., 3rd Division, visits

It was a pleasure to greet **Colonel J. R. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C.,** C.S.O. 3rd Division, on 19th September, when he visited us to see an example of a B.A.O.R. Division Signal Regiment. Accompanied by the Second-in-Command, **Major D. H. Briggs,** the C.S.O. was subjected to a concentrated programme, including a flying visit (literally) to 20th (Armoured) Brigade Signal Squadron, and yet he looked remarkably alert at the end of the day when he was gently deposited at H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps by one of 24 Flight's helicopters, piloted by **Staff Sergeant A. G. Stirling.** The Regiment had demonstrated a layout of the armoured tactical headquarters and complete Divisional concentre. No doubt the comparison between his light division and our heavy division gave the C.S.O. plenty of food for thought.



OH! DEAR WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?
"That's the actual spot in which it happened". "What there?" Major Andrews indicates the scene of the happening to Brigadier Mansergh. Major Brian Edwards and Corporal Birchall look on aghast—but what happened was not revealed to *The Wire*

KAPE, 1968

Captain J. H. Lowe, with one Senior N.C.O., and eleven junior ranks, comprising the B.A.O.R. team for "Keeping the Army in the Public Eye" (KAPE) left Herford on 3rd September for a month's tour in U.K. Two SR C41 and four SR C11 detachments were driven to Chester, where the team was based on H.Q., Western Command. The tour had three phases: firstly, a demonstration was set up within the Manchester Army Display to provide the Royal Signals representation. Secondly, the team repeated their demonstration for the Warrington Army Display. Finally, visits were paid to the Orford and Richard Fairclough Secondary Modern Schools in Warrington, Lancashire.

Seven members of the team came from Liverpool and were especially useful in attracting many of their friends. The Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington spoke for some time to **Signalman O'Neill** and **Corporal Dyson** and were interested to learn that the team came from Germany.

One attraction which drew public interest was the working of teleprinters over a C41 link; but the outstanding draw was a demonstration by **Corporal Dyson** of stripping and re-assembling a Siemens T100 teleprinter.

Young and old, technical, non-technical, men, women, boys and girls flocked to our stand. Amongst them were old comrades, as one would expect, but the number of eligible, potential recruits who expressed an interest was most encouraging, and gave all members of the team the conviction that this considerable effort had been well worth while.

Recruiting

An example of integration at one of its really intriguing moments arose on 6th September, when the G.O.C.'s son, **Douglas Erskine Crum,** the C.R.A.'s son, **Jonathan Baines,** and the R.S.M.'s son, **Christopher Aitken,** were attested into the Army by the Commanding Officer. Such an event could not pass without special recognition, and the parents of these young recruits assembled in the C.O.'s office for a special ceremony, followed by a small, but appropriate, celebration to welcome **Guardsman Erskine Crum,** Scots Guards, **Rifleman Baines,** Royal Green Jackets, and **Apprentice Tradesman Aitken,** Royal Signals, into the Army. As an example of concerted dedication to the Service by its senior members this can rarely have been exceeded. The question is will champagne inductions serve to stimulate the recruiting drive?



THREE MORE RECRUITS
Guardsman Erskine Crum, Rifleman Baines, Apprentice Tradesman Aitken with their parents and the Commanding Officer after the Attestation Ceremony

A hot assignment

There is a Royal Signals detachment from the Regiment in Libya, consisting of one Senior N.C.O. and eight men, which is doing sterling work in support of the Advanced Base Unit. **Sergeant W. R. Mawdsley** is in charge of this detachment and he has sent an informal little account of how they are spending their time:

"Our detachment is divided into two groups, four men to each group. One party is situated at El Adem R.A.F. Station and the other is at the Admin. Base Unit in the desert.

The camp is situated in a shallow depression. It consists of fifty or more tents and accommodates 136 all ranks of R.E.M.E., R.A.O.C., R.C.T. and elements of the Scots Guards. We, the Royal Signals detachment, somehow managed to acquire a tin shack as our headquarters and are the proud

possessors of an overworked fan. Little things mean a lot here, and this fan, apart from being a status symbol, helps to cool the overworked SR C11. This piece of equipment has not been switched off for nearly two months.

There is an abundance of wild life here—scorpions, lizards, the camp donkey (which so far has defied all attempts to be ridden); there are also camel spiders, the ugliest brutes you ever saw.

The detachment has the use of a Land Rover, a spirited machine with a character all of its own, which has been the subject of many incidents. One evening, accompanied by a member of the Royal Military Police, a certain Royal Signals senior N.C.O. decided he was lost. At that time in the evening the sun compass was less than helpful, so the wayward Land Rover was parked for the night. Dawn arrived to find the two rather lonely soldiers, and their dusty vehicle, situated right in the middle of a minefield. Disaster seemed inevitable, but somehow was avoided.

All members of the detachment soldier on, smiling, working very hard and, although enjoying their visit to this sunny land, are looking forward to returning to Herford in the near future."

The Corporals entertain

The Corporals' Mess summer ball was held in the gymnasium on 6th September. A total of 300, including members, their wives and girl friends, and a small number of guests, danced to music provided by the Band of The Royals until well into the early hours of the morning.

The principal guests were **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. A. J. Jackson.** The C.O. was attending his last Corporals' Mess function as Commanding Officer. The highlight of the evening was a presentation to the C.O. of a crystal punch bowl with matching glasses, to remind him of his association with the mess. Also **Mrs. Pearson** presented **Mrs. Jackson** with a lovely bouquet of flowers.

In return, Colonel Jackson presented a silver tankard to the mess, to be known as the P.M.C.'s tankard, which was to be filled at his expense and consumed by the P.M.C. every Saturday lunchtime until the end of the year. This was received by the present P.M.C., **Corporal Maurice Pearson,** who immediately volunteered to be P.M.C. until the end of the Christmas quarter.

Turnover in the Sergeants' Mess

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the dining-out of **R.S.M. R. G. Aitken** and **W.O.I J. E. Padkin,** R.E.M.E., both on commissioning, and the dining-in of **R.S.M. A. R. Hill.**

A superb dinner was held on 27th September, catering for 82, and guests included the Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command, Squadron Commanders and Quartermasters. Music was provided by the Band of the Sherwood Foresters, and during coffee, by the traditional Pipers of the Scots Guards.

Regimental swords were presented to **R.S.M. Aitken** and **W.O.I Padkin.** A magnificent reproduction of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, riding Winston, was presented to the Mess by **R.S.M. Aitken,** who also presented the Commanding Officer with a plaque on which were mounted the cap badges of all Regiments/Corps in the integrated Regiment.

After taking over the chair, **R.S.M. A. R. Hill** expressed concern for some of the younger members of the Corps, who may have difficulty in determining who is rightfully the Corps symbol—'Slim Jim' or 'Rotund Robert.' To clarify the situation, he presented **R.S.M. Aitken** with a photograph skilfully combining the two, entitled 'Jimmy' Aitken.

Games followed, during which members were astounded by the speed of the hamsters in the 'Sellers' Plate,' and the officers were soundly beaten at golf.

R.S.M. Aitken was finally removed from the Mess on the traditional 'Thunder Box' throne (naturally complete with ornamental picture frame) and taken for a final tour of the Regiment. Several soldiers now hold the dubious honour of having shaken hands with an R.S.M. actually seated on a 'box.'

In all, a splendid evening, for which full credit must go to the P.M.C., **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Norman Ladds, Sergeant Jimmy Doolan,** A.C.C., **Mr. George Bugonivic, Staff Sergeant Bill Monk,** R.A., and a host of willing assistants.

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

SUMMER CAMPS

DURING the short lull between summer and autumn exercises, all the Squadrons of the Regiment managed to get away from it all in order to seek the sun and practice some of the more neglected sides of soldiering.

The Regiment resolved itself into two groups, the Northerners and the Southerners.

1 Squadron took the southern route, and by sheer luck, or good planning, camped at Speyer, near Hiedelburg, on the Rhine, just in time to appreciate a winefest. Their camping site was sponsored by a German Amphibious Engineer Unit, who kindly made canoes and assault craft available. As a return gesture, the Squadron held an English-style barbecue for their German hosts, using, of course, German wine and Bratworst.

2 Squadron, true to form, reckoned that the further they went, the more independent they must be: it was realised that the North Sea would make a fine obstacle to further their aims, but on careful study, O.C. 2 Squadron, **Major Ian Spear** decided against 50 men on a 100ft. sq., even for a short sea crossing! So to the south it was, and after 15 hours' driving, 500 miles had been covered, putting the Squadron on the shores of Lake Constance.

3 Squadron also chose the south and, working on the assumption that all the best people nowadays own islands, camped on one in the middle of the River Moselle at a place called Hatzenport, near Koblenz. Once again, dates were cunningly chosen to coincide with the local winefest, and it was rumoured that life jackets were worn by all personnel wishing to leave the island!

4 Squadron's "Alpha" Troop took over where 3 Squadron ended, so as not to frustrate hard-won Anglo-German relationships, but Recce Troop, observing their strict non-alignment role struck up to the north. Their camping site was at Haddeby, close to the town of Schleswig. A contact was made with a small detachment of the German Fleet Air Arm, and it was not long before the inevitable soccer match was arranged. The result of the match is still in dispute, as some argued: "How could a losing team be presented with a shield."

5 Squadron, wishing, no doubt, to put as much land between themselves and their sister 3 Squadron, took to the northern hills and camped at the de luxe civilian site of Wackerballig, a town on the east coast of Jutland. Experienced in the art of Anglo-German relations by many invasions of German villages throughout the preceding months, they put plan "A" immediately into action by losing a well-supported soccer match against the town and then by following it up smartly with plan "B," a party for the local dignitaries. Thereafter, the town's hospitality was assured, even to the extent of being invited back next year. The real success formula, however, was that a yacht, chartered from the British Kiel Yacht Club and helmed by **Corporal Ratcliffe,** was kept conveniently nearby to ship any potential troublemakers to well outside the three-mille limit.

H.Q. Squadron, finally, who were kept so busy organising the other Squadrons' administration, that a large-scale evacuation could not be allowed, stole away in one's and two's and attached themselves to the various Squadron camps. After all, who but H.Q. Squadron could repair our vehicles and cook our food so well?

EXERCISES

The exercise of most note was "Tall Tree," which took place from 9th to 13th September. It involved the Regiment in an important BRUIN presentation and placed the Comhead and Comcen Squadrons in the field for a major demonstration.

The demonstration of the system was given to no less than 40 high ranking officers from the U.S.A., Germany, France, Holland and Belgium, all of whom appeared to be of one or two star rank. The demonstration was a success, thanks to the tremendous amount of hard work put in by all members of the Regiment, not forgetting "S" Mess, which put on an excellent luncheon.

The visitors were arriving at Comcen "Bravo" so thick and fast (four separate helicopter loads of Generals, followed by a bus load an hour later), that they now reckon they can cope with anything, as prior to the visit they had already spent the night as engineers, rebuilding a road that failed to support the tape relay vehicle, then digging the complex vehicles into a horizontal position and finally manufacturing steps for the V.I.P.s

After "Tall Tree," we were all involved in Exercise "Stone Road," and, having just returned, we are now out for the most of October on two more major exercises. However, we do see Maresfield Barracks now and again, just to check up that it is still there.

SPORT

Sailing

The Regimental sailing team brought a very successful season to a close by winning the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Sailing Competition for the second successive year. The final was sailed at the Mohne See on 15th September against the 16th/5th Lancers, who found the tricks on the Mohne See winds not to their liking after their home waters on an exposed stretch of the River Wesser.

Army Motor Cycling Championships, 1968

It took *only* 3½ days, two missed Townsend car ferries and several flooded towns, but we eventually made it to the Light Infantry Brigade Depot, Shrewsbury, where we were to stay for our first few days.

The Regimental entry was made up of **Lieutenant Davis,** riding individual, **Sergeant Fayers, Sergeant Atherley** and **Lance-Corporal Lloyd** as the team.

The trial was being held on the 21st-22nd September, and this gave us a few days to put in some practice, getting used to riding on the other side of the road (is it on the right or the left—we are still confused).

Friday, 20th September, saw us move to W.E.T.C., Leek, where we were checked in and our machines were put through a rigid scrutiny, and locked away ready for the "off" the next day.

As the time for the start approached the rain increased, although it seemed it could not go on, and this one factor made the name "trial" qualify as the understatement of the year. We pounded through 60 very wet miles of map-reading and broke for lunch, preparing ourselves for the afternoon. This proved to be a tortuous 15 miles of high-speed cross-country riding over the moors in conditions that tried to pose as quagmire, quicksand and skating rink all in one. **Lieutenant Davies,** who was the last man off, only managed 1½ laps before he had an unfortunate accident requiring 21 stitches, putting him out of the trial.

The second day started with the leading teams very close on points, and it became obvious that the hazards would be deciding factor. Conditions at the start were so bad that six of the ten hazards required to be changed, but some very skilful riding was needed to negotiate them, and **Lieutenant Davies,** spectating, was almost glad of his injury.

At the end of the day the results were announced and the team came fourth, beaten by the smallest of margins. **Sergeant Fayers,** after a terrific ride took second individual place, winning the Motor Cycle Industries Cup, and he also retained the Royal Signals Cup for the Regiment. **Sergeant Atherley** won a second class award.

A good performance by all, and a trial we shall never forget.

Wives' Club Dance

The dance, which took place on 20th September in the Regimental gynasium showed once again the need for improved facilities in this field. The dance floor resembled a mammoth discotheque, with 150 couple competing for space on the floor. In spite of this, everyone enjoyed themselves, helped on by the first class buffet provided by **Captain Philip Quigley** and his cooks.

11th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

Adventure Training Camp—Culty Braggan

AFTER nine months, the long-awaited dream of our own adventure training centre became reality, and on 9th September the first party left for a week's arduous training.

The camp has a small permanent staff under **Captain Rates** and is almost self-contained. Set in the Trossachs, it offers wonderful facilities for rock climbing, treking, sailing, canoeing and ski-ing.

The first party, from OR 1 Troop, under **Lieutenant Steane,** soon realised that this was not to be the Army equivalent of a Butlin's Holiday Camp. The party set off on a four-day hike into the heart of the mountains, and at the end of the first day all agreed that they felt "rather tired," or words to that effect. However, by the end of the fourth day, the rucksacks that felt so heavy at the start, hardly hampered them. After a day's rest on the Sunday, Monday brought a renewal of physical effort. The party set off to the Bhen Glas area and established a base camp, led by two members of the permanent staff, **Corporal Hackett** and **Lance-Corporal Mudie.** After three day-trips to the surrounding areas, the party returned to Culty Braggan before returning home to Catterick on Friday, 20th September. The party returned to Catterick a lot fitter and feeling all the better for their break.

It is hoped that all members of the Training Brigade will at some time have the opportunity of going for a week's 'break' at Culty Braggan. The camp has certainly got off to a good start.

Brigade Golf Meeting, 4th September

On a quiet working day in the Regiment, the golfers slipped off with their clubs to take part in the Brigade Golf Meeting. **Staff Sergeant Barnett** came second in the Brigade Individual Tournament and second in the Foursomes, with **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Reed,** of Training Brigade. The golf 'bug' is beginning to spread in the Regiment, and it is hoped that we will be able to offer some strong competition at next year's meeting.

Visit of Brigadier M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.

On 9th September, **Brigadier M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.,** Divisional Brigadier, The Queen's Division, paid a visit to the Regiment to study our methods in recruit training. After inspecting a quarter guard, commanded by **Sergeant French,** he toured the Regiment and spoke to Junior N.C.O.s and recruits in training.

In order that **Brigadier Holme** could see how our recruit reception procedure worked, it was decided that he should be treated as a newly-arrived recruit for a short period. **Corporal Farr,** with extreme tact, proceeded to welcome him and show him how a recruit is looked after in his first hour in the Army. We trust that he was impressed with his day's visit.

12th September—the day that the rains came

At about 7.30 a.m. on 12th September the heavens opened over Catterick and for two hours they stayed open and unleashed more rain than has been seen in living memory.

W.O.II (S.S.M.) Gill, having just returned from Hong Kong, inquired as to whether we often had these mini-monsoons! Although both cookhouses were flooded, no serious damage was caused in the Regiment, but unfortunately a number of quarters were flooded. For two hours there were no roads open out of Catterick. However, after 24 hours life returned to normal and the Orderly Officer, **Lieutenant Barnes,** put away his dinghy and returned to work.

Farewell to R.S.M. F. W. Kirk

A Regimental dinner was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on 19th September, on the occasion of the retirement of the R.S.M., **W.O.I Kirk.**

The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. O. Bound,** raised numerous laughs and caused many members to sit cross-legged during his "short" farwell speech. The W.O.s and Sergeants then wished the R.S.M. a happy retirement and presented him with a silver tea service and tray.

The presence in the Mess of **R.S.M. Kirk** will be truly missed. We wish him and his family every good fortune in the future.

A sincere welcome to **W.O.I** and **Mrs. Izod** and their family. **W.O.I Izod** has arrived to take over as R.S.M. on the day of the visit of the Master of Signals; this should be quite a day for him.

Pass-off parade, 20th September



Signalman Robert Francis

The pass-off parade on 20th September was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Scott, O.B.E.,** Chief Instructor at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate. After the parade he presented the best recruit prize to **Signalman Robert Francis,** who comes from Wiltshire. **Signalman Francis** joined the Army for a more varied and interesting career, and since joining has become interested in orienteering and hopes to become proficient in his new-found pastime. He now goes forward to 8th Regiment to be trained as a radio relayman.

Arrivals and departures

Except for **Staff Sergeant Harper,** our chef, and **Corporal Masterson,** our W.R.A.C. clerk, who have left us on promotion, there have been no arrivals or departures this month. However, numerous people have been getting that "posting feeling." **Major Fleming, Staff Sergeant Gundersen, Corporal Farr** and **Corporal Collins** are preparing for the Far East. **Sergeant Green** is destined for B.A.O.R. In R.H.Q., **Major Charles** has already gone to Brigade, leaving the Second-in-Command's chair vacant until **Major Humphries** returns from his African safari. The Adjutant, **Captain Bailey** believes he is going fairly soon, although he doesn't know where. The Assistant Adjutant, **Lieutenant Whitehead,** goes to Blandford in January—consequently, the only person in R.H.Q. without that "posting feeling" is the C.O.—c'est la vie!

17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
Sikamat Camp, Seremban

DASHERA, 1968

Background

THE following is a background to the festival.

Dashera is the Hindu Worship of Durga Devi, Goddess of Victory, the guide as to the manner and procedure of the worship having been taken from the sequence followed by Ramachandra in his worship many centuries ago.

The celebration takes place between the end of September and the middle of October, the actual date, however, depending upon the phases of the moon.

The Gurkha regards this as the warrior's festival, and worships Durga, the Goddess of Victory, and the weapons of his profession as a soldier.

All night celebrations

The main characteristic of the festival is the dancing and merrymaking which culminates in the all-night celebrations on the night of Kal Ratri. "Black Night," as it is called, is the most important night of the ceremony. On looking back to the history, we find that this is the night when the two goddesses visited Ramachandra and instructed him to make war on the following morning. During the night none of the Gurkhas sleep, but await the sacrificial ceremony which commences at midnight, with the decapitation, by a single stroke of a khukri, of a young male buffalo. After this, the entertainment and merry-making continues, predominant amongst it being the age-old tribal dances in which they are dressed in Nepali costumes as Pursunges (male dancers) and Marunis (female dancers impersonated by men).



DASHERA DANCERS
The attractive "female" dancers are Gurkha soldiers too



AND THEN THERE WERE NINE . . .
Small girls at the Mar Ceremony

Sacrifice

These dances go on continuously until the next day, Balidan or Mar. This was the day of Ramachandra's battle, in which he killed Ravana. Nowadays, it is marked by the sacrifice of numerous pigeons, goats and young buffalo bulls at the Maula, or specially selected place of worship, which exist near the hill villages or in the Regiment. The sacrifices, as on the night of Kal Ratri, are performed by cutting off the offering's head with a khukri or khonrha. The khonrha is a heavy curved weapon with a broad head, roughly at right angles to the cutting edge. It is always considered a point of pride to sever the head cleanly, with one stroke. The rest of the day is given up to feeding, drinking, family parties and general merrymaking. The tenth, and last day, known as as Bijaya Dashmi or Tika, is taken up with the celebration of Tika, when all men put a caste mark on their foreheads. This day corresponds to the day in the myth, in which Ramachandra's mother welcomed him home, and put a Tika on his forehead.

This year's Dashera was carried out in the traditional manner and was the last for our Gurkha Major, **Major (Q.G.O.) Birbahadur Rawat, M.B.E.,** who is shortly retiring on pension.

Our British ranks attended most of the functions, and many a bottle of beer was drunk and photographs taken to remember this unique festival.

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NOV 68—W.I.

18th Signal Regiment

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AN INFORMAL MOMENT IN THE W.O.'s AND SERGEANTS' MESS
General Hancock talks to R.Q.M.S. McDonough. R.S.M. Wood is in the foreground and W.O.I Osman Tasi on the left

Visit of Major-General M. S. Hancock, M.B.E.

THE Regiment and 249 Squadron had the pleasure of **Major-General Hancock's** company on 30th August when he visited us for the first time, in his official capacity as Chief of Staff, Headquarters Far East Land Forces. He met several M.O.R.s who had previously been under his command, when he ran the Signal Training Centre some years ago, and many other officers and soldiers who had served with him elsewhere. **Major Hickey, R.C.T.,** the General's M.A. (an aviation man), was somewhat baffled by the flow of technical jargon during the tour but brightened up considerably when the Air Troop of 249 Squadron hove into sight—and was able to demonstrate at least there was something technical which he understood better than his master.

The Regiment also organised a summer ball in the Princess Mary Officers' Mess on behalf of the Chief Signal Officer, on 6th September, at which **Major-General and Mrs. Hancock** were the guests of honour. This was enlivened by a spirited performance by our firm friends and favourites—The Pipes and Drums of 17th Gurkha Regiment.

H.M.S. Hermes

The Corps and Regimental affiliation to H.M.S. *Hermes* was taken up once more in the first half of September, during her visit to Singapore. The Chief Signal Officer invited 20 officers and their ladies to attend the ball held on 6th September. Forty chief petty officers attended a dance in the Princess Mary Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on the same night and 40 ratings came over for a games night at the Princess Mary Club on the previous evening.

The C.B.G.L.O. (**Major J. A. Pemberton**) and his staff stayed with the Regiment throughout *Hermes* visit and took the opportunity to take some violent exercise. **Major Pemberton** acted as the link man with the ship and organised tours of *Hermes* for no less than 15 officers, 110 soldiers and 33 children.

A sports tournament was arranged for 14th September as the final event on the programme and, after some very hard fought battles, the Regiment emerged as the undisputed victors.

The detailed scores were: Soccer, 4-3 to the Regiment; hockey, 6-2 to the Regiment; golf, 5-0 to the Regiment; squash, 0-5 to H.M.S. *Hermes*.



NAVAL PRESENTATION
Commander Hardy presents Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson with an *H.M.S. Hermes* plaque

This was followed by a presentation of trophies in the Princess Mary Club, accompanied by the consumption of large quantities of well deserved beer.

We are looking forward to renewing our contacts with the ship's company when H.M.S. *Hermes* returns to Singapore at the end of the year.

Sailing

Sailing has been a major preoccupation again this month. With the prospect of a trip to Hong Kong for the winning team of the Singapore District Inter Unit Trophy this is not surprising. **Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson** was faced with the distinct possibility of losing his Second-in-Command, two Squadron commanders, two Troop officers, the R.S.M. and several N.C.O.s if we had won, but was nevertheless disappointed when the Regimental team lost to Headquarters Far East Land Forces in the final.

The final match consisted of two races in Bosuns and two in GP 14s. Having sailed the Bosun matches our team was one point down despite a retirement by **Lieutenant MacCulloch.** By the afternoon the wind had freshened and all the crews were working very much harder than in any of the other races. As luck would have it, **Major Barker** was caught on the wrong tack on the starting line and **Major Bird** had to retire with a gear failure in the first race of the afternoon. Faced with the need to gain the first four places to win, the team sailed brilliantly in the last race to gain the first three and a seventh —thus losing the overall match by five points. **Major Johnstone,** the team manager, mouthed some blistering oaths and consoled himself with the thought that we had achieved a moral victory in losing by such a narrow margin with three retirements. At least we had the satisfaction of soundly beating 19th Regiment in response to their victory in the Corps Regatta.

Shooting

Shooting has also been to the fore this month with the Royal Signals, R.A.P.C. and Singapore District meetings. We conceded victory to 19th Regiment in the Corps shoot. However, the results of the District Major Units competition were much more encouraging:

1st, 2/6 Gurkhas, 249 points; 2nd, 2/2 Gurkhas, 244.5 points; 3rd, Singapore Guard Regiment, 238.5 points; 4th, 18th Regiment, 229 points; 5th, 42 Commando, 225 points.

Having only been beaten by infantry units and beaten a commando, the team justifiably felt that they had retrieved the Regiment's honour.

Our contingent in the R.A.P.C. shoot did well, **Corporal Walker** (on loan from 1 Squadron) winning the Open S.M.G. trophy; the team gained second place with the weapon and **Captain Tommy Thompson** (well known by many members of the Corps) came third in the S.M.G. individual competition.

W.O.II Massie's farewell

W.O.II Massie, A.C.C., who nas been responsible for producing such a high standard of Messing in the unit for the last two-and-a-half years, left the Regiment for U.K. on 22nd September for his last post with the Army before retirement. His efforts are reflected in the fact that our place in the Singapore District Inter Unit Cookery Competition was third in 1966, second in 1967 and first this year. All ranks congratulate him and his staff on their achievement and wish him every success in setting up his own catering business in Edinburgh or Glasgow when he retires. Give us the address and we'll visit you!

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

Laarbruch Station Fete

THE Laarbruch Station Fete was an outstanding success this year. The weather was perfect and larger crowds than ever were attracted to the many stalls and sideshows. "L" Troop once more provided one of the main attractions of the afternoon with their "Duck the Pongo" stall and netted a cool £21 (a record). **Miss Youles, Corporal Youles'** daughter, very sportingly volunteered to sit on the plank towards the end of the afternoon and made many a fine splash, to everyone's delight!

The Wives' Club ran an incredibly successful "White Elephant" stall and collected £58 10s. for a "load of old English rubbish" (another record).

In the evening the whole station was entertained by the "Laughing Laarbruch Revue"—the "Merry Whistlers" and the "Hot Line" being two of the highlights—and once again many members of the Regiment contributed towards the evenings enjoyment.

The outcome of this most enjoyable afternoon and evening was a collection for various charities of over £1,250.

The Sir Robert Foster Trophy

R.A.F. Laarbruch won the Sir Robert Foster Trophy for the second year running, and the Regiment was proud to have its sportsmen once more represented in almost every team.

The cross-country team, trained by **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Cantle,** had six of our runners in it, and the shooting team, which won both SLR and SMG matches, was also from the Regiment. In athletics, the tug-of-war team was made up entirely of our men, and many of our athletes made individual contributions. **Captain L. A. D. Hawkins, R.E.M.E.,** ran the station badminton team and **Major B. C. Hodgson** was captain of the station rugby and golf teams.

Again we would like to say "Well done, Laarbruch."



A SMART TURN-OUT
The Morris Mini-bus presented to the Regiment by the Nuffield Trust, with its driver Corporal McCall

Nuffield Trust Grant

We are now the proud possessors of a Morris mini bus, thanks to the generosity of the Nuffield Trust, and already it is hard at work, with its driver, **Corporal McCall** giving many people the chance to see some of the many interesting places with which we are surrounded. (Picture shows **Corporal McCall** and the bus outside R.H.Q.).

Departures

Both **Major and Mrs. Hodgson** and **Major and Mrs. Senior** left us this month, the former to 4th Division, the latter to 24th Regiment.

Major Hodgson will be missed for his many contributions to the sporting life of Laarbruch and for his drive as Adjutant, and Gutersloh will not seem the same without the Seniors.

We wish them very success in the future.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

Is everything present and correct?

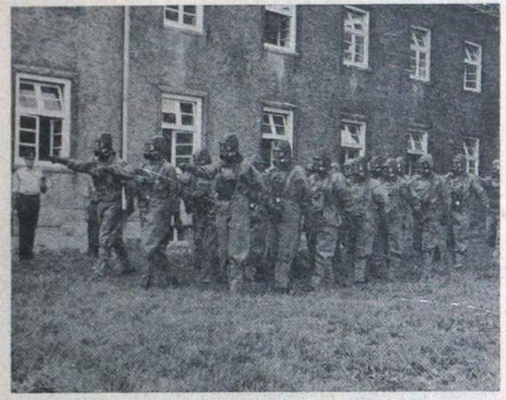
THROUGHOUT August the appearance of the Regimental barracks caused one or two old soldiers, who like to remind others of their "long service in hot climates," to reminisce about the Rub al Khali (the Empty Quarter). Everyone seemed to be away, either on leave or with one of the many adventurous training expeditions deployed across Europe. However, when September comes thoughts of sun and sand are put behind us, and what better way of bringing everyone back to reality with a resounding bump than by plunging into the annual stocktaking? For the past two weeks the camp has been in a ferment, with teams of harrassed officers and senior N.C.O.s dashing about counting everything in sight. We hope that when all the paper is consolidated we will get a clean bill, allowing us to start the autumn exercises "without a care in the world."

Not just counting socks

However, it would be wrong to assume that the Regiment has done nothing but count socks during the month. Three important exercises have been successfully completed, including "Mountain Ash" which represents an important landmark in the short history of 3 Squadron; the Training Wing has re-opened under **Yeoman Llewellyn,** with **Sergeants Robertshaw** and **Middleton** putting the first of this year's M.P.T. courses through their paces; the rugger, hockey and soccer teams have played their first matches (the rugger XV scoring a notable win over R.A.F. Gutersloh); the Wives' Club has held its first meeting of the new season, and on one memorable Sunday the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes played their annual cricket match.

A sticky wicket

Cricket has not been blessed with good weather this year, and Sunday, 15th September, ran true to form. Hard lobbying of the Padre, who was down to play, before Morning Service failed to produce much improvement, and it was decided to take an early lunch. Some two hundred people, including vast numbers of children, assembled in the Sergeants' Mess and it became clear that an indefinite postponement of play would not be displeasing to everyone. Besides, it was obviously going to rain all day, so why not forget cricket, and make the most of a splendid social occasion? Unfortunately, after everyone had washed down a mountain of curry with several glasses of beer, the two captains, **Second-Lieutenant Johnson** and **S.S.M. Arnold,** returned from a secret inspection of the wicket and to general consternation and disbelief they declared it fit for play. So shortly after two o'clock **Staff Sergeant Hope** and **Sergeant Robertshaw** opened the bowling to a succession of officers whom it would be kinder not to name, for in next to no time five wickets had been lost for six runs. This brought the Padre and Commanding Officer together, and some semblance of order was restored. The Padre astonished himself and everyone else by hitting the only six of the match, and **Lieutenant-Colonel Dowell** enjoyed himself to the tune of 44 not out. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants never came within reach of the officers' total, and eventually **Second-Lieutenant Johnson** received the



The R.S.M. and his visitors from outer space!

trophy, with a strict reminder from **R.S.M. De Clancey** to return it to him first thing in the morning! That wretched stocktaking! It had been a dull day for weather, but nevertheless an exciting and enjoyable one for players and spectators alike. And for the children, some of whom sat through the entire programme of five hours' non-stop films!

Not just counting socks but seeing them re supplied

Exercise "Mountain Ash" was our most important exercise of the month. This was an administrative F.T.X., and it is always enjoyable to see large numbers of troops out on the ground doing their proper job! Although we needed a considerable part of the Regiment to set up and maintain the communications system they were not overworked once the exercise started, and there was time for most of us to get round the area and see the new administrative system in operation. It was fun to be carried over the Weser on a Class 80 ferry instead of using Hameln bridge (for the umpteenth time), and everyone enjoyed the training with the Wessex helicopters of 18 Squadron R.A.F. which we arranged — even those whose hands were burned as they came down the 40 foot rope extended from a hovering "chopper." Possibly one or two should think about losing a little weight! An unusual, but certainly not uninteresting exercise.

Exercise "Game Pie"

A detachment of three officers and fifty men has just finished Exercise "Game Pie" based on Sennelager training area. This was one of the never-ending series of international exercises (four each year), to which the Regiment is now committed. Judging by "Game Pie" these exercises will prove to be lively and enjoyable and they certainly offer scope for international fraternisation. The opportunity was taken to invite half a dozen American signal officers to our barracks to see the new equipment, and they left after lunch much impressed by it.

Personalities

The Regiment, and the army, have just said goodbye to **W.O.II McPhail** who has retired after 22 years' service. Many old members of 2 Squadron will remember him striding round Radio Village. The Sergeants' Mess dined him out in traditional style, and one of our photographs was taken that evening. It shows **R.S.M. De Clancey** and **S.S.M. McPhail** in agreement that two Sergeant Majors have no need of a microphone.

Perhaps all is not present and correct

An unusual quote from "B" Troop's report on their adventure training exercise held recently in Denmark:

"After we returned from a day visit to Hundested, **Lance-Corporal Clarke** was noted to be missing. Following an extensive search he was eventually found some 12 feet down a rubbish pit digging away quite merrily. When he was asked what he was doing down there he replied that he was searching for Viking remains, especially the helmets."

Has **Lance-Corporal Clarke** set a precedent? Will the findings of the stocktaking board result in our gallant S.Q.M.S.s descending 12 feet into rubbish pits to dig for S.R.C.41 remains, S.R. D.11 remains . . . and whatever became of that old grey box that was used as a door stop?



"WE DON'T NEED A MIKE"

R.S.M. De Clancy and S.S.M. McPhail at a farewell occasion to the latter

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

Exercise "Nomad"

The focal point of the month was Exercise "Nomad" (known by some as Exercise "Gomad") this was a mobile column exercise with demonstrations of IS tactics followed by some problems set to the column involving "fear crazed" civilians who required controlling or suppressing. A motley crew of "civilian enemy," supplied by 3 Squadron upgraders, appeared at most unlikely times and places and seemed, on occasions, to take control of the column. The exercise was thoroughly enjoyed by all; the enemy definitely having the best time, with their rotten eggs, tomatoes and bags of flour. A lot of very useful lessons were learned by all.

Perhaps the best account of the exercise, however, was summed up in the poem written by **Corporal Bill Hogan** and **Signalman Eddie Pacey,** of Schemes Troop, which we reproduce below:

THE BALLAD OF EXERCISE "NOMAD"

(or the war game: 24 style)

To the northern tip of Yorkshire
and almost off the map,
lies the Army camp of Catterick
where the weather's often black
and the cold winds blow so strongly
from that bleak and endless moor
on a Royal Signals Regiment
which is numbered Twenty-Four.

The job they do in peacetime
is so clear beyond all doubt
if you ever count the numbers
of the trainees they turn out.
But when it comes to wartime
they don't go on the dole,
for the high-ups at War Office
have conceived another role.

And so it was on one fine day
an order was decreed
to create a mobile column
which would act with awesome speed.
So on that Saturday morning
all the Regiment was there
proudly by their vehicles
as they stood on Vimy Square.

Their webbing was immaculate
with brasses shining bright,
a host of warlike soldiers
standing ready for the fight,
and **Mr. Pearce,** the R.S.M.,
hadn't missed a trick,
for he'd right-dressed all the vehicles
with his polished hockey stick.

Then at last the column moved
when the Colonel waved his hand
and exodus was rendered
and the Regiment looked grand.
Driving very slowly,
they approached the old A.1,
for this was Exercise "Nomad"
and the first phase had begun.

Major Prescott in command
took up his position,
the R.S.M. called out the guard
and dished out ammunition.
He spaced them out by gates and walls
and hid them in the thistles,
with empty guns and shoulder tabs
and half-a-dozen whistles.

They were tense with raw excitement
(like the night before the Somme),
when long range foreign aircraft
dropped a simulated bomb.
And a signal reached headquarters
telling of the situation
that blasted heat and gamma rays
had halved the population.

Then the exercise commander
was saddened by this news
and acts of terrorism
by **Lieutenant Charlie Hughes**
who leapt about the area,
spurring on his motley crew,
upsetting operations
and **Major Prescot** too.

But the Regimental Padre
was in his element,
could this then be the calling,
the reason he'd been sent?
For with fortitude and courage
and grim determination,
he administered the final rites
to each denomination.

Then suddenly a mob attacked
at the twenty-second hour,
and covered all and sundry
with white self-raising flour.
They threw it over **Major Grice**
and also **Captain Taylor,**
who both were looking miserable
and visibly paler.

The mob were really angry now
and screaming out for food,
they trampled on '**Q**' **Greenwood**
in a manner really crude.
Their anger grew to fever pitch
and so with indignation,
the R.S.M. turned out his troops
in swift retaliation.

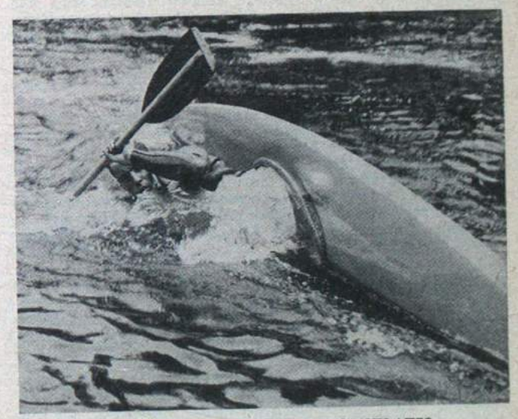
Then **Colonel Jimmy Hellier**
visited the scene,
and said the O.C.'s actions
had been far too overkeen.
They only wanted feeding
there wasn't any plot
and it really wasn't justified
to have these people shot.

And so with stern expression
pointing to his white armband,
he berated all and sundry
for these errors of command.
But he then was interrupted
by **Chief Clerk Eric Lane,**
who told him poor '**Q**' **Greenwood**
had been trampled on again.

So with agonising slowness
the hours of darkness passed,
the troops were feeling weary
(and many had been gassed).
But though it was apparent that
the allies' ranks were thinning,
it was even more significant
that 24th was winning.

Finally the morning came
to everyone's relief,
and all the troops were mustered
for the exercise debrief.
The C.O. making many points
then drove off in his Rover,
at last they could go home to bed
the exercise was over.

CORPORAL HOGAN
SIGNALMAN PACEY



SERGEANT CORNFORTH DEMONSTRATES

24th Regiment recently received some slalom canoes from the Nuffield Trust

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

"Fallex" takes its toll

BLANDFORD in October and, as usual, it's raining. Few faces appear in the lines, the old and bold, endeavouring to maintain a smile whilst thinking of their more "fortunate" compatriots enjoying themselves on exercises in sunnier climes.

Mind you, if the card from **Corporal Forster** (2 Squadron) in Krefeld, with its solitary pleading word "HELP," is anything to go by, I wonder if they may not be better off here.

"Fallex" has taken its toll of Comcen Operators to B.A.O.R., while 1 Squadron is practically denuded by Exercise "Swap," where swarming hoards of soldiery scramble ashore on the fair green isle. 4 Squadron, as usual this month of the year, are conspicuous by their absence, and the AMF (L) Signal Troop have been in and out of barracks like a yo-yo. They joined the 1st Bn. Coldstream Guards, this time in Otterburn during September, for their first exercise together, having bid farewell to the 1st Bn. Light Infantry (formerly 1 S.C.L.I.) after Exercise "Polar Express" in Norway.

With the Ghanaian Army

Their latest training jaunt took them, not to the snows of the Arctic, but to join a battalion of the Ghanaian Army exercising on the Plain, not in the sun, as the Ghanaians found out, much to their discomfort. The exercise was short, but sweet, and, without being discourteous, was not without its humour. **Lance-Corporal Sheldon,** who commanded the Battalion rear-link detachment, we are convinced is destined for high command in some fortunate African State, so good was his liaison for them with Brigade Headquarters.

The Regiment spreads from the Caribbean to Hong Kong

But if anyone ever asks what exactly '30' do for a living, it made most of us sit up and take notice when the Commanding Officer announced at a recent Wednesday Conference that there would be over 300 personnel away from the Regiment during October on exercises or detachment.

Perhaps the most remote at the moment is the 1 Squadron detachment, under **Sergeant Mallet** (2 Squadron) on Beef Island, where a link to U.K. has been established for 39th Engineer Regiment, engaged on airfield construction.

Reading over the notes of past issues, I notice that the Rear Link Signal Detachments with non-Brigaded Regiments in U.K. have not had a mention. **Corporal Daniels,** with 38th Engineer Regiment in Ripon, and his telegraph operators have had their fair share of "Cook's Tours," taking in Canada and Outer Hebrides, to quote but two, while at this moment **Corporal Smith,** with 22 Light Air Defence Regiment, R.A., is somewhere between Stanford P.T.A. and Manorbier on a movement and control exercise.

Other detachments with the 3rd and 5th Dragoon Guards, and the Queen's Own Hussars deserve a mention, particularly the former, who have **Signalman Smyth** serving with one of their Squadrons in Pergamos, Cyprus. Within the last month yet another detachment has been formed to join 25th Light Air Defence Regiment, R.A.; **Corporal Harlow, Lance-Corporal Kersting** and **Signalmen Hagen, Twigger** and **Fifer** will be spending Christmas in Hong Kong, when they fly out with their Regiment.

And recruiting, too

But not everyone in the Regiment is involved on exercises, although one particular group is very much "on the road" and in the public eye. I refer, of course, to "Swiftsure," the Southern Command Royal Signals Recruiting Display, who, since April, have staunchly braved the elements during country shows and fended off the hoards of small children who find the knobs of Army equipment particularly fascinating. On the present tour of Birkenhead, Wolverhampton and Liverpool (yes, on loan to Western Command) are such seasoned troupers as **Corporals Olive, Watson, Wainwright** and **Madeley** and **Signalman Goddard,** who has had the unenviable task of maintaining the "hard-come-by" technical exhibits.

That weekend

Mention was made in the last issue of the Regimental Week which went off without a hitch. Our roving reporter was gladdened by the comments he picked up in the aftermath:

A Sergeant: Slow, but then I was guard commander on the best night of the week.
A Captain: I enjoyed it, I wasn't there.
A Second-in-Command: I thoroughly enjoyed it.
A Signalman: Which Regimental Week?
A Squadron Commander: Too many trees on the way FROM the Mess.

And so to sport

No "Wire" notes seem to be complete without a sports comment. Honours go again to Lance-Corporal Worrell, who toured B.A.O.R. with the Army Cricket XI and was nominated 'Man of the Match' at the end of the tour.

Rugby fans will be heartened by this report from their field, which started well this season, with a 15—8 win over our old rivals, 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment. Since then we have had mixed blessings, winning two, losing two and drawing one, though it would be fair to say that at times we have been sadly depleted due to exercise commitments. When we are up to full strength we should have quite a strong side, with a good possibility of fielding a second XV.

Rugby enthusiasts in the Corps will remember a few of the players now with us: **Lance-Corporal 'Chris' Thompson,** Corps, and at one time Army full-back; **Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Harvey,** Corps centre and wing three-quarter; **Lieutenant Chris Byron,** wing forward; **Signalman 'Geoff' Drew,** B.A.O.R. wing three-quarter who has returned to us from 7th Regiment; **Lieutenant 'Rod' Dransfield,** a centre, and has played full-back for the Corps last season. **Captain 'Dai' Rees,** of the 1st Training Regiment golden era (he is still playing), has just joined us and is to be congratulated on being appointed Corps Rugby Secretary for this season. **Corporal 'Geordie' Gainsford,** Corps scrum-half, is soon to join us from Singapore.

There is a sad lack of big young forwards in the Regiment; in fact, the Rugby Officer can often be heard muttering to himself that we have a Regiment of midgets. No man of 5ft. 10ins. and over and weighing upwards of 13 stone can walk past the Rugby Officer's office or attend meals when he is Orderly Officer without facing a searching enquiry as to why he does not, or should not, play rugby.

Literally a shattering experience

With Blandford so close to the centre of Corps (U.K.) sailing, it had to be 30th Regiment who incurred a memorable insurance claim aboard *Stella Lyra.* Memorable, this is, for the crew of four who experienced the shattering of her mast five miles off Poole Point Buoy, and with the night firmly closing in. With **Sergeant Thompson** skippering and **Corporal Bowden** at the helm all hell broke loose for approximately 30 seconds until the ruins were firmly stowed and the engine (how she was blessed that night) gallantly brought the craft back into Poole Harbour.

Farewells

October's notes cannot be closed without a fond farewell to **Major John Findlater** and his wife, **Anne,** who have done so much for the Regiment during the past two years. They are not moving far—across to the School of Signals—so no doubt his appearances in 30th Regiment are unlikely to come to a halt. In his chair we welcome **Major Ralph Plant,** recently returned from Sharjah. The helm in the Quartermastery also changes hands as **Major Duggie Murray** departs and **Major Fred Thirkell** takes over.

4th Guards Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (204) B.F.P.O. 17

EXERCISE "University Challenge" was designed to test the map-reading, endurance and initiative of the junior soldiers.

The plot was that the soldiers were prisoners-of-war and had escaped in small parties. They were given minute sections of map and had to contact various agents in order to get food and more information. Meanwhile, the enemy forces were searching for them.

The agents were played by the three officers in the party, and one was so successful in impersonating a woman that he had the entire male population of a village chasing after him.

The exercise was held in an area near Heidelburg. The local people were most helpful, and due to their efforts, some of the escapees were not seen for days. The weather was splendid and everyone enjoyed themselves.

EXERCISE "UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE"

(or how to get from point A to B, pub-by-pub)

By Lance-Corporal Walton and Signalman Kelly

We had only walked about two kilometres from where we had escaped when a great thirst overcame us, so we headed for the nearest pub.

After making sure there were no enemy forces in the village we got into a pub and sat down to a cool beer. About two beers later the peace was shattered by the sound of Land Rovers. To the amazement of the locals we dived under a table.

The vehicles had now stopped outside the pub, and the landlady, being the flapping type, asked us why we were hiding under the table.

Mick managed to get it over to her that those outside weren't our friends and what they would do to us if we got caught.

To our surprise, she hid us in the back room, and by this time her husband had joined the game by keeping us informed as to what was happening outside.

Things weren't looking too good. Here we were, stuck in the back of a pub with half the enemy forces having dinner outside.

How could we get past them and on our way? Well it's easy . . . that's if you can persuade one of the locals to back his car up to the back door and take you outside the village.

Well, we not only did that, but got him to drive us to the first objective.

We met our first agent that night, with no set-backs, then set off for the second objective, which was in a quarry.

We got there with no trouble except for one lift we managed to get with a driver who had "had one over the eight." At the end of the journey I left my teethmarks in the dashboard, but because of the rush to get out of the car, I left a slip of paper with all the information on locations, timings and agents on it. Thanks to Mick's good memory and my guesswork, we managed to put things together.

Everything went off O.K. except on the third day, when we walked into an ambush. But who cares what happens when you are out of cigarettes and money.

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

Letter from East Africa

Written by Major J. R. E. Cross

Nairobi.

Dear Bwana,

ANYONE who has been to this part of the world or who has read books from the libraries about it knows that the elite around here are the White Hunters who are members of a very closed shop group providing escort service for tough safaris and big game hunters (big game is rhino, elephant, lion and buffalo with leopard nudging the title) — in fact, if one goes after big game one has, by law, to have a W.H. along. I'm thinking of starting up a small game hunting organisation (not the usual small game, I don't want the Union of Rodent Control Officers on my back!) headed by a super elite band of Coleopteri Hunters. We will then have a loud talk counter against the usual loud talk in the Long Bar —you know the sort of thing, "clobbered him with my first shot—tusks of a least 100lbs."—or "took the male Simba at 50 yards and got his memsahib as she sprang, using the pump gun." I can hear the small game line shoot now:

Bugs Beauchamp: "Hear you've got yourself organised with the game department cropping team."

Ant Anstruthers: "Just filling in between safaris. Off to Nakuru on a ten-day termite suppression stint tomorrow. How's life with you?"

B.B.: "Just finished a solo session in River Road after bed bugs. Have to go back in again this afternoon. I was using my old single action Flit gun—winged one at the limit of arc — can't leave wounded game in the boards — have to finish him off."

A.A.: "Got myself one of the new double action, continuous fire guns the other day — double angled barrels — wonderful arc of fire."

This has possibilities—will have to give it more thought.

* * *

The permitting of eligible British personnel to wear the recently struck Kenya medal for the local "war" against Shifta bandits in the North East brought on a small pondering about medals generally. From way back it has been a recognised penance that if one queried a medal ribbon a drink was automatically purchased for the wearer (I have had many a pint —not from people asking what the ribbon of the Nigerian Independence Medal was but what T.A. unit I had served with! The colours are green, white, green). There are so many fancy ribbons around now that the drink buying routine should be dropped or the Corps may end up with a small band of ex-secondment drunks!

* * *

Having got most of the Standing Signal Instructions for the Kenya army into print after many months of labour, they all have to be written again with added bits under a Defence H.Q. heading. Such jobs help to earn my pay but as the gentlemen from the funeral parlour said, it's not so much a job as an undertaking.

Had a demonstration of and a good look at the Programma table top computer the other day. A very crafty piece of work which even the makers don't think will sell around here in any numbers. With so many people leaving schools and universities the object is to make work for them, not replace them with this type of machine. It will be a long time before such things as food vending automats and automatic beer sellers (dipsomat?) are seen and any such device is viewed with high suspicion.

* * *

The best way to get response to a letter is to ask questions, how's this for a starter: Why do all old hands call this country "Keenya" and all the new ones call it "Kenya"? (The President is known to all as Ken yatta). Why does everyone say "Yewganda" for Uganda when the locals say "Ooganda" as in Uhuru?

* * *

I've had two letters from "friends" both commenting on my first letter to you—one was grateful for gratuitous advertising, the other was highly sceptical about my working 28 hours per day; I can't imagine why!

Kwaheri,
C.R.O.

Bavarian Enterprise

BY LIEUTENANT R. A. J. GARDNER,
1 ARTY BRIGADE H.Q. AND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Meet "Boots"

"CAN I take my dog?", R.E.M.E. support queried. After a hectic exercise period, planning for the Squadron's expedition to Bavaria had begun. One cannot always anticipate what assent will bring; "Boots" (the dog in question), for

instance, turned out to be an apparent cross between a wire brush and a tin of tyre black.

The aim of the enterprise was to combine a 500-mile H.F. exercise with as much fitness training as possible. Men were taken from all parts of the Squadron to make up a party of 10. Initial preparations, thanks to the efforts of **Captain Morgan** and **Sergeant Belton**, were completed without a hitch and on a bright crisp Monday morning, 15th July, the party set off in a long wheelbase Land Rover and the P.R.I. minibus on the 650-mile drive.

"What's that?', R.E.M.E. (**Corporal Wilson**), struck again. "That" was the minibus big-end bearings. After stripping it down in a kindly American base near Kassel, the party deserted the minibus for a "T" Troop Land Rover brought up by **Signalman "Trendy" Watford,** and took to the road again at 22.00 hours.

After an interesting drive, during which much was learned about Land Rovers, we reached Walchensee late on Tuesday afternoon, to find that all camping sites were full. Finally we found one down by the lake itself and set up camp. By now it had rained steadily for 24 hours. It was to continue for another six days, heavily and almost continually. The problems had only just begun.

Hanging clothes on a dipole

The dipole was erected but overnight was mistaken for a clothes line by a German camper. On redressing her grievances, however, we discovered, having checked set and mast, that it did not work anyway. On advice from **Corporal Cooney** and **Signalman Sugden** we started recceing and finally a site was found up a very steep and tortuous track. The C11 "boomed" through on a 16ft. whip. The men, apart from the driver, having run and walked up were not in such fine form.

Certain difficulties

Meanwhile, back in camp, "Boots," a soaking wet bundle of fur, was gaily chasing the women, enviously watched by all, whilst they dug trenches round the tents and made the camp site as organised and comfortable as possible. During the bad weather, places of interest were visited in Munich and the surrounding area. Some were not sure which was worse, dry weather (swimming, marching or trekking), or wet (the after-effects of the last place visited on an outing) .

The physical training programme had, unfortunately, to be much reduced in the face of the weather and the camp maintenance caused thereby. Furthermore the twice daily runs to a new comms site, some 20 kms. away, took up considerable time.

The lake was found to be bitterly cold, one member deciding too much so. He sent back some stalwarts for a canoe to rescue him from a mid-lake raft. Even so the treks up to the original comms site, and the fresh air, must have done some good, for all managed a six-mile speed march with ease on our last day.

From establishment, comms remained reasonably solid despite the efforts of various American stations (and members of the party learning how to operate the set). **Lance-Corporal Mate** in Hildesheim seemed to take all in his stride, however. Party spare-time efforts were mainly expended rescuing **Signalmen Whale, Isaac and Macdonald** (motto, chase anything female, any age, any time), from "H.Q. Jetset" (the camp site hostel), or "Boots" from the wrath of individuals caught in their sleeping bags at first light with a lick and shake from a muddy, furry ball.



IT DOESN'T LOOK STEEP
Original communications site—only 4,500 feet up

Home and the rain stops

By the time the good weather came we had to leave. Ten damp individuals began the drive back, having learned much about compo, camp sites, fitness (of all sorts), petrol cookers (O.C. Troops became a real fireball whilst trying to repair one), and how to adapt to poor weather conditions.

Against a historical background of blood and the dark deeds of piracy

Corps men keep to their schedules in far away Beef Island, British Virgin Islands

This story of 30th Signal Regiment (Det.), Beef Island, Tortola, British Virgin Islands is by Captain D. G. O. White, B.E.M.

HISTORY records that Columbus sailed into the Caribbean on his second voyage in '93 or more precisely 1493. History again records that he named the rash of assorted islands, cays and sandspits grouped around Latitude 18° 50' N Longitude 64° 50' W, "Los Virgines," after St. Ursula and her unfortunate eleven thousand, put to death by the Huns.

Later still, in 1517, Cabot called in on his way home from an expedition to Brazil, to learn from the local Spaniards that approximately 5,000 of these had thus far been eaten by the hostile natives; one can only assume that promotion in the Spanish Consular service at the time was fairly rapid. Cabot, it would seem, continued on his way.

Sir John Hawkins appeared briefly in 1542 and again in 1563, this time with his first cargo of slaves for Hispaniola. He appeared once more in 1568, this time bringing a young Captain with him called Drake who commanded the Judith. The Elizabethan age was about to enter its most colourful phase and Sir Francis Drake, after a series of adventures, drove his small flotilla past Tortola in 1585 to chart the channel from the Atlantic to the Caribbean which to this day bears his name.

* * *

Through succeeding centuries men fought to colonise the area despite the attentions of the natives and the weather. 1772 saw the worst hurricane in the memory of man; how much it rained is not recorded but in nearby St. Croix the sea level rose seventy feet. And, of course, no Caribbean history would be complete without pirates. They all lurked in the area, from Captain Avery to the infamous Blackbeard. This last gentleman put ashore a number of his crew on a tilting slab like a piece of rock a couple of miles out from Tortola, to teach them the need for conserving food and water. The survival kit consisted of a cutlass and a bottle of rum—and the whole episode has been immortalised down the centuries with the celebrated sea-faring jingle, which every schoolboy has read about. Not unnaturally, this island is called Dead Man Chest.

Finally, in March of this year, 53 Squadron R.E. arrived to lengthen and improve the airstrip on Beef Island. Disembarking after a passage from England aboard the L.S.L. *Sir Galahad*, the Squadron put up a tented camp whilst the three Corps men on the island, operators **Lance-Corporal John Irvine** and **Signalman Bob Wilson,** led by technician **Corporal Jan Taylor,** got the radio station on the air.



ON THE JOB
Sergeant Mallett and Lance-Corporal Cranston check aerials

This consists of an SR C11 which works daily CW schedules to No. 1 Joint Relay Station, a thousand miles to the north in Nassau. By mid-May it became apparent to your scribe, who made a four-day flying visit to see how things were, that the traffic load was going to increase steadily as reconstruction of the airstrip went ahead. Here it must be borne in mind that the task was not simply one of merely improving the existing facilities but rather one of re-building the entire airfield. Level ground being so scarce in the region, the lengthening process was only accomplished by dynamiting a hillside at one end and using the soil to extend the runway simultaneously at the other by building it out to sea at Trellis Bay.

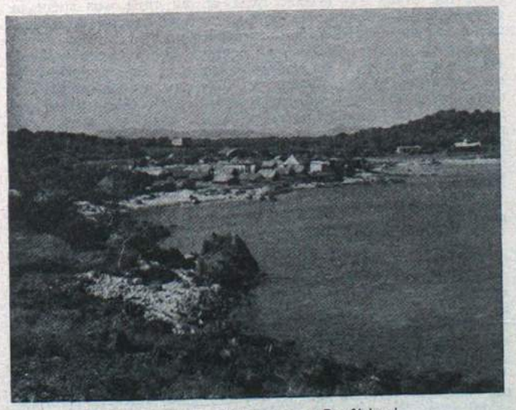
In mid-June, therefore, the detachment was augmented with the arrival of **Sergeant Brian Mallet** and **Lance-Corporal Ted Cranston** from 30th Regiment.

* * *

At the time of writing, this small detachment is still on Beef clearing all types of traffic for the Sappers; in addition to the J.R.S. schedules, the detachment have a daily C11/C11 contact with the 633 Troop detachment fifteen hundred miles to the west in British Honduras and have worked their C11 back to the Regiment in Blandford.

Let us hope they get home in time for Christmas.

Radio Hams note: The detachment now operate on 2 metres with the call-sign VP2VW and would be pleased to contact any member of the Corps.



General view of the camp on Beef Island



MAIL DAY
The largest aircraft able to land at Beef Island arrives twice weekly with mail

A Dinghy cruise along the Malayan coast

By Sergeant J. P. Kadwell, R.A.O.C., attached 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment

THREE months before the trip, I was wondering how to spend part of my leave. After various ideas, I decided to sail from Port Dickson, which is about halfway along the west coast of Malaya, to Singapore, a distance of approximately 220 miles. The best boat available was the unit Nuffield Trust GP14 sailing dinghy. **Sergeant Jim Hammill,** our R.E.M.E. L.A.D. chief 'volunteered' to come along, mainly to find what sailing is all about. He is now even more a confirmed 'motor-boater,' with mutterings about too much or no wind, no comfortable seats, shade or brewing facilities.

Originally, we decided to sail at our leisure with the occasional day off, but it developed into a race. One for the sheer joy of seeing how fast it could be done, and secondly, it was too hot and uncomfortable to be endured for a long period. Wind and tide finally settled for a period of six and-a-half days, with only five miles the first day.

The GP14 proved to be an excellent boat, the crew was needed to sit out only once for about an hour in the whole trip. With all the essentials to be carried, making the boat very heavy, it still managed to plane in the predominately reaching wind. We had to wear our lifejackets once for a period of three hours, but for the rest of the time they made excellent cushions for our sore behinds. On the last day we had our first beat, which was across the Johore Straits. The sunshine was brilliant and the wind strong, on an ideal sailing day, but unfortunately this was the day that did the most damage to our already burnt skin and cracked lips.

We found the inhabitants of the kampongs we stayed at during darkness most hospitable and curious. At one fishing village near Batu Pahat we arrived during darkness, about sixty Chinese fishermen escorted us to the coffee shop and the same number watched us turn in for the night in the guest hut. Next morning they were still there to watch every act of a "mad Englishman" cook his meal; they were fascinated by our hexamin stove.

Halfway through the trip we became too lazy to cook our Gurkha compo so we bought fresh sea food at the markets and had it cooked at the food stalls. King prawns for breakfast and the same for the evening meal. This is the high life one enjoys under Eastern conditions.

FARAWAY PLACES ! — UNUSUAL JOBS !
SEND US THAT STORY

Corps men in remarkable exploratory expedition 1,400 miles into the heart of the Libyan Desert

SOLDIERS of the Corps have played a big part in the success of a Military/Civilian expedition into the very heart of the Libyan desert — an expedition which had to face the crossing of the Murzuk Sand Sea, a dangerous waterless expanse of some 200 miles, 1,400 miles deep in the desert. Those taking part in the expedition are believed to be the first Britons ever to attempt this crossing successfully.

Among the five Corps men from 261 Squadron included in the expedition was **Corporal M. Sully** — the writer of this article — who was in charge of the Signal element and whose outstanding work earned him a G.O.C.'s commendation (the full citation was given in the September/October WIRE). Other members of the Corps taking part are mentioned in the article below.

* * *

Corporal Sully writes:



Corporal Michael Sully of 261 Signal Squadron

Apology

My apologies that **P. C. Wren** (the celebrated novelist of "Beau Geste" fame) was not available to accompany us on the expedition to the desert as the diarist. Notwithstanding this disaster I will endeavour to do my best!

Introduction

Four months of planning and training equipped myself and four other members from my Squadron in Cyprus with the necessary qualities to embark on an expedition 1,400 miles into the heart of the Libyan desert. The pre-requisites for such an expedition were fitness, professional ability and a sense of humour and the ability to live amicably with others in an isolated environment for three months.

The team

The joint Army-R.A.F.-Civilian expedition was led by **Major Peter Boxhall, F.R.G.S., M.I.L.,** of the Intelligence Corps. The civilian members were from Universities in England and were experts in such diverse fields as Archaeology and Arabian Studies. Medical cover was provided by two members of the R.A.F. The Squadron's contingent comprised **Lance-Corporal Ian Buick,** who doubled as the Radio Technician and Barman; **Signalmen Stuart Halfhide, Peter Good, Alan Wood** and myself were responsible for operating the various schedules. Apart from conventional "Steam Radio" we took along six "Pigeons, Carrier" as T.S.B.s!

Aims

The aims of the expedition were both Civil and Military, and briefly they were:

Military

1. Exploration: For a small team of Servicemen to cross the 200 miles, waterless expanse of the Murzuk Sand Sea. Believed to be the first ever Britons to attempt the crossing. Yes, shades of '41 and the L.R.D.G.

2. Survey: To authenticate place names and collect topographical information to assist in the making of maps, route reports and plot water supplies.

Civilian

1. Archaeological Survey: To carry out an archaeological investigation of the Ruined Sites at Sharaba, and Gasra Mara, which lie to the north of the Sand Sea.

2. Arabic Studies: To study population, social classes, organisation of communities and the Islamic influence in the Murzuk/Zuila area.

3. Botany and Zoology: To collect specimens of "Fringe Toed Lizards" for the British Museum and flora for the Botanical Gardens (Kew).

The march

After five hectic days at El Adem when we took over our transport (two Land Rovers, five 3-tonners and a 10-ton Matador) and nearly lost our patience and good humour; the column headed westward, and followed the coast road for Tobruk. The first day saw us passing through Timimi, the Derna Pass, Jabal Akhdar (Green Hill) and Cyrene. Nightfall saw us on the verge of the Barche Plain (the Granary of Ancient Rome). The heat and dust of El Adem was replaced by cool air and "green" spring flowers.

During the next few days after leaving Benghazi, "Marble Arch," Syrte and Ben Gren behind us we turned south and went through Vadden to Sebha, the capital of the Fezzan. At this stage it was decided to take a Land Rover fitted with lightweight signal equipment ahead, recce the area and make our first "call" to El Adem—5/5s.

At 03.00 hours, 9th March, the leader, **Halfhide** and myself set out on the remaining 90 miles of track (which was littered with old tyres and burial cairns) to Murzuk. After many wrong turnings, and having driven continuously for ten hours, covering 200 miles, we arrived at what was to be our home for the next two-and-a-half months. After establishing communications with our H.Q. in Cyprus, **Major Boxhall** went back along the road to lead the remainder into Murzuk.

To work

The next few weeks were a period of industry; the erection of the Base Camp went extremely well despite temperatures of 100°F. in the shade and the all-too-frequent sand storms. Once the camp was erected most of our time was spent in recceing local villages, surveying airstrips, getting fitter and improving our desert navigation techniques.

On 29th March the civilian members of the team arrived. After a period spent in settling down they set to work with the assistance of **Dr. Ayoub,** the Director of Antiquities for the Fezzan, on their projects. In addition to investigating the ruined sites of Gasra Mara and Sharaba, they also carried out the sociological survey on the villages of Zuila, Gatrun and Magdul. The archaeological survey went very well and perhaps the "find" was some hand axes which were estimated to be 500,000 years old.

Communication tasks

Quite apart from taking a full part in the expedition work, my job, and that of the other signallers, was to provide communications. This consisted of schedules from our Base Camp at Murzuk to El Adem (operated initially by **Signalman Good,** until relieved by **Signalman Halfhide** who was sent back from Murzuk; **Signalman Wood** also joined **Halfhide** from Cyprus) and to 262 Squadron Dhekelia, Cyprus. The rear link schedules were made up of five daily calls using C 11/R 210 on CW. Trails with seven different antennae proved beyond doubt that the half wave Dipole was by far the most efficient. Average signal strengths were 3/3s and this enabled us to pass all our

Expedition to Murzuk . . .









1. **Base Camp showing the di-pole in the foreground, with the cookhouse and ablutions. The Post Office is in the background.**
3. **A view of the Turkish fort and main street of Murzuk**
2. **Our Landrovers at the Base Camp at Murzuk.**
4. **The author (Corporal Sully) and Signalman Halfhide at Murzuk.**

messages without difficulty — the range was well over 1,000 miles.

The other task, and perhaps the most important, was to provide what was virtually a "life line" from the Sand Sea crossing team back to our base. The Sand Sea team used an A13 back to a C 11/R 210 on RT at Murzak.

Pigeons, Carrier, Mark II

It was felt that the conventional radio required some form of "back-up." Someone had just finished reading a pre-Marconi era book and hit upon pigeons, so it fell to me as the Senior Signaller to "trade train" our six feathered recruits. The locals were first bemused and later (when they knew) amused by the antics that continued on top of the Signals adobe "Coop." Initial trials were satisfactory and the birds performed well when delivering routine messages, written on single sheets of F Signals 52 (Small), 400 yards. But when I put a Flash on F Signals 52 (Large) and instructed the bird to take it 800 yards it baulked and was last seen winging its way into the blue yonder in search of greener pastures. Three other birds soon deserted—and then there were two! An inquiry was held into the pigeon that set in the rot. The findings of the board were that:

a. I had forgotten to feed it its K ration of American popcorn (no, we are not now in Vietnam!).

b. The added weight of F Signals 52 (Large) was too great.

Effective trade training stopped and the birds became our mascots and to our surprise presented us with an egg on Easter Morn.

Visit by the G.O.C. NEARELF

On 4th April our sponsor, **Major-General D. L. Lloyd Owen, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.,** and his son, **His Excellency the British Ambassador** and his son and several officials from the department of Antiquities and others flew in by an R.A.F. Hastings to join the expedition for a few days. The General is no stranger to the desert nor is this particular area unknown to him. He was particularly keen to see an old Italian airfield in the vicinity which he had attacked in 1941 whilst with the Long Range Desert Group. Our patron then turned his attention to the work of the expedition and in particular to the training of the Sand Sea team—he made several very useful suggestions which were most gratefully accepted.

The crossing of the Sand Sea

By the end of April preparations for the crossing were well advanced. I was to remain at the Base Camp in Murzuk and

Signalman Good was to be a member of the actual team. On 1st May the team received a setback, **Major Boxhall** received a message from the Mulazun at Gatrun to the effect that none of the camel owners, although their camels were in good condition, were prepared to make the crossing because it was too hot (approximately 100°F. in the shade).

As the expedition was due to end on 14th May our leader decided to carry on with the crossing using Land Rovers instead of camels.

So, on 2nd May, the Sand Sea team set off in two Land Rovers to Tegheri where they hoped to persuade the Haj (the headman of Tegheri) to accompany them on the crossing. This was of vital importance as he was the only person in the area who knew the route across the waste. The Haj asked if his younger brother could also accompany the team; he wanted him to get to know the route. The leader agreed.

The team finally got under way at 08.45 hours on 3rd May, on a bearing of 270° and headed off into the waterless waste. At 19.30 hours on 4th May I received a message at Murzuk from **Major Boxhall** at Anai; he instructed me to send a personal message to **General Lloyd Owen** to say that the team had made the crossing; our leader sounded very pleased.

The wanderers return

At 21.30 hours on 8th May the Sand Sea team returned to Base Camp and to a "tic-a-tape" welcome by the inhabitants of Murzuk. Everyone in the village knew of the achievement and it was the main topic of conversation in the market place.

The team was very tired, but they were justifiably very pleased at having made the crossing.

All work and no play . . .

To avoid the end of the saying the expedition were to be given recreational training. On 4th May half the expedition went off to the Tripoli area for a week, to unwind. I was in this half. We were guests of the British Ambassador whose staff arranged visits to many interesting places which included Leptis Magna and Wheelers Field, the plush U.S.A.F. Base. Here we were splendidly entertained by the U.S.A.F. and spent the night of 16th May with them, in comfort (a rare experience for us over the past three months). The remainder of our time in the area was spent swimming or just relaxing.

We returned to Murzuk and after briefing the other half of the expedition as to whom to see to arrange "things" and the places of interest to visit, they set off on their well-earned break.

Return to civilisation

On 23rd May, with the aims of the expedition successfully completed, the task of striking our Base Camp was started. Two days later, with overladen vehicles, we set off for El Adem. The road ahead was boring, however as we knew the roads well and were going home we made good progress.

Yet, being the journey it was, it could hardly have been uneventful. There were punctures, minor breakdowns and wrong turnings. Still we were in excellent spirits.

Our last orders from our leader at Murzuk were to get the expedition and ourselves back to El Adem as quickly and as safely as possible. We took him at his word—and three-and-a-half days later arrived at our destination. This was remarkable time, as we had clipped over 24 hours from that taken on the outward journey.

It is of interest to mention here that over the three-month period our two Land Rovers had travelled sixteen thousand and twelve thousand miles respectively, for the most part over appalling corrugated tracks and sand.

In retrospect . . .

From the Signals' viewpoint the expedition was a complete success (that is if the pigeons aren't counted) and many useful lessons were learnt. Sitting here in my barrack room in Cyprus, removing sand from my kit, I can only say how very glad I was to have gone on such an unusual trip — it was well worth the effort.

I was quietly amused on my return when I learnt of my next posting—the Briefing and Liaison Team, El Adem, Libya.



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Squadron camp

DURING July, the Squadron spent two weeks at Chickerell, near Weymouth. During this time we tried to fit in as many interesting and unusual activities as possible. **Captain Arnold,** our M.T.O., ran two successful motor rallies, which everyone enjoyed. **Lieutenant Ken Wright** became our waterborne officer, making full use of the facilities kindly provided by the staff of the Royal Engineers' Bridging Camp at Wyke Regis; we did some sailing and some rowing in assault boats, and the culmination was a regatta which bore no relation to Cowes Week. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us throughout the fortnight, except for the one Sunday when two coach-loads of wives and children—and dogs—drove down from Tidworth to spend the day with us. However, the visit had hidden benefits for some, including **Corporal D'Arcy,** who managed to persuade his mother-in-law to underwrite his refreshments for the following week.

Off-duty time was spent in a variety of ways. **Captain Len Irving,** our Quartermaster, found it necessary to carry out a number of stores checks at various golf courses in the area.

Staff Sergeant John Richardson and **Sergeant Keith Halliwell,** suitably attired in Carnaby Street (1958?) style, unselfishly decided that their duty was to foster good relations with the natives; fortunately, they found a quiet Temperance Hall, centrally situated, where they made many good friends.

Exercise "Iron Duke"

This exercise was the highlight of the training season. 5th Brigade, complete, was deployed on Salisbury Plain in an exercise against 2nd Brigade. The restrictions on training areas in England meant that the exercise had to be tightly controlled, but even so, a good sense of realism was achieved. After an initial simulated air move from barracks, the Brigade took up an intermediate defensive position. This was followed by a withdrawal, a defensive battle, an advance, and a final attack, supported by Army and R.A.F. helicopters and FGA aircraft. After a lot of noise and explosions, the exercise ended (to the relief of the inhabitants of the villages in the area) and in pouring rain.

We had a constant stream of visitors to the exercise; on some days we had more than fifty during the morning alone. Both **Brigadier Gray,** C.S.O., Strategic Command, and **Colonel Piddington,** C.S.O., 3rd Division, found time to visit us. One of the major events was a visit by ten foreign and Commonwealth Military Attachés, including the Russian Military Attaché.

Sport

The Squadron cricket team has had a very successful and enjoyable season, the culmination of which was the final of the 3rd Division Minor Units Cup, in which we were opposed by 19th Field Ambulance and beaten by 16 runs.

Second-Lieutenant Ebdon has taken a party to Lundy Island to do some rock-climbing. (**Lieutenant Ebdon's** account will appear in next issue.—*Editor*). **Signalman Waugh** now seems to spend most of his time at this activity, having thumbed his way to Italy and back during the August block leave. **Captain Pickup,** our professional course student, missed the Lundy Island venture—he is on a course at the School of Infantry, finding out what life in slit trenches is like.

Personalities

Captain Wildgoose ('The Iron Hand') our Administrative Officer, has just spent a week on a military law course. Justice will now be *seen* to be done, we hope. **Captain Arnold** has left for B.A.O.R. and has been replaced by **Captain May. Second-Lieutenant Wallis** has taken the matrimonial plunge and we wish him all good fortune.

In August, **Staff Sergeant Len Spooner** accepted the "Golden Bowler" and departed to Harwich; our Yeoman then was **W.O.II John Loats,** who has since departed to the School to assist in caring for the computers. The new Yeoman, who still looks slightly dazed, is **W.O.II Robin Dodman.** August was also the month that **Foreman W.O.II John Lee** decided to save on income tax and get married—we hope he finds it cheaper!

28 Comwel Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (208), c/o G.P.O., Malacca, Malaysia

Commonwealth Week

I HAVE deliberately withheld my pen in order to report on a great annual event that takes place in this Brigade, namely Commonwealth Week. I am sure that there is no parallel in any other formation in the British Army. A short explanation of its inception and content is necessary before describing this year's week. In 1966, the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier (now Major-General) T. D. H. McMeekin,** inaugurated a week of "sporting and social activities, in which as many soldiers and their families could participate." Whilst this may not be an accurate paraphrase of his aim, it does, in essence, contain the essential ingredients of his concept. Like 'Topsy,' this kind of venture grows and grows, and the year 1968 promised to be bigger and better than the two previous years, significantly so, since this will probably be the last year when this unique formation will be at its full strength.

Very wide sporting activities

The main part of this week is, of course, the sporting side. Some 15 different sports were competed for at Squadron/Company/Battery level, in most cases; some sub-units put in two teams for an event, so that on an average there were 24 teams challenging for the titles. The sports covered were six-a-side soccer, seven-a-side rugby, six-a-side hockey, cricket, swimming, cross-country running, sailing, golf, basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis, squash and tug-of-war. The finalé was the combined Brigade and 17th Division athletics meeting. Additional side events were introduced in an angling competition, a concord motor rally, free-fall parachuting, and ladies' .22 shooting. Add to this catalogue band performances, a Maori concert party, a families' day equipment demonstration, two special matches at soccer and hockey against Malacca State sides, cocktail parties, club social functions and an art exhibition, and the reader can imagine an organiser's nightmare. Inevitably there were clashes in events that even the organiser could not account for. During the cricket semi-final, the free-fall parachutists were landing some distance away on the same Padang. The wind, however, accounted for one amusing incident. A wicket had just fallen, and at that moment a wayward parachutist was seen to be descending within the boundary. A wag on the field shouted up at him "'urry up mate, you're next in."

I should now, at this stage, become more parochial and report this Squadron's participation in this week. From our strength of 27 officers (this includes the Brigade staff) and 180 men, we entered teams in every sporting event, and were represented in some way in all the side events. Naturally, one would like to put the best teams into each event, and the result is a time and motion study to get the various athletes from one game to another, invariably a completely different sport, in sufficient time.

After early dismissal in the rugby, cricket, badminton, squash, tennis, and basketball, we went on to claim quite a few successes. We were winners of the volleyball, beating "D" Company, 8 R.A.R.; runners-up in the sailing, by 2½ points, to 8 R.A.R.; runners-up in the inter-unit golf handicap; runners-up in the Brigade minor units athletics by only one point, and reached the semi-finals of the 100-stone tug-of-war and the quarter-finals of the soccer and hockey. We did, incidentally, win the angling competition, and had the individual champion angler in Signalman Robinson, but one can hardly mention this in the same breath as the more strenuous events. On the families' side, our Wives' Club did extremely well to produce two teams in the .22 shooting and came second and third in the "A" and "B" Divisions.

Mention should be made . . .

It is always invidious to pick out names, as inevitably someone will be forgotten. Mention should be made, however, of **R.Q.M.S. W. R. D. Clark** and **Signalman T. Drury, R.A. Signals,** who finished up as overall winners of the four-ball best ball net competition in the golf. **Corporals Tidiman, Maguire** and **Campbell** played a tremendous part in playing some three or four different sports each.

During the week we did do some communicating—control communications throughout the Garrison, P.A. systems everywhere, deployed by **F. of S. Hillier,** and, of course, a Signals stand at the Families' Day, where, amongst other equipment, we had a R234 producing page copy of AP, UP and Reuter.

The week is now over and we can return to normal work. Ahead of us are Brigade exercises and inspections. A radio-relay team have just left for Australia to take part in Exercise "Coral Sands," so we will try to include a contribution from them in our next notes.

19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn., Colchester (209)

Sergeants' Mess Cocktail party

ON Friday, 20th September, the Sergeants' Mess held a very successful cocktail party, at which they entertained the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier W. N. R. Scotter, O.B.E., M.C.,** his staff officers and officers of the Squadron. Other guests who were invited came from units within the Brigade.

A guest that the Mess and Squadron Commander, **Major Jack Westlake,** was pleased to make the acquaintance of was the R.S.M. of the 2nd Royal Anglian Regiment, **John De Breton-Gordon,** who has two brothers, both commissioned, in the Corps.

The party gave the O.C. and his wife, **Mrs. Georgina Westlake,** and the new R.S.M., an excellent opportunity to acquaint themselves with many wives of mess members who they hadn't met before.

Rumour has it that **Mrs. Westlake** has enrolled more wives for the newly-formed wives' club.

The Panther Club (Corporals' Mess)

The old Panther Club was totally inadequate, so the Junior N.C.O.s were given an old room at the end of the NAAFI building and were told "this is going to be your new club, it's up to you to reconstruct and decorate it."

The junior ranks accepted the challenge, and on 25th September, the new Panther Club was officially opened by **Brigadier W. R. N. Scotter, O.B.E., M.C.,** Commander, 19th Infantry Brigade.

Seventy members and guests of the club, which included the O.C. Squadron, Brigade Staff Officers, Troop Commanders and R.S.M. assembled round the bar to hear the Brigadier speak of the days when he himself was a Corporal. "In those days, even more so than today," he said, "a junior N.C.O.'s role was a difficult one, as he had to live with the men whilst at the same time maintain discipline." He complimented the members on the way they had transformed the club from a bleak delapidated room into a gay colourful bar and club-room, making special reference to **Corporal Ted Mortimer,** who put many hours of his free time into the reconstruction work.

The Commander then drew the first pint from the wood and drank the health of all present and the future success of the club.

Corporal Emmott (R.A.O.C.) and **Lance-Corporal Main** (R.C.T.) officiating as barmen, speedily served all present with their free champagne and pints. The splendid cold buffet had been prepared by **Lance-Corporal Walton** (A.C.C.) and was quickly devoured.

19th Infantry Bridge Support Weapons Concentration, 1968

The Squadron assisted in the Brigade support weapons concentration held on Salisbury Plain from 6th to 13th September. The unit moved down on the 6th into accommodation which had been taken over for us by our hardworking "Q" Department, represented by **R.Q.M.S. Cave** and **Sergeant Leech.** The weekend period was a good time for all the final preparations to make the concentration a success.

The exercise began on 9th September. The subjects the four Infantry Battalions taking part were tested in being weapon handling, firing (mortars and wombat), map-reading and night-firing.

The competition was split into two parts, mortar and anti-tank, both of which were won by the Green Howards, and competition throughout the concentration was keen. The Squadron provided communications for umpires and also a safety radio link. Communications were excellent! In addition, the Squadron took on the role of base camp administration, a task we are now getting used to—it is strongly rumoured in the Brigade that the Signal Squadron is the only unit capable of this task.

The opportunity to see what was going on throughout the concentration was taken by most members of the Squadron, and the night-firing and wombat firing were the most impressive—and noisy. The weather throughout was good, which makes a change to normal 19th Brigade exercise weather; the only time it rained was on the journey back to camp on Friday.

The concentration was enjoyed by all; the chance to hear and see support weapons in action created a change from normal exercise routine that was greatly appreciated.



HIGH POWERED BARMAN
Brigadier W. N. R. Scotter, Brigade Commander, draws the first pint in the newly opened Panther Club



NIGHT FIRING
19 Brigade night firing with ·5 tracer at tank silhouettes

Arrivals and departures

Since are last contribution we have said farewell to **Sergeant Bamber** and **Lance-Corporal Elliot,** of Royal Signals, and of the many other cap badges that make up this unit who have left are **Colour Sergeant Herbert** (4 L.I.); **Sergeant Narraway** (R.E.M.E.); **Corporal Walton** (Intelligence Corps); **Corporal Fytche** and **Driver Farrell** (R.C.T.), and **Lance-Corporal Townsend** (R.A.O.C.). On the other hand, to swell our ranks, we welcome to the Brigade H.Q. Staff, **Captain J. E. T. Hain** (R.C.T.), the new G3 (Air); the new Staff Captain 'Q,' **Captain S. G. S. Rudd-Clarke** (1 L.I.), and B.O.W.O. (designate) **W.O.II Gallacher** (R.A.O.C.). To the Signal Squadron we also welcome **Sergeant Ferguson, Corporals McLaren, Nuttall, Fotheringham, Signalmen O'Brien** (467), **O'Brien** (265), **Irwin** and **Walker,** all Royal Signals, **Sergeant Shearing** (Intelligence Corps); **Private Syme** (A.C.C.), and **Driver Day** (R.C.T.). We trust their stay with us will prove enjoyable.

24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (210) Plymouth

Exercise "Profiteer"

BEACH landings are not nearly as difficult as old films suggest; at least as long as they are not opposed by the enemy.

In July, as forecast, we were required to land from a ship on to a remote beach in Northern Scotland, and the ease with which this was accomplished proves the opening statement.

Our voyage from Plymouth aboard the L.S.L. *Sir Percivale* could not have been more comfortable and relaxing, a two-day cruise on a sea as calm as a millpond, and food that made even our compo seem bad.

The curtain rose early on the morning of the landing, revealing a backdrop of mist-shrouded mountains to the up-raised eyes of the massed troops waiting silently near the life-boats. The last few hundred yards to the shore of the loch, in which the ship was anchored, were crossed aboard a 'mexe-float'; the beach itself, perfect at first sight, presented a considerable obstacle. However the L.A.D. came forward with the key to the loch, the recovery vehicle, restoring order to the morning.

The landing proved to be one of the bloodiest parts of a difficult campaign.

The exercise began and brought many rude awakenings. Shot and shell filled the air for the next three days, the accuracy of which was disturbing in many ways. Suddenly it was all over. Nothing remained but an 800-mile drive back to Plymouth, and fading memories of the Smoo Cave (pub).

Leave — and Kenya

Block leave descends on some units like a blanket of lethargy, but not so upon us. H.M.S. *Fearless,* newly commissioned, had much for us to do, JOCOMEX (joint communications exercise) followed JOCOMEX at high frequency, and sometimes very high frequency, not always with complete success.

Later in the leave period **Signalman John Jenkins, David Hutchinson** and **Andrew Young** found that Kenya was not so far away as they had imagined.

Exercise "Cannock Chase"

Portland, 24th September. Local weather forecast: "Winds fresh to strong, north-easterly"; it felt more like gale force ten with buck-shot thrown in in place of rain.

However, we managed to erect our 9 x 9 tents which, may I add, were more like balloons, and establish communications in our normal efficient manner ('bull') to H.M.S. *Fearless* and 3 Division H.Q. This proved rather hectic towards the closing stages of the exercise, for it produced a near-like tape relay centre which, according to our two Yeomen was definitely 'NOT ON.'

Credit must go to the linemen and radio relaymen for providing a good "speak-easy" from ship to shore, and also the maintenance of our local lines. "Alpha" Troop also deserve a share in the applause, including their earth moving vehicle (air tech cabin). If the roads in Devon were not wide enough, well, they are now!

Someone shouted "go west young man," so we did, and we are all now back in Plymouth with one more exercise behind us. We are now loking forward to our finalé, in October, which marks the end of the year's *hard* work to most of us. A clue to our next exercise: Gum-boots and snorkels are the order of the day.

Marriages

Our congratulations on their marriages go to: **Corporal David Scott** and **Carol; Lance-Corporal Bob Hyde** and **Jacqueline; Lance-Corporal 'Chalky' White** and **Barbara; Signalman 'Scouse' Murphy** and **Elizabeth;** and to **Signalman Andrew Young** and **Yvonne.**

Departures

We were sad to see **Captain Tom Knight** depart for Singapore, but we didn't believe him when he said that he didn't want to go. Sage-like, he will in future puff a new pipe, presented to him by the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and when he has puffed enough, he will hang his new pipe on a new pipe-rack presented by members of "Alpha" Troop.

Captain Martin Gray has gone to 30th Regiment and **Lieutenant Richard Smith** to R.M.C.S., Shrivenham. Farewells, also, to **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Glenville, Lance-Corporals John Brailsford, Arthur Stannard, Signalmen Eugene McDermott, 'Taff' Jones, Fred Payton, Mike Lloyd** and **David Moore.**

Welcomes

We welcome **Captain M. Forge, Sergeant Bill Hawes** and **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Birkwood, Corporal Alfred Fleet, Lance-Corporal James Learmonth, Signalman Philip Martin, John Costello, John Chambers, Alexander Dick,** and **Private James Edgar.** Our two newest arrivals being **Corporal Speers** and **Signalman Armstrong.**

Conclusion

We are now looking forward to Exercise "Swap," which will be an 'amphibious' landing on the beaches of "Guinness Land." This is where we all get presented with our harps . . .

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (212) B.F.P.O. 36

Flotation

AT the time of writing the leaves have turned yellow and just starting to fall, heralding the beginning of another European winter. In mid-September, our FV432 drivers and commanders spent two days on the River Weser at Hamlin. They were reviving the procedures and drills connected with floating a 14-ton tracked vehicle across a river. It is pleasing to record that nobody sunk. Credit for this must go to **Corporal Pete Hallsworth** our Bordon-trained instructor.

A new use for BRUIN

No sooner had the flotation training ended than preparation for the Brigade Skill at Arms Meeting started. Apart from entering a team of thirty-six firers, under the captaincy of **Lieutenant Ian Pattison,** we had a fairly large telephone public address commitment to fulfil.

We found that our BRUIN automatic exchange filled the bill admirably. I wonder if we are the first unit to use BRUIN for a rifle meeting. Unfortunately, our shooting team did not perform as well as the communications, but we did to a certain extent redeem ourselves in the last match, the Falling Plate, by finishing runners-up to the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment's team.

The evening of the Skill at Arms Meeting saw the whole unit deployed for a Brigade Command Post Exercise, which was marred for some by the fact that the Officers' Mess vehicle



FLOTATION EXPERT
Corporal Pete Hallsworth tells them what to do on the River Weser

got bogged in at the first location, and for many because there were two R.S.M.s in the Brigade Headquarters area at the same time.

Two R.S.M.s in one unit

It was only by chance that the exercise coincided with the handover/takeover of R.S.M.s. **W.O.I Sam Peberdy** has now left us for 16th Regiment and **W.O.I John Rose** is now well installed in the chair. During the change-over there was the saga of **R.S.M. Peberdy's** lost glasses, which had been broken since his days in 244 Squadron, and a lost pace stick. One thing led to another, and after the R.S.M.'s departure, a full investigation of his office revealed the missing pace stick hidden behind a large pile of ration certificates. May we wish both **R.S.M. Peberdy** and his family and **R.S.M. Rose** and his family all the best in their new appointments.

Tearing their hair

The unit is now engaged in providing control communications for a vast display and demonstration of Army equipment for a visit of students from the Joint Services Staff College. **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston** and **Corporal 'Geordie' Turnbull,** of "Bravo" Troop are tearing their hair out continually as hordes of schoolchildren arrive in the demonstration area with penknives and scissors at the ready, determined to take a piece of British Army D10 or quad home as a souvenir. **Captain Paul Webb,** the Second-in-Command and **Captain Bev Yates,** the Communications Officer, can also be seen tearing their hair out as they sit in the signals control vehicle answering a whole bank of telephones, all of which seem to ring at the same time.

Once the visit is over, our attention will be turned to the main autumn exercise, during which we hope to put a year's training into practice.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

223 Signal Squadron, Barton Stacey

Moving soon

AFTER several starts and stops lasting almost a year, it looks as though we will be finally moving into our new camp at Bushfield, Winchester, some time this month. The Quartermaster, **Captain Jack Needham,** has already started to move in in anticipation of the takeover board's acceptance on 9th October. **Corporal George Cardwell** has spent many strenuous days shifting beds, lockers and other articles of furniture into the completed rooms.

Our cricket team has had another good season, losing only one match—unfortunately the most important, it being the first match of the knockout. **Corporal Alan Marsden** and **Corporal Pat Baldwin** topped the batting averages with 33.6 and



SHIFTING BEDS IS SHEER DELIGHT . . .
Corporal George Cardwell in action



. . . AND VEHICLE PAINTING IS SUCH FUN
Lance-Corporal "Ginge" Harriman and Signalman "Geordie" Lommax

20.8. **Corporal Dave Sykes** was the star bowler with 20 wickets to his credit for 148 runs.

Several of our players have also done well, playing for the local civilian team in Andover, especially our team captain, **Captain Jack Needham.**

Who says 'bull' has gone

Our M.T. Troop is busy cleaning up their vehicles for our first administrative inspection, and a very dirty job it has turned out to be. So far they have completely resprayed most of the vehicles.

Coming and going

We welcome **Second-Lieutenant P. A. Noble,** W.R.A.C., and Hector, who have just arrived in the Squadron. **Ann** has just married but is remaining with us.

Lieutenant Howard Culley has also joined us, just in time to take over all **Anne's** jobs. Also arrived recently are **Sergeant Tom Lynn, Sergeant John Bromley, Lance-Corporal Mark Smith, Corporal Bill Garner** and **Signalmen Derek Lewis** and **Derek Coker.**

Our warm wishes go with **W.O.II Peter Todd, B.E.M.,** who has gone to Singapore, and to **Second-Lieutenant Dick Rhodes,** who has obtained a permanent commission in the R.A.O.C.

229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) B.F.P.O. 45

Domestic news

Arrivals.—We welcome the following additions to the Squadron: **Sergeant** and **Mrs. Boyle** and family; **Mrs. Clarke,** wife of **Corporal P. Clarke; Signalmen Hamilton** and **Williams.**

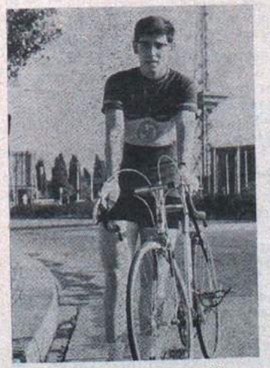
Departures.—Our best wishes to **Corporal Bark,** en route to the Motor Cycle Display Team; **Lance-Corporal Whitehill,** to School of Signals; **Signalman Smith,** to sunny Bahrein.

Promotions.—Our congratulations to **Signalman Morgan** on attaining the first step of the ladder—Lance-Corporal.

Our notes have been kept short this month in order that we may squeeze in a photograph and short story on an up-and-coming Corps sportsman.

CYCLING

Lance-Corporal M. J. Shaw—up-and-coming Corps sportsman



LANCE-CORPORAL SHAW
A young man with a good cycling future?

IT started last June. First there was the agony of trials with a local club, then training daily to get into physical trim, and finally the plunge of spending approximately DM 700-750 on a specially-made cycle.

However, it was well worth the personal effort, as in August, **Lance-Corporal Shaw** entered his first competition, when he rode as an individual in the B.A.O.R. 100 km. massed start and came fifth overall.

This was a tremendous boost to his morale after such a short period of time, and now the postbag is overflowing with cycling magazine and newspapers.

Take a good look at this young N.C.O. and make a note of his name, as I am sure we are going to see a lot of him in the cycling world.

260 Signal Squadron (SAM) Shoeburyness

The C.O.'s wife spotted him . . .

IT was **Mrs. Campbell,** the O.C.'s wife, who spotted it. Right in the middle of an antique shop window with two fingers raised patriotically towards a French Bracket clock it stood, dusty, ignored and obviously in need of a loving home. It took but a moment for the car to be reversed the wrong way down a one-way street, parked firmly on two yellow lines and the week's house-keeping money was in the antique dealer's pocket and the Squadron, at last, has a statue of Jimmy.

He is really rather a splendid example. At the moment he is a dull bronze colour but we hope to have him silvered shortly. He stands some 30 inches high from base to finger tip. The base has a frieze of naked cupids doing all sorts of peculiar things. Jimmy stands above in classic pose, equally unadorned, though curiously deficient in some particulars, completely ignoring the "goings on" about his feet. Here we feel we have a worthy champion to do battle with the silver elephants and dragons of the R.A. Regiment with whom we live.

How "hubby" sleeps in his sleeping bag — demonstration to Squadron wives

All of our wives have been busy. On 26th September they got together in the church hall to meet one another, talk, drink tea, talk, look at a demonstration of the Squadron's equipment and how their husbands live in the field, and talk and talk . . . ! **Staff Sergeant Kerr** and detachments from "X" Troop organised the demonstration. **Signalman Shiel** demonstrated "a soldier sleeping in a sleeping bag." He's an expert at that is **Signalman Shiel**! He's a pretty good member of the Regimental soccer team, too, by the way.

Cricket

The cricket season finished very successfully indeed with "Y" Troop accounting for "W" Troop and "R.H.Q." Troop in quick succession, thus ending the season as they began—undefeated. The Squadron team then defeated a strong R.E.M.E. team in a most exciting game; on a very lively green wicket the R.E.M.E. batted first and were soon back in the pavilion having compiled 38 runs. **Staff Sergeant Rogers** and **Sergeant G. Thomas** were the most successful bowlers, with six and three wickets respectively. Our batsmen found runs as hard to get as our opponents did and it was only a fine aggressive innings from **Lance-Corporal Crowley** that enabled us to get 39 for 8 and thus the final margin was only two wickets. So ended a most successful season.

Rugby

Although we have yet to play a game the following members of the Squadron have been selected for the Regiment: **Staff Sergeant Rogers, Sergeant Mumford, Corporal McKigney, Corporal Soqo, Lance-Corporal Radley, Signalman Hart.**

Soccer

The season got off to a very good start with the Squadron team beating Thurrock Gen in the Southend District Wednesday League Division II by 14 goals to 1; scorers, **Sergeant Thomas** 4, **Lance-Corporal Crowley** 5, **Lance-Corporal Barker** 2, **Lance-Corporal Hedges, Lance-Corporal Dryhurst** and **Signalman McEvoy. Second-Lieutenant Riley, Lance-Corporal Gilmour** and **Signalman Shiel** have been selected to represent the Regiment and played a leading part in their fine 5-1 win over 1 R.H.A. So we look forward to a good season.

Hockey

The season got off to a good start with an inter-Troop match in which "Y" Troop beat "X" Troop by 2-1 in a very hard fought game, which showed that there was a lot of talent in the Squadron, and this was borne out by an excellent win over 11 Dragon Battery, R.A., by 3 goals to 1; scorers: **Staff Sergeant Rogers, Corporal Soqo** and **Lance-Corporal Woodall.** In fact it was only a brilliant display of goalkeeping by the Gunners that prevented us winning by a very large margin indeed. I think our only problem will be who to select from a number of very good players. And so we look forward to a very good sporting winter and a lot of success in the various competitions to come.

261 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 53
Nicosia Troop

Much activity

NICOSIA Troop has been the centre of much activity since the arrival of the R.A.F. detachment from Akrotiri.

A great deal of work, with extra long hours, was the result during August, with the installation of two new 10 + 50s, four transistorised Hadley teletalk systems, the return of the ground control approach caravan and all that. But what is worse is all the noise; it even sounds like an R.A.F. station again!

New 10-pair field cables and new underground cables have been laid and work has gone on on the PLOH, just to show the versatility of our linemen.

However, things settled back to almost normal again during September.

Focus on personalities

During August and September, **Signalman Eric Coleman** represented the troop, the squadron and the station in various swimming galas, gaining four firsts and a number of seconds and thirds in various events. Well done Eric.

Signalman Stuart Fowler is a much sought after goalkeeper and plays for the station soccer team. **Lance-Corporal Dick Russell** is having trials for the station basketball team.

Lance-Corporal Dusty Doust, assisted by **Signalman Stuart Fowler** and **Lieutenant Lachlan Fraser,** came second in the troop Land Rover in the station treasure hunt. I reckon that one more potato field (they cut three miles off the course with the first two) and one Keo (local beer) less and they might have won.

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Frank Hall** on gaining his third class diver's ticket in the station sub aqua club. Incidentally Frank is making his own underwater camera, so let's hope for some good shots for THE WIRE next season. (Good idea.—Editor).

The living-in members of the Troop, under the guidance of **Signalman Eric Hooper,** have been playing and beating the station ladies' netball team, although I am not sure that netball is the real attraction.

Masculine charm

In July, **Lieutenant Lachlan Fraser** became the first officer to command Nicosia Troop for some years, but unfortunately he has now left for other climes. He made quite an impression in Nicosia and district during his short stay and will be sorely missed. Young eligible bachelors are hard to come by these days.

All the single girls on the station are being monopolised by Nicosia Troop and not one over 17 years old has been left to the R.A.F. lads. Just put it down to their charm!

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Frank and Mrs. Pat Hall** on the birth of their second son, John Andrew.

A great success

The R.A.F. Nicosia station fete was held on 5th October and was a great success, raising over £150 for the station community fund.

The Troop put up a good showing with an egg and tomato shy stall called "Pongo Bombarding." All the Troop had a go at having eggs thrown at them; **Sergeant Fred Brudenall** even removed his fencing mask as his wife **Pauline** paid her 1/- for three eggs. Thank heaven she didn't throw too hard. The stall was a great success, for **Lieutenant Fraser** had secured a weekend at the Cyprus Hilton as a first prize and **Sergeant Brudenall** and **Lance-Corporal Doust** had persuaded quite a few local shops to give prizes. We in fact made over £11 in 1½ hours. **Sergeant Brudenall** was the only casualty with a cut and bruised nose.

Obituary—Signalman David Low

It is with deep regret that we report the sudden death in Cyprus of **Signalman David Low,** of Airfield Troop, R.A.F. Akrotiri, 261 Squadron (Air Formation), on 5th September.

David was a most popular member of his Troop and of the R.A.F. people with whom he came in contact. He entered into the life of the station with great zest and represented both his Troop and the R.A.F. Station at a number of sporting activities. It was while representing R.A.F. Akrotiri as a member of the water polo team competing in an inter-station competition at Nicosia that David suffered a heart attack which proved fatal.

A married man, David was accompanied in Cyprus by his wife and three children.

David was an ex-boy and had served in Royal Signals since 1950. We feel sure that all who knew him will join us in sending our heartfelt sympathy to his family.

32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V)
Glasgow

Useful but tiring

SCARBOROUGH again for the 32nd (Scottish) Regiment (V.). Yes, but with a difference, because of the railway work to rule. 51 (Highland) Squadron (V.) and 61 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron (V.) motor to camp and we are off to a good start.

We went straight into a Regimental exercise which proved useful and tiring and showed up what we need to get down to over the winter, 1968, and spring, 1969, training.

Since camp the Second-in-Command has been applying all work study techniques to look into our S.O.P.s which are well in hand.

Despite the weather, which was very unkind to us over the first week of camp, we did pass a great deal of traffic over the links we would be required to provide if mobilised. I think the most tested people were the volunteers on radio relay "Rum Hill"; they seemed to smile through most problems.

Because we were the last Signals unit in camp in the U.K., we were joined by many volunteers from S.A.V.R. and other T. & A.V.R. II units. This may account for the number of Glengarry caps that had to be bought on P 1954s.

High powered visitors

Our V.I.P. visitors included the G.O.C.-in-C. Scotland, **General Sir Derek Lang,** S.O.-in-C. Army, **General J. E. Anderson,** and D.W.R.A.C., **Brigadier the Honourable Mary Anderson.**

Group Headquarters were camped nearby, but we had to confess we thought they were in Glasgow. They were, as always, welcome and they helped keep our V.I.P.s occupied.

There was, however, one disappointed man at camp—the R.S.M. He was done out of the full Regimental Parade by the torrential rain. No use saying better luck next year because he leaves us in October to go to B.A.O.R. on commissioning and we wish him all the luck in the world. Their gain is our loss—no doubt his namesake would have gone into verse.

Our forty-plus recruits, male and female, under the careful eye and guidance of **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Weddell,** assisted by **Staff Sergeant Jamieson,** passed the eagle eye of the Honorary Colonel and even produced a few surprises. Their turnout, bearing and drill were a great credit to all concerned and we are sure we still want to train our own recruits at annual camp. The best recruit prizes went to **Signalman Payn,** of 61 Squadron, and **Private Clark,** of 52 Squadron.

Honorary Colonel bowls a few fast ones

We had a most enjoyable officers' guest night and the Honorary Colonel even managed to catch the C.O. out in his speech. He did his usual trick of whistling down a few "googlies"—some of which are still with us.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants entertained the Officers this year to mid-day drinks on Saturday in their Mess, followed by an excellent buffet organised by **Staff Sergeant (O.R.Q.M.S.) Bell.** There can be no doubt he likes his food—it was excellent.

During the second week of camp we got down to individual training and trade testing. Again the results prove that it was very worthwhile. Catterick, as always, rose to the occasion and we had several special courses run for us which proved invaluable.

All volunteers said that they had got it from the mecca of Signals and thoroughly enjoyed their stay. Thank you in the Training Brigade for your help.

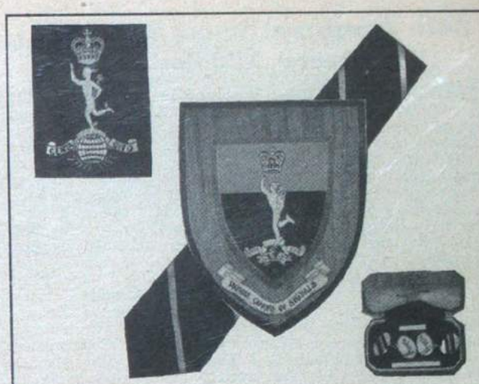


The Honorary Colonel, Major General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., inspects recruits

This year we had some visitors from the Training Brigade —staff and Gurkha Signals whose mid-course break coincided with our camp. We were pleased to see you! The Scot seems to be able to get through somehow, and we were pleased to have you with us.

We also had over fifty of our volunteers camping earlier in the year with the Port Task Force at Portsmouth. They earned high praise from the R.C.T. and have even learned a few "nautical" terms. One S.S.M. was seen to salute a visiting officer in a very "nautical" fashion.

Since we last appeared in print, we have also had three representatives in B.A.O.R. and their lecture at annual camp surely indicates that they did not waste their time.



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34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Middlesbrough

GREAT interest is being expressed in our Band — the only official Royal Signals Reserve Army Band — and some notes on its brief history are below.

The new training season has opened with Squadron exercises in Middlesbrough, Leeds, Darlington and Newcastle. We had hoped to move part of 90 (N.R.) Squadron from Newcastle to Gateshead during the summer break, but the move is to take place in the near future. The Newcastle Comcen Troops, incidentally, commanded by **Captain Jack Raw,** are the first in the Regiment to break the 100% recruited barrier. Congratulations!

Our W.R.A.C. had a very successful combined weekend at Darlington, with 50 members present, led by **Captain Dorothy Clark.** They had a varied programme, from visiting the Darlington telephone exchange to a talk on Volunteer Women's Army Corps in the Singapore Military Forces by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Evans.** A few girls looked a little apprehensive when they were discussing the section on Malay marriage customs!

A very successful Regimental Officers' ball was held in Middlesbrough with 120 present, and we were particularly pleased to welcome **Brigadier Vaigncourt-Strallen** and an ex-Commanding Officer, **Colonel Wally Lee,** among the guests.

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS (34 NORTHERN) BAND (T. & A.V.R.)

In April, 1967, when the reorganisation of the Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve took place, twenty-two (T. & A.V.R.) Regional Bands were formed. No. 6 Regional Band T. & A.V.R. was allocated to 34 (N.) Regiment (V.) in Middlesbrough and "badged" as Royal Corps of Signals.

A former regular bandmaster of The Durham Light Infantry, **W.O.I S. R. Peacock,** was appointed as Bandmaster and recruits were fairly quickly found from disbanded Territorial Bands including the 50th Divisional Regiment T.A. Brass Band. The Band is now 100% recruited and we have a short waiting list.

There were many early problems in moulding them into a good Regimental Band and one of the most serious handicaps was the poor quality of the instruments originally supplied. However, supported by the Kneller Hall Inspection Report all the instruments were changed in June of this year and the Band's performances have improved out of all recognition.

The Band was redesignated to its new title "The Royal Corps of Signals (34 Northern) Band (T. & A.V.R.)" in August of this year and without any doubt they will be an asset not only to their parent Regiment but to the whole of the Corps.

During 1968 they have gradually established themselves in the North of England as a first class military band and they



RAPIDLY ESTABLISHING ITSELF
The Royal Corps of Signals (34 Northern) Band (T.&A.V.R.)

have performed at many important functions, in particular the Teesside International Eisteddfod, the Billingham International Folklore Festival, the inauguration of the Mayor of the new county borough of Teesside, the annual parade commemorating the Battle of Britain in Middlesbrough, and the opening, by **H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent,** of a new hospital at Stockton-on-Tees. On these occasions the Band have appeared on Northern or Tyne Tees Television.

The photograph shows the Band at the hospital opening when the Duchess appeared particularly pleased at her send-off to "Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill."

The latest recruiting drive for the Band is for junior bandsmen and one promising youth is the son of the Band Sergeant, **Staff Sergeant Beazley;** this follows the tradition of the Volunteers where it is not uncommon to find husband and wife, sons and daughters, in uniform.

The Band's engagement book fills up quickly and planned for the future are appearances in the parks of Teesside, at Middlesbrough second division football matches and innumerable local shows and fetes. The most requested item is **Bandsman Bartram's** whistling rendering of "Bells Across the Meadow."

A dance band section has been formed and we look forward to a successful season.

They got National Newspaper Coverage

Corps Motorcyclists in some split-second riding

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) undertook an unusual S.D.S. last month. They were asked to carry two Americans from London Airport to the G.P.O. Tower in the shortest possible time. The Americans were **Miss Susan Oliver,** an amateur airwoman and television actress, who took the part of Ann Howard in "Peyton Place," and **Mr. Richard Slawsky,** Editor of "Airline Management and Marketing." They were setting up a "bogey time," on which prize money will be based, from the top of the Empire State Building to the top of the G.P.O. Tower in preparation for next year's *Daily Mail* Trans-Atlantic Air Race.

The Second-in-Command, **Major B. E. M. Prophet, T.D.,** was in charge of the operation. Due to short notice, the reconnaissance and planning had to be concentrated into the two preceding weekends, with a rehearsal the day before the event. The first plan included the surveillance of traffic conditions, with stand-by plans in case of difficulty, a fast dash down the M.4 in staff cars, which had proved faster than our motorcycles when traffic density built up, and the posting of marshals at key points along the route. A reporting system, to enable **Captain C. D. Gale,** at the Tower, to keep the *Daily Mail* reception party informed and to have a lift ready for a rapid ascent. Twenty members of the Regiment were involved, drawn from R.H.Q. at Wansted and from the East Anglian, Essex and Gillingham Squadrons.

The operation went smoothly, although the flexibility of the plan was tested. The tunnel at London Airport was closed by flood water soon after we had gone through, and the standby alternative was nearly called into play. Then plan envisaged carrying **Dick Slawsky** on a motor-cycle as only he was cleared by the authorities, but when, in the staff car, he produced the "blood chit," we called in an escort motor-cyclist, who had been rehearsed against such an eventuality. The journey was completed in 23 minutes and 30 seconds, and we were well satisfied.

The two Americans were enthusiastic about the pillion riding and gave us a written testimonial. Even the Second-in-Command was heard to say he rather enjoyed the ride, which he undertook, having failed to persuade the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Willway,** that perhaps he should escort the guests. The story is told in the accompanying pictures (see page 445).

Our thanks are due to the Commander 12 Signal Group, **Brigadier P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen,** and his staff for the loan of the staff car and for arranging the party afterwards; 10th Signal Regiment for the loan of some motor-cycles and for accommodating the team; and to the staff of the G.P.O. Tower and Customs and Excise for their friendly co-operation.

Scenes from 36th Regiment's twenty-three minute dash



1



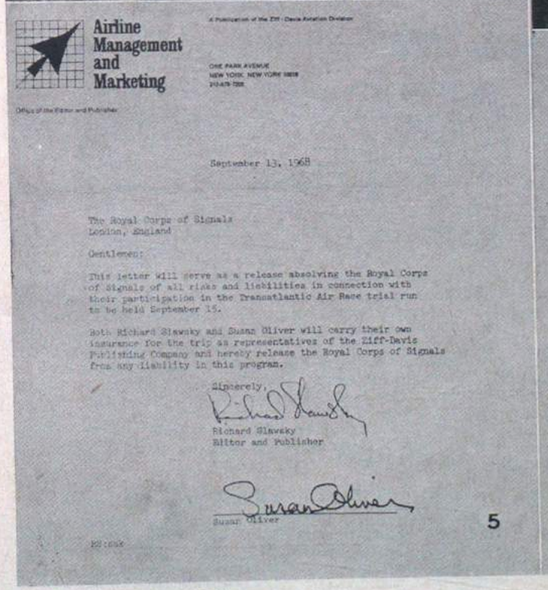
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Airline Management and Marketing

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Office of the Editor and Publisher

September 13, 1968

The Royal Corps of Signals
London, England

Gentlemen:

This letter will serve as a release absolving the Royal Corps of Signals of all risks and liabilities in connection with their participation in the Transatlantic Air Race trial run to be held September 15.

Both Richard Slawsky and Susan Oliver will carry their own insurance for the trip as representatives of the Ziff-Davis Publishing Company and hereby release the Royal Corps of Signals from any liability in this program.

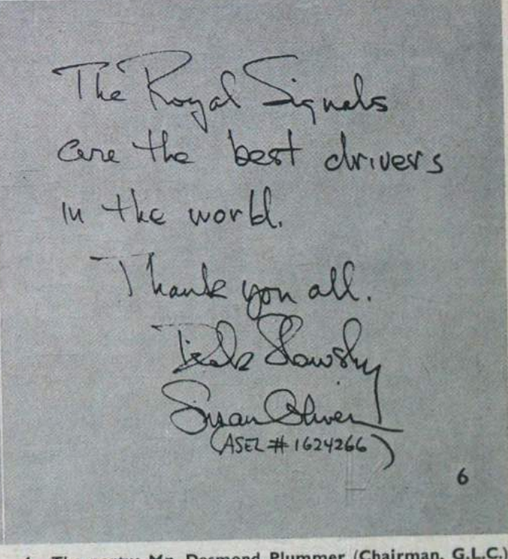
Sincerely,

Richard Slawsky
Editor and Publisher

Susan Oliver

RS:smk

5



6

1. **The start—time 09.36 hrs.**
2. **Change to motor-cycles ridden by Corporal K. McGregor and Sergeant Wood**
3. **Arrival at the G.P.O. Tower—time 09.59**
4. **The party: Mr. Desmond Plummer (Chairman, G.L.C.), Mr. Brian Harper (Director, Daily Mail) and Brigadier P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen**
5. **The "Blood Chit"**
6. **The Testimonial**



The Corps Team in the Methuen Cup, winners of the Woolwich Trophy. *Left to Right (Sitting):* Corporal Blowman, Staff-Sergeant Smith, E., Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Ward (Captain), Major Exell, Lance-Corporal Corcoran. *Standing:* Captain Haywood and Staff-Sergeant Smith, G. *Sitting in front:* (Reserves) Sergeant Madden and Lance-Corporal Kingham

Corps Shooting 1968

THE WIRE regrets that the following report came in too late to publish in an earlier edition.

A.R.A. MEETING, BISLEY

The Methuen

The highlight of the Army meeting is the Methuen Cup match, the only one in the shooting calendar where teams from Corps or equivalent in the Army and Commands in the Royal Navy and R.A.F. shoot "shoulder-to-shoulder." It is thus the only Corps representative match. This year, the Corps came 7th out of 28 teams, beaten by only three other Army teams including the Royal Army Ordnance Corps — the overall winners. Our score of 925 out of a possible 1,200 was sufficient to win us the Woolwich Trophy (a concurrent match between the old "Shop" arms) in which we beat the Sappers by 51 points, with the Gunners trailing another 100 points behind.

The Coronation team match

An unexpected success for the Corps was our winning of the Coronation team match, in which teams may be entered from all three Services on the same basis as the Metheun. In this respect, therefore, it is a Corps representative team, but it is chosen by taking the six best individual scores made in the Coronation individual match. This is an aggregate of three shoots (deliberate, rapid and snap) which must be nominated by each competitior in the daily rifle sweepstakes. The team match trophy is a cup presented by H.M. Queen Victoria in 1898 and has never before been won by the Corps. The match has been dormant for many years, but was revived this year and may soon become known as the "mini-Methuen."

The Army Championship

Of the 77 individual competitors from the Corps, 12 reached the final stage—the Army Hundred. Special mention must be made here of **Corporal C. M. Blowman,** of the School of Signals. By a superb display of accurate shooting throughout the three stages of the championship he came within two points of winning the championship. As runner-up, he won the A.R.A. Silver Jewel and became, in his first year of shooting, the highest placed member of the Corps ever in the Army Championship. The previous best was **Captain Douglas Genders** who was placed third last year and who unfortunately could not compete this year. **Corporal Blowman** has only three-and-a-half years' service and had never fired a full-bore competition before becoming a member of the School of Signals' team this year. He also made history by winning the Whitehead Cup in the first stage with a highest possible score (H.P.S.)—the first time this has been done since the match was fired on an E.T.R. range. As highest Class B scorer in the Army Championship he also won the Manchester Regiment Cup. **Lance-Corporal Corcoran,** of 7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, also did well to finish 26th overall and third in the Class B list—the Corps thus providing two out of the first three in Class B (under five years' service).

The Major Units Championship

The highest placed team from the Corps was the School of Signals who came 7th out of 31 teams. This was a fine performance since the championship is based on scores in both individual S.L.R. matches (the Army Championship itself) and in team matches involving S.L.R., S.M.G. and L.M.G. But for a poor score in the L.M.G. pairs match (Worcester and

(Continued on page 457)

Lindley Cup), fired under atrocious visibility conditions, the School would have been placed much higher. In the Minor Units Championship, 11th Regiment did well to gain 4th place out of 14 teams.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Service Rifle and S.M.G.

At this meeting the Inter-Service matches are fired, and Service competitors take part with civilians and members of the Reserve Forces in the various individual and team matches. The following individuals represented the Corps in the Service Rifle part of the meeting:

Captain R. J. Haywood (School of Signals), **Staff Sergeant E. R. R. Smith** (21st Regiment), **Corporal C. M. Blowman** (School of Signals), **Lance-Corporal M. Corcoran** (7th Armoured Brigade and H.Q. Signal Squadron), **Corporal K. Purkiss** (21st Regiment), **Lieutenant V. Reed** (11th Regiment).

Corporal Blowman, Corporal Purkiss and **Lieutenant Reed** were selected to shoot for the Army in the S.L.R., S.M.G. and Pistol teams respectively. Achievements by the Corps included the following:

Hamilton Leigh, runners-up (27 teams); Cheylesmore (Falling Plate), quarter-finals (25 teams); S.M.G. Team Match, runners-up (23 teams); Mappin (Rapids Aggregate), fourth (16 teams).

Individually there were no outstanding successes although **Captain Haywood** managed a good score (121) in the S.M.G. Cup to become runner-up. For coming second in the S.M.G. team match, each member of the Corps team won an A.R.A. Bronze Medal.

Target Rifle

The following represented the Corps in Target Rifle matches: **Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher,** D.S.S.; **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Ward,** M.O.D.; **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Gilbertson,** 30th Regiment; **Major J. Cox,** Army Apprentice College, Harrogate; **Corporal C. M. Blowman,** School of Signals.

Suffice it to say that although none shot their way to the final of the Queens (the Queen's Hundred) several did well in the individual prize lists. The important thing from the Corps point of view, however, was that all five were selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Short Range Match, and all except **Colonel Fletcher** were also chosen for the Long Range Match. Representation from the Corps thus made up about 40% of the Army teams in these two matches.

CONCLUSION

The Corps has had another good year. The importance of a good training programme in the Unit which must be strictly adhered to was again amply demonstrated. Next year, we shall be making minor changes in the Corps meeting programme to bring it more into line with the team championships in the Army Meeting at Bisley, but this will not reduce the importance of the Methuen Cup as the primary Corps objective.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX RIFLE ASSOCIATION SERVICE SMALL ARMS MEETING

The following are the successes achieved by Royal Signals Competitors at the above meeting, at Bisley, on 14th-15th September, 1968.

Elizabethan Bowl

Winner.—**Captain R. J. Haywood,** School of Signals.
Runner-up.—**Lance-Corporal D. H. Hadland,** School of Signals.

Parnell Challenge Cup

Won by School of Signals.

S.M.G. Cup

Winner.—**Corporal P. J. Davies,** School of Signals.

Small Arms Efficiency Team Competition (Fleet Air Arm Trophy)

Won by School of Signals.

Apart from the Elizabethan Bowl, this is the first time that Royal Signals has won these trophies.

The meeting was shot under the wettest conditions at Bisley within memory. The experience gained during the Corps Meeting at Bulford, under similar conditons, was evidently of great value to the School of Signals team, which made a "clean sweep" of all the trophies for which regular Service units were eligible to compete.



37th (WESSEX & WELSH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEER)
This photograph was taken at the wedding of the "Second Lieutenants Holliman". Geoffrey and Valerie were married at Bromley on 21st September—carrying on the best traditions of a mixed regiment. The problem of seniority is being handled with more than usual tact and diplomacy!

Overseas Appointments
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PLESSEY
Electronics

A sporting silhouette . . .

237/121 (Aust) Signal Squadrons' Combined Cricket XI

- **Winners: Far East Land Forces Knockout Cup—opponents, 18th Light Regiment, R.A.**
- **Winners: Malaysia Knockout Cup—opponents 8th Royal Australian Regiment, Malacca.**
- **Winners: Singapore District Knockout Cup—opponents H.Q. 3 Commando Brigade, R.M.**

PLAYING RECORD 1968

Played	*Won*	*Lost*	*Drawn*	*Abandoned*
18	15	0	2	1

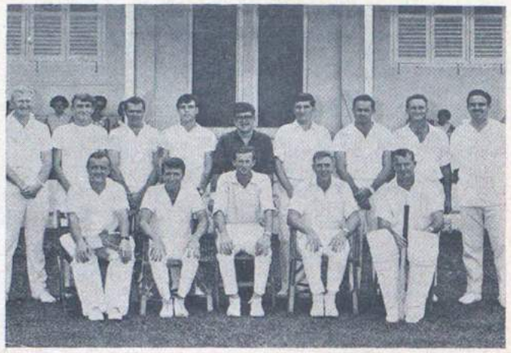
Born from yet another idea conceived in the Sergeants' Mess is the cricket success story of the 237/121 Signal Squadron XI.

At the beginning of the 1968 season, due to impending rationalisation of communications in Singapore, it was apparent that 237 Signal Squadron (DCN) would not be able to field a cricket team after May/June. Near neighbours, 121 Signal Squadron (AUST.) were unable to produce a side due to working commitments, and so it was decided to join forces and have one eleven to represent both units. The proposal was submitted through Corps channels to the Chairman of Army Cricket in Singapore, who agreed, and so began a remarkable run of success, culminating in a clean sweep of all FARELF cricket trophies.

The team is organised and led by **Captain John Radford (237 Signal Squadron)** a regular member of Corps sides in England, currently playing for Singapore C.C., who has represented the Combined Services in Singapore and Hong Kong.

The strength of the eleven is in all round ability with the emphasis on bowling, hence the success in cup matches. No fewer than eight players are recognised bowlers, many of whom do not bowl in afternoon cricket; their keen approach, loyalty and team spirit is typified by the fact that they regularly turn out, well-knowing that their talents may not be called upon. The batting tends to be a little suspect in the early stages, but the middle order and 'tail' regularly manage to achieve respectable scores; in fact, the batting order has been reversed on occasions in order to bring the tail-enders down to earth again.

Many of our opponents suffered through underestimating the tenacity and fighting spirit of what is termed a 'Minor Unit' side, several matches appeared to be lost, but were won in the end, the most notable being the District Final against Royal Marines, after being dismissed for 109, the opposition were held to 86 for 9 wickets, and included in their midst players of the calibre of **John Foster,** Combined Services, U.K., and two other Royal Navy players.



Standing, left to right: **Corporal M. Cooper (121), Signalmen B. Iseton (237), M. McLean (121), A. Dixon (237), Lance Corporal Hysiak (237), Sergeant V. McQuillan (121), Corporal K. Lever (121), Staff Sergeant D. Matthews (121), Corporal P. Wilson (237)**

Seated, left to right: **Sergeant D. Lightfoot (237), Sergeant T. Hyde (237), Captain J. Radford (237), Sergeant F. Mitchener (121), Corporal F. Young (121)**

The Malaysia/Singapore final was against 8th Royal Australian Regiment, a major unit, having four Malacca State players. The Combined Squadrons scored 168 for 8 and shot the Australians out for 109.

The FARELF final was played in Hong Kong and was the goal we had set our sights on months previously; the match was won easily after a bad batting scare—at one stage our score was 52 for 7, but eventually it recovered to 149—18th Light Regiment, R.A., scored 93 for 9.

The Hong Kong tour came as a fitting finalé to a season filled with achievement, success and drama, all made possible by a combination of cricketing ability, determination, and outstanding team spirit, which is so typical of the Corps today.

CARDIFF BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: MR. M. H. JONES, 42, Cartwright Lane, Fairwater, Cardiff.

A sad event has occurred since our last report—the death of **ex-Sergeant George Tugwell,** following a lengthy illness. Until his health prevented him from doing so, George worked hard and enthusiastically as Hon. Secretary in building up this branch from practically nil to a point when we felt it was well and truly established. We miss his splendid personality and drive.

On a happier note, we were very pleased to learn that **Bill Edwards** has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal for service with the Post Office.

Our last two meetings have been followed by social evenings, and these have proved to be highly successful. Our thanks for a delightful evening's entertainment at the last must go to **Ted Dalziel,** his family and friends of the Cardiff Caledonian Society, who provided music, singing and dancing, the bagpipes admirably blown by **Mr. Tom Legget,** who, when told the bar was closed appropriately ended the session with the "Lament." **Chris Jones** supplied the refreshments—or should we say Chris's mother—and a splendid variety of excellent taste it proved to be.

Ted Dalziel has made a request for any news of **ex-Sergeant Lawrie Reed,** of 52nd (Lowland) Division Signals. If he or anybody can help in locating this elusive person, please contact me and I will be happy to pass the information on.

Because our host Regiment was involved in annual training, the 'Taffies' were in short supply for the Catterick Reunion this year. We did, however, muster sufficient members to 'show the leek' and were pleased to meet our two 'naturalised Taffies,' **Tommy Trout,** of Doncaster, and **Dave Landymore,** of Bourne. All agreed that the weekend was superb and expressed their thanks for a truly memorable occasion . . . marred only by the Chairman creating a disturbance after lights out when he fell out of bed!

Our arrangements for the Treorchy Male Choir Concert, on 7th November, are proceeding smoothly and have been given some small publicity locally. This could be the reason for a recent small inflow of new members, some keen enough to attend meetings and functions, despite a not inconsiderable travelling distance.

A recent visit to Treorchy on the Choir's practice night, made by the chairman, secretary and entertainments representative, made us realise what lies in store for us. Such enthusiasm and thoroughness are infectious. Incidentally, one of the conductors is **John Cynan Jones, M.Mus.,** B.A., who served in the Royal Signals during National Service.

CYPHER VACANCIES

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS

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All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions). There are also good prospects for promotion.

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Candidates and both parents must have been British Subjects since birth.

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Priors Road, Oakley, Cheltenham, Glos.

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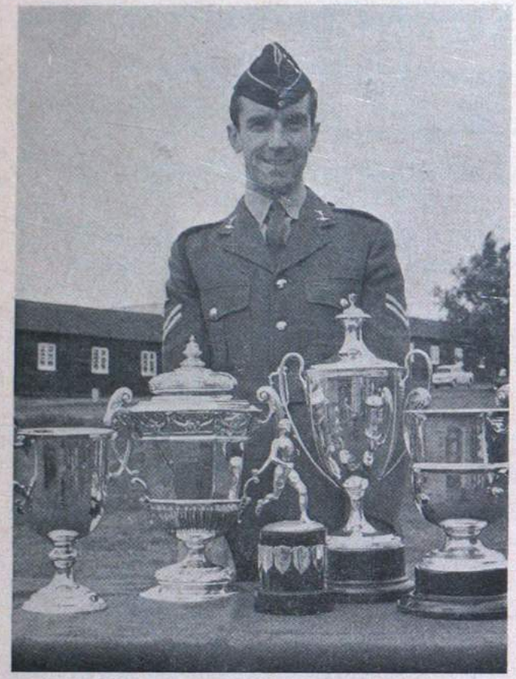
This is perfectly possible under current conditions, and with Legal and General, openings are available in the field of Life Assurance, Fire, Accident, Group Pensions, Computer Programming and Sales.

For those who can commence during their service to study for Associateship of the Chartered Insurance Institute, Chartered Institute of Secretaries or Certified and Corporate Accountants by means of correspondence courses, a specialist in these fields is available to advise.

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☆ Portrait of a Champion ☆

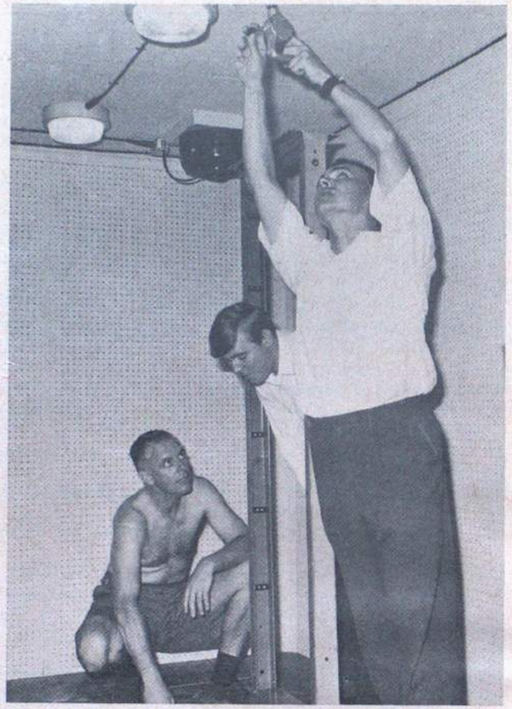


Corporal Bill Venus of 2 Squadron, 3rd H.Q. and Regiment with just a few of his trophies

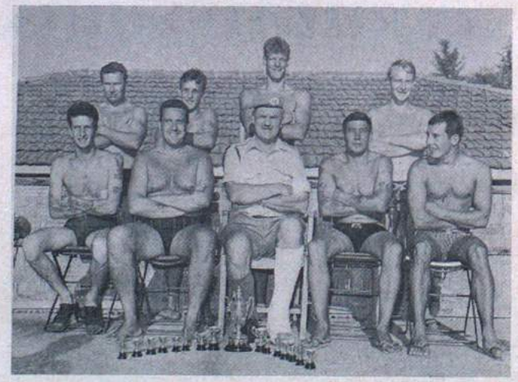
At various times in THE WIRE we have mentioned **Corporal Bill Venus,** of 2 Squadron. Just to put everyone in the picture, here is a list of what he has achieved in the cross-country field in the past two years.

Army three-mile Championship	**1966-67-68**
Army Steeplechase Championship	**1967-68**
Army Cross-country Championship	**1968**
Inter-Service Cross-country Championship	**1968**
Inter-Service Steeplechase Championship	**1968**
Southern Command Cross-country Championship	**1966-67-68**
Northern Command Cross-country Championship	**1966-67**
3rd Division three-mile Championship	**1966-67-68**
3rd Division Cross-country Championship	**1968**
In Cross-country represented the Combined Services v. England	**1966-67-68**
In Cross-country represented the Army v. Scotland	**1967-68**
In Cross-country and Track represented Army v. Wales	**1966-67-68**
In three miles and Steeplechase represented Combined Services v. British Universities	**1967-68**
In three miles and Steeplechase represented Army v. German Army	**1966-67**

Quite an impressive list



CORPS OFFICERS DO A PRACTICAL JOB AT BANGKOK
Captain G. H. Paul (*left*) and Major P. O. Mootham assisted by Sergeant T. M. Williams, R.A.O.C. are seen above installing a screened electronic enclosure for the extension of the Australian, New Zealand and U.K. communications network into S.E.A.T.O. Headquarters, Bangkok



The winning team with the trophies won in the U.N. Signal Swimming Gala in Nicosia in which teams from all contingents took part:
Left to Right Back Row: Corporal Rick Sreeves, Lance-Corporal Charlie Drake Signalman Jeff Jeffery, Lance-Corporal Buggs Baker
Left to Right Front Row: Signalman Taff Payne, Sergeant Bob Mawson (Team Captain), Captain Henry Scott (O.C.), Signalman Al Rannard, Signalman Pete Dunnings

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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

Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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Christmas 1968

The Master of Signals sends his best wishes to all ranks of the Corps for Christmas and the New Year.

THIS will be the last issue of THE WIRE in 1968 and perhaps this is a suitable time to take stock of how we stand against the background of the last twelve months.

As usual we owe our sincere thanks to many for their support throughout the year. Our circulation figures stand up well in spite of the disbandment or running down in size of certain units. This is due to increased bulk orders received in recent months from a number of units. A pleasing feature too has been a small but steady increase in individual subscriptions to THE WIRE.

Unit correspondents—those harassed individuals for whom we have a high regard—have given of their best to furnish us with notes that are out of the rut and anyone who has tried to do this knows just how difficult it can be. Officers, and especially soldiers, have written many articles and a conspicuous feature has been the high standard of what has come in to THE WIRE, often from junior N.C.O.s and Signalmen.

The pages of THE WIRE must reflect, to a degree, the activities and outlook of the Corps in cross-section coupled with the ability to record these in writing. What appears in THE WIRE would certainly seem to indicate a lively and articulate present-day Corps, and we are indeed fortunate in our role as editorial staff to serve a Corps with such ability.

In passing we must pay a tribute to our printers, Messrs. F. J. Parsons Ltd. They have served us well over very many years and their co-operation and understanding have been invaluable.

Finally, our warm good wishes for Christmas and 1969 go to all our readers. It is with pleasure that we look forward to maintaining and perhaps even improving the standard of your magazine for the ensuing year.

Our Cover Picture

View of the Central area of the new School of Signals, Blandford Camp, looking north.

Many in the Corps have not had the opportunity of visiting the Corps' new home at Blandford Camp, and our cover photograph is published in order to give these readers some idea of how the new School is shaping up. The photograph embraces most of the Phase I building which has now been completed. Adjacent to the prominent UHF/VHF tower and in the foreground is the complex of buildings which house Headquarters, School of Signals, the Corps Museum, lecture rooms, laboratories, workshops and Q.M. stores. At 11 o'clock from the tower at the top of the photograph can be seen the square brickwork blocks which comprise the H.Q. Mess. In the top right hand corner one catches a glimpse of a few of the married quarters.

It is emphasised that what can be seen is only a small portion of the total area of the whole camp which, along with Phase II buildings, married quarters and the 30th Signal Regiment lines, spreads over a considerably wider area (see photograph on page 464 for a more general view).

From our "In" Tray

THAT BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI— THE FANTASY AND THE FACTS

Sir,

On reading of the social activities of 649 Signal Troop, B.F.P.O. 656, in the current edition of THE WIRE, I was rather amused by the account of their sporting fortunes at Bangkok. However, when I had read the last paragraph, which told of a sight-seeing visit to the notorious Bridge on the River Kwai, I became engulfed by a flood of very sad memories.

Twenty-five years ago—a time when many members of that Troop were not yet born—I was engaged, with a few thousand other unfortunate prisoners-of-war, on the building of that crazy construction. The story has already been told, and a film made, of how we lived, slaved and died during the project. Of course, that film was utter nonsense, as any survivor can testify to. This aspect I treat with the contempt it just deserves.

I merely wish to mention that a better name for the bridge would have been 'Nippon's Folly.' I do refer, specifically, to the original and primitive bridge, which I understand can still be seen in parts. Suffice to say that my comrades died in hundreds due to the malnutrition, disease, overwork under a tropical sun, privation, complete lack of drugs and medicines (including the much-needed quinine), and, worst of all, a determination by the Japanese Command that a harsh and ruthless discipline *must* be enforced at all times.

In point of fact, in my book 'Gorbals to Jungle,' published 1960, I stressed those terrible, inhuman conditions.

I was a volunteer signalman. My signal section became attached to the 135th Field Regiment, R.A., 18th Division.

Finally, may I say that I hope to return some day to the scene of our trials, if only to write a chapter to my proposed sequel of the book.

With all good wishes.

Yours fraternally,

Jack Caplan, Ex-Royal Signals.

116, Queen's Drive,
Queen's Park,
Glasgow, S.2.

Where are YOU now?

Sir,

I would like to make a suggestion which I think will be of interest to all WIRE readers.

The R.A.F. News has a column headed: "Where are you now?" In this column people who have lost good friends can re-trace them. By using this addition, THE WIRE would be doing another good service.

Yours faithfully,

B. W. Mills, Corporal.

255 Signal Squadron,
B.F.P.O. 63.

The Editor is agreeable to make space available for a "Where are you now" column—at least for a trial period—to see if there is a need for it. So it is up to you now, correspondents!

THE CORPS TO THE FORE

Sir,

May I, as Chairman of the Fleet, Crookham & District Branch of the British Legion thank, on behalf of our Committee and that of the Women's Section, those members of the Corps, both past and present, who helped us so much over Poppy Week?

On Saturday morning, the Royal Signals Wing of the R.M.A.S. provided us with a loudspeaker system in a Land Rover to go round Fleet asking all to subscribe generously to the Earl Haig Fund. This was a great success and the Corporal in charge carried out the task most efficiently.

On Sunday afternoon a detachment from the Aldershot Branch of the Royal Signals Association, with their Standard, attended our Service of Remembrance. Afterwards they marched to the Memorial for a short service, followed by a march past. As usual they were extremely smart and a credit to the Corps. I hope this will be an annual occasion.

My grateful thanks to them all.

Yours sincerely,

A. E. Morrison, Major-General.

Beech Tree Lodge,
26, Guildford Road,
Fleet, Hants.

A.E.R. (Royal Signals) OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

The A.E.R. (Royal Signals) Officers' Dinner Club will hold its 1969 annual dinner, preceded by the A.G.M., at the Cafe Royal, London, on Friday, 7th March, 1969, from 7 p.m. All ex-officers of A.E.R. Royal Signals and all retired or serving officers who have held appointments at H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals are invited to attend.

Tickets, priced 52/6 each (plus a joining fee of 5/- in the case of new members) may be obtained from: **Major T. Lomas,** E.R.D. (Hon. Sec.), 8, Mansdale Road, Redbourn, St. Albans, Herts.

The latest date for the receipt of cheques is 21st February, 1969.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Registration. It is known that a large number of active sailors, while members of overseas groups of R.S.Y.C. or A.S.A., are not registered centrally. Unit Sailing Representatives, or individuals, should inform the Secretary, with details of name, address, and dinghy and keel boat ratings, as soon as possible, so that registration can be completed and membership cards issued. Membership is free.

New Ocean-going Boat. The purchase of a Nicholson-32 is proceeding swiftly. Suggestions for a name for the new boat should be sent to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Secretary's address: Signals 35, Room 044, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

Visit of C.C.F. Cadets to 30th Signal Regiment

Report by a Cadet from Christ's Hospital School

"THE C.C.F. course at 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford, was this year even more successful than usual. Owing to the considerable difference between various schools' end of term, only two schools (those with Royal Signals troops) managed to send representatives, totalling seven cadets. Thus, the Regiment were able to provide us with C11's and Land Rovers, which in previous years had not been possible because of the number of people on the course.

We were impressed by the range of these sets (QRK5 at 100 miles on 16ft. rod), but felt that such awe-inspiring performance made operators redundant. Of course, we carried 62 sets as spares, and the few times they were used they performed satisfactorily on quarter-wave antennae, but left a lot to be desired on a 16ft. rod at this range.

We were introduced to 'Slidex,' which, we were informed, was no longer in use and were not impressed. The redoubtable museum, however, has grown since last time, and provided a fascinating afternoon. The Austin Seven was particularly captivating.

It is hoped that by next year academic dates will conform and we shall be able to choose a few from many applicants: also, of course, that 30th Signal Regiment will let us come again.

We are extremely grateful to **Sergeant French** and **Corporal Bentley** (the Slidex King) for the time and effort they devoted to us, and we wish **Sergeant French** the best of luck with his Yeoman of Signals Course."

A historic signal is presented to the Corps

'Cease fire' it said and the 1914-18 war was over



(Photo by courtesy of Newark Advertiser

Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., talking to Mr. Ray Lillie, Chairman of the Newark Branch and vice-chairman Mr. F. C. Dixon, at the annual dinner and dance of the Newark Branch and at which Brigadier Tucker was presented with the 'cease fire' signal

* * *

Just half-a-century after its original delivery, a historic signal was handed to **Brigadier W. G. Tucker,** Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, when he visited Newark to preside at the tenth anniversary dinner and dance of the Newark Branch of the Association.

It was the signal ordering 'Cease Fire' in November, 1918, which came into effect eight minutes after its receipt. This was presented to **Brigadier Tucker** by **Mr. F. C. Dixon,** a member of the Newark Branch, who took down the original message.

Mr. Dixon likes to recall that he joined the R.A. in 1915 at the age of 15, later he was transferred to R.E. Signals. A year later he was Mentioned in Despatches, and in the same year—1916—he was recommended for the award of the Military Medal, which he received in 1917, at the age of 17—still under military age.

The signal is now to be placed in the safe keeping of the Corps Museum at Blandford Camp.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, WESTMINSTER ABBEY, 7th NOVEMBER

A small gathering of ex-Corps members assembled for the opening of the Field of Remembrance shortly before noon on Thursday, 7th November, under arrangements made by **Mr. A. E. Stead.** Crosses were planted on behalf of: Cardiff Branch, Catterick and District Branch, 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment, London (N) Branch, 13th Regiment, 11th Regiment, Coventry Branch, Aldershot Branch, Leeds Branch, London Branch, Northampton Branch, Signal Officer-in-Chief and all ranks, Derby Branch, Croydon Branch and H.Q. Royal Signals Association.

216 PARACHUTE SIGNAL SQUADRON OFFICERS' AND SENIOR N.C.O.s' DINNER

An Officers' and Senior N.C.O.s' reunion dinner is to be held at the Queen's Hotel, Farnborough, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 21st February, 1969, for former members of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, at a cost of 30s. each.

Application forms for the dinner, and where required, accommodation can be obtained from the Adjutant, 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot.

Early applications would be appreciated and the dinner list will close on Monday, 3rd February, 1969.

Special Mention

The Coombs family, whom your Editor met at the 21st Annual Dinner of the 1st and 2nd Air Formation Signal Regiments

for having had no less than three generations, serving or who had served in the Corps. Grandfather, **ex-R.S.M. Coombs,** served during the war in N. Africa, Sicily and Italy, finishing up as R.S.M. of the 11th Air Formation Signals. His son, **ex-Corporal Coombs,** did his national service in the Corps and also found himself serving with 11th Air Formation Signals during the time of the Berlin airlift. Grandson, **Lance-Corporal Ken Coombs,** a regular, is currently with the 4th Guards Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron and is making a name for himself in the P.T. world as he is now doing an advanced P.T. course at Aldershot. A very lively trio, they made a particular noteworthy impression at the dinner at which no less than 95 ex-members turned up.

UPGRADING/CONVERSION COURSES TO BE HELD IN CATTERICK DURING 1969

Course No.		Assembles	Disperses
1/48	Tech R Class II-I	8 Apr.	6 Nov.
1/30	Tech TE II-I	15 Apr.	13 Nov.
2/49	Tech R Class III-II	29 Apr.	25 Sept.
2/40	Tech TE III-II	15 Apr.	11 Sept.
1/47	Tg Op Class II-I	8 Apr.	18 July
1/48	Tg Op Class II-I	22 Apr.	1 Aug.
1/37	Comcen Op Class II-I	8 Apr.	4 July
1/23	Electrician Dvr Class II-I	9 Apr.	13 June
1/48	Lineman Class II-I	15 Apr.	14 Aug.
1/30	Cipher Op Class II-I	22 Apr.	13 June
2/55	Tg Op Class III-II	22 Apr.	1 Aug.
2/56	Tg Op Class III-II	29 Apr.	8 Aug.
2/20	Radio Op Class II-II	15 Apr.	27 June
2/48	Electrician Dvr Class III-II ...	9 Apr.	30 May
2/20	Clerk Tech Class III-II	9 Apr.	6 June
2/24	Comcen Op III - Cipher Op II ...	15 Apr.	27 June

Thank You!

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were most gratefully received during October, 1968:—

	£	s.	d.
83rd (London) Squadron (V) W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess ...	2	0	0
253 Squadron (collection at Squadron Church Service)	7	0	0
7th Regiment		6	6
School of Transport, Longmoor/Bordon Garrison	10	0	0
Gloucester Rowing Club	3	3	0
Major P. E. C. Davies	5	0	0
L. H. Morse, Esq.	2	0	0
W. C. Buchanan, Esq.	2	0	0
Brigadier Sir Ralph H. Rayner, M.B.E.	1	1	0
H. W. Vaughan-Thomas, Esq.	1	0	0
L. G. Toogood, Esq.	1	0	0
Various small donations	2	19	2
Total receipts	£37	9	8
Expenditure during October, 1968	£757	8	10

CLOTHING GIFTS

Since the beginning of October, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

K. Howard, Esq.
Major J. L. Donne
Staff Sergeant M. A. White
Major T. Rigby
A. Walsh Esq.
Major-General & Mrs. M. D. Price
Lieut.-Colonel & Mrs. J. J. H. Swallow
Colonel E. J. Bardell, O.B.E.
W. E. Osborne, Esq.
Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.
Threestokes Marine Ltd.
P.R.I., 7th Signal Regiment
Mrs. Simmons
Lieut.-Colonel J. E. D. Farr, M.B.E.
Colonel D. T. W. Gibson, M.B.E.
Mrs. J. A. G. Stokoe
W.O.I & Mrs. J. H. Paterson
Mrs. G. Fraser
Colonel G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E.
Captain (T.O.T.) C. J. Bayfield
J. H. Sowden, Esq.
Major Humphrey
Corporal Lund
Major D. W. Sherrard-Smith
Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Partridge
Mrs. D. Turner
Colonel G. J. C. Moss, M.B.E.
Colonel A. Pagan, M.B.E.
Mrs. J. St. C. W. Robinson
Mrs. H. Humphrey
Mrs. Wombwell
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Stead



PANORAMIC VIEW OF BLANDFORD CAMP LOOKING NORTH-EAST

In the foreground, just above the wood, can be seen the main School of Signals instructional and administrative area with the UHF/VHF tower a prominent landmark. Behind this complex lies the soldier's married quarters area and further on in the distance the present lines occupied by 30th Signal Regiment. Half way up the left hand edge of the photo a portion of the H.Q. Mess juts out.

Movements

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I (F. of S.) B. W. Thomas ... To 14th Regiment
W.O.I (F. of S.) G. E. Shakeshaft ... „ 19th Regiment
W.O.I R. A. Macgerrison ... ... „ 14th Regiment

W.O.II A. McKeever ... ... „ 37th Regiment (V)
W.O.II E. P. Teehan ... ... „ 39th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II (F. of S.) A. G. N. Buckland „ 249 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. A. Coxon ... „ 14th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) M. J. Waite ... „ 18th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) C. A. Berry ... ... „ School of Signals
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. Cooper ... ... „ School of Signals
W.O.II G. McGilvray ... ... „ 7th Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II W. Forrest ... ... „ 249 Squadron
W.O.II J. E. Taylor ... ... „ 18th Regiment
W.O.II E. T. A. Webster ... ... „ 30th Regiment

Staff Sergeant R. Adamson ... ... „ H.Q., 12th Signal Group
Staff Sergeant L. Burnham ... ... „ 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Clothier ... ... „ 255 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. W. Aldous ... ... „ 35th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant G. H. Youngjohns ... „ 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Staff Sergeant A. J. Harris ... ... „ 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. Goodman „ School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) B. W. Abrahams „ 242 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. A. H. Taylor „ Fed. Armd. Forces of Malaysia
Staff Sergeant D. B. Smith ... ... „ Royal Signals Records
Staff Sergeant A. G. Rose ... ... „ H.Q., Strategic Command

Sergeant B. J. Smith ... ... „ 28th Regiment
Sergeant R. Cooper ... ... „ School of Signals
Sergeant R. Steen ... ... „ 3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant B. W. Thompson ... ... „ 14th Regiment
Sergeant E. Jessop ... ... „ Army App. College, Harrogate
Sergeant M. Armer ... ... „ 259 Squadron
Sergeant J. W. Piper ... ... „ 19th Regiment
Sergeant T. A. Hyde ... ... „ 249 Squadron
Sergeant R. K. Hopwood ... ... „ R & LS Western Command
Sergeant N. Ridgway ... ... „ C.V. H.Q. and Training Wing
Sergeant J. P. Rigby ... ... „ 255 Squadron
Sergeant S. Cartwright ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Sergeant P. L. Marsh ... ... „ 249 Squadron
Sergeant J. Cadman ... ... „ 18th Regiment
Sergeant D. J. MacGelp ... ... „ 259 Squadron
Sergeant B. A. Cumming ... ... „ 16th Regiment
Sergeant D. G. Perry ... ... „ Army Personnel Selection Staff
Seregant H. D. Salt ... ... „ 612 Troop
Sergeant H. Wrigglesworth ... ... „ 18th Regiment
Sergeant G. Porteous ... ... „ 24th Regiment
A/Sergeant J. D. Henderson ... ... „ 242 Squadron
Sergeant R. H. Charles ... ... „ School of Signals
Sergeant T. A. Poingdestre ... ... „ 16th Regiment
Sergeant B. J. Buzzard ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Sergeant E. D. Little ... ... „ 216 Parachute Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. K. Cheetham ... ... „ 7th Regiment
Sergeant E. J. Banham ... ... „ 222 Squadron
Sergeant A. H. Dicker ... ... „ 20th Arm. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. C. Hunt ... ... „ 24th Regiment
Sergeant A. Harrison ... ... „ 10th Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Berry ... ... „ 10th Regiment
Sergeant R. Darbyshire ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Seregant G. C. Henry ... ... „ 30th Regiment
Sergeant R. J. Buxton ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Sergeant L. W. Sharp ... ... „ 223 Squadron
Sergeant F. Smithurst ... ... „ 249 Squadron
Sergeant T. Guest ... ... „ R.M.A., Sandhurst
Sergeant L. J. Courtel ... ... „ 9th Regiment
Sergeant G. C. Langley ... ... „ 225 Squadron
A/Sergeant D. W. Martin ... ... „ 225 Squadron
A/Sergeant D. D. Smith ... ... „ 13th Regiment

Officers

Major R. J. Armstrong ... ... To 16th Regiment
Captain J. O. C. Alexander ... ... „ Office of British H.C. Rawalpindi
Lieutenant P. J. Bonser ... ... „ 9th Regiment

Major P. H. Bullard ... ... „ 36th Regiment (V)
Captain C. A. Brown ... ... „ 211 Squadron
Lieutenant C. E. Byrom ... ... „ 200 Squadron
Major E. C. Collins ... ... „ 11th Regiment (retiring)
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) T. L. Craze ... „ Malaysia
Captain A. S. Carling ... ... „ H.Q., Training Brigade
Major (Q.M.) T. P. Canham ... ... „ 249 Squadron
Lieutenant G. Davies ... ... „ 11th Regiment (retiring)
Captain W. E. A. Edmonds ... ... „ 8th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) A. N. G. Gent ... „ M.O.D. (ACEP1)
Lieutenant R. P. Gravestock ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Captain T. T. Hallchurch ... ... „ 14th Regiment
Captain A. W. de V. Hunt ... ... „ 212 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson ... „ 12th Signals Gp. (V) as Brig.
Lieutenant R. A. Knox-Johnston ... „ 1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant M. J. Lance ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) P. Lewis ... ... „ 14th Regiment
Major L. W. Moran, M.B.E. ... ... „ 24th Regiment
Captain N. C. Muir ... ... „ 10th Regiment

Second-Lieutenant D. S. McLuckie ... „ 11th Regiment
Major P. D. Parker ... ... „ H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps
Second-Lieutenant N. G. Reynolds ... „ 261 Squadron
Captain M. J. Ridlington ... ... „ 24th Regiment
Major W. G. Robinson ... ... „ U.K. Rep., ARFA
Captain (T.O.T.) A. H. Spurgin ... „ 7th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. J. Sanders ... „ 255 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Skelly ... „ M.O.D. (ACDS Staff)
Second-Lieutenant W. J. Spiers ... „ School of Army Aviation
Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E. ... ... „ H.Q., London District
Lieutenant T. I. M. Waugh ... ... „ 11th Regiment
Lieutenant R. M. Yolland ... ... „ 3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant M. J. Young ... ... „ 2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

			Sen. No.	*Old Sen. No.*	
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Waters, G. H.	1390	2000	
	A/W.O.I	Miller, H.	1400	2220	
	A/W.O.I	Thom, V. F. M.	1420	940	
	A/W.O.I	Simpson, A. J.	1430	2870	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Goudman, P. T.	5610	3530	(Fd.)
	Sgt.	Charles, R. H.	5620	3610	(Fd.)
	A/S Sgt.	Kirk, W. J.	5630	10100	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Hamilton, E. L.	5640	9320	(Op.)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Cole, A. R.	1960	9200	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Yates, L.	1970	13850	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Hazelgrove, R.	1980	14080	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Smith, M. J.	1990	14730	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Chapman, A. K.	2000	14750	(Op.)
	Sgt.	Robinson, L.	2010	31580	(Op.) (Cpl.)
	A/S Sgt.	Boland, M. J.	2020	32570	(Op.) (Cpl.)
	Sgt.	Dyke, W. D.	2030	14710	(Op.)

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Jepson, P. E.	1100	1240

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	Cpl.	George, M.	7215	12825
	Cpl.	Edmondson, D.	7225	13114
	Cpl.	Jefford-Horn, C. R.	7228	13793
	Cpl.	Banner, D. M.	7235	12185
	Cpl.	Snook, M. W. F.	7237	12330
	Cpl.	Greenall, I. G. L.	7338	13410
	Cpl.	Chambers, J. A.	7345	13421
	Cpl.	Escott, G. F.	7355	13941
	Cpl.	Lewis, M. J.	7365	12438
	Cpl.	Braithwaite, P.	7460	13235
	Cpl.	Stuart, P. G.	7510	13290
	Cpl.	Dell, R.	7530	13995
	Cpl.	Harper, A. D.	7580	13411

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Bartet, I. K.	14850	29920
	A/Sgt.	Shaw, R. J. M.	14900	30012
	A/Sgt.	Noonan, T.	15010	31490
	Cpl.	Wilson, F. D.	15040	31050
	A/Sgt.	Crossland, R. E.	15050	31060
	Cpl.	Williams, R.	15060	31148
	Cpl.	Ditchburn, G. J.	15070	31220
	Cpl.	Jones, E. C.	15090	31550
	A/Sgt.	Nicol, M.	15100	31570
	A/Sgt.	Pursell, D. G.	15130	28920
	Cpl.	Adams, W. J.	15140	29560
	A/Sgt.	Greenhalgh, P. T.	15150	17760
	A/Sgt.	Clark, W. J.	15160	31810

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Bowden, D. A. W.	5300	4750
	Cpl.	Wareing, W. R.	5320	5470
	A/Sgt.	Hardwick, P.	5330	5490
	A/Sgt.	Johnson, G.	5340	5530

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Schneider, A. J.	3520	5984
	Cpl.	Harrison, C. M.	3540	6240
	A/Sgt.	Laverick, F.	3550	6470
	Cpl.	Francis, F. E.	3560	6108
	A/Sgt.	Davis, F.	3570	6180
	Cpl.	Bowman, T.	3580	6412
	A/Sgt.	Richardson, J. M. W.	3590	6414
	A/Sgt.	Frost, J. W. L.	3600	6600
	A/Sgt.	George, J.	3620	6480
	A/Sgt.	Davies, C. J.	3630	6540
	Cpl.	Semple, W.	3640	6886
	A/Sgt.	Webb, C. S.	3650	6908

INSERTIONS

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	Sgt.	Edwards, W. J.	5158	5150 (Rejoined from R.A.R.)

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	Sgt.	Bridges, G. A.	1854	7814 (Op.)

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	910	1030				
W.O.II	930	1050	1650	2970	3420	3500
S Sgt.	3300	3620				

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	1050

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

W.O.I	320

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

S Sgt.	590

TECHNICAL ROSTER

Sgt.	5917

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	6670	12680	14580

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt.	3250	3590	4430

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

Sgt	260	2530	2920	3380

Obituary

MRS. C. G. MOORE

Many, particularly those who served in the Corps during the last war, will be saddened to hear of the death of **Iris Moore,** wife of **Brigadier Cuthbert Moore,** last August.

Iris Moore, along with **Anne Murphy** (then **Miss Anne Clementi-Smith**) and **Dorothy Amos** did wonders at Association Headquarters in London by organising the despatch to prisoners-of-war of parcels of comforts.

These ladies worked long and arduous hours, often in conditions of great difficulty owing to enemy action. They were a splendid team, and it was a fitting testimony to their devoted work that **Anne Murphy** was awarded the M.B.E. as Chairman of the P.O.W. section. This award, she claims, was equally shared between the team. Many ex-P.O.W.s visited them afterwards to express their personal appreciation for all they had done.

Ex-C.S.M. C. A. DOLLIMORE

Company Sergeant Major Clifford A. Dollimore died in July last in Cheltenham General Hospital after a long and painful illness. 'Dolly' enlisted as a Boy Trumpeter in the Royal Artillery on 21st April, 1919, and transferred to Royal Signals on 18th February, 1927. He served on the North West Frontier of India, in Palestine and Egypt. He took part in the Madagascar Campaign 1942/43, and it was during this campaign that he received severe wounds in the back which resulted in his discharge on 20th January, 1944. Although classed as totally disabled and condemned to be encased in harness from hip to neck he found a job in the Civil Service from 1946 to 1962 when the deterioration in his condition forced him to retire.

He will be remembered for the part he took in organising and playing in the Signals Orchestra at Peshawar, but more particularly as a soldier and a fine disciplinarian. He was born a soldier at Ranikhet, India, on 25th April, 1904. His wife, Clair, died ten years ago. There were no children.



THOSE DARING YOUNG MEN

Corporal Sharp takes to the air on an ascending flight path—the crowd are thrilled

A Year in Retrospect

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM LOOK BACK AT 1968

Facts and figures

THE White Helmets rode off the arena at Birmingham on 9th October at the close of a hectic and important season. October, 1967, saw them in Germany, in October, 1969, they are due in America and judging by their acknowledged skill coupled with a good public relations image and publicity, who knows where they will get to in 1970. With the Birmingham show over and only a T.V. engagement to perform before the close of the season they have:

Given over 100 performances to over 1,000,000 spectators; been on television 10 occasions before an audience of more than 10,000,000; travelled about 100,000 miles in coach, lorry, car and ship; used 1,000 gallons of petrol in the motor cycles; burned £150 worth of petrol (low octane of course!); sold 15,000 programmes; earned over £6,000 in fees, but used over £6,000 keeping in existence.

The human element

Facts and figures do not tell the story, though, of the young men who represent Royal Signals to the world at large. Even reading of their hardships and their glories can hardly bring alive the infectious atmosphere of hot grease, sweat, scorching rubber and noise mixed with precision and drilled riding, teamwork and courage, all on show to the public before, during and after performances. Glamour, too, must not be missed for whether they be leather jacketed beauties from the local club or a mini-skirted equivalent, the feminine sex are rarely far away from the boys with the White Helmets.

It is rarely understood just how the team works, is financed and in truth how hard its members have to work. Pictures of the new coach appeared in THE WIRE last year but however smart it looks, after thirteen hours' travelling overnight with nowhere else to sleep it is anything but comfortable. Often this year the team have finished one performance, loaded up the motor cycles and arena props of ramps, go karts, brick wall, and then immediately travelled overnight to the next show, only to arrive and once again unpack, clean up the motor cycles and props and prepare for the next performance which may be up to 400 miles from the last location. Repeat that for four days and a military exercise with little sleep in a cold winter training area becomes in comparison a "bit of a doddle." Nor do the team members "make," if anything they lose, particularly in comparison with the recruiting, KAPE and Corps mobile displays that they meet so frequently. No comfortable hotels for the White Helmets, rather more often a disused camp with little hot water. However glamorous it sounds, you can be sure it really is hard work and long hours, but of course worthwhile.

Hard financial facts

One of the common fallacies about the team is that it is subsidised by Corps Funds. It is not, nor is it financed by public money either, since all purchases have to be made from the team's private account. Naturally a large slice of expenditure is covered by Triumph's who so magnificently provide the team with new motor cycles every five years, due again in 1969. But a few examples may surprise members of the Corps who frequently feel aggrieved that the team have to charge fees. It costs annually:

£150 for helmets, gloves and clothing; £400 for motor cycle spares (and that at a discount); £650 for insurance; £900 for P.O.L.; £1,500 for food and travel for the team; £1,500 to cover service, depreciation replacement of coach and lorry.

Perhaps these figures make stark reading particularly remembering that the team have to earn more than that in fees each season. Of course the fun is in riding, meeting people and projecting an image, and that makes it all worthwhile—just.

As this article is being read (if it reaches the editor on time!) most readers will have forgotten the far-off summer — except for a lucky few. However, a team's eye view made up from articles written by members of the team may be of interest.

Looked at from a performance point of view

Take your mind back to a summer Saturday for the town carnival procession and fete. The team drive from Catterick the previous evening arriving at a week-end training centre just in time to draw the bedding—slightly damp—and settle in. Some members have brought a suit, so quickly change and off they walk to find a bus to the nearest town — last bus went at 4 o'clock so they return. Others take their time and persuade the ever-patient and long suffering team Sergeant, **Sergeant Geoffrey Biggs,** to drive them down in the coach to the "local" for a couple of beers and a sandwich.

Next morning the team depart for the showground, stop off for a breakfast meal somewhere in a convenient cafe, and then prepare for the show.

The motor cycles and props are unloaded, cleaned down and laid out, the arena marked out, straw obtained and all made "ship-shape." The O.C. is off chatting up the organisers, probably getting a drink out of it, and soon returns with meal tickets enabling us to get a cup of tea, sausage roll, a fancy cake and yet more sandwiches.

The carnival procession arrives and by now we are in Blues and White Helmets; how uncomfortable it all is especially in the heat of the sun. A great crowd is around the showground dispersed evenly from arena to side shows, a seething mass of multi-coloured clothing hangs around the ice-cream van which is doing a roaring trade.

Not a spare second

It is quite extraordinary how quickly these next few moments go; I vaguely hear the commentary; "warm up," "check," "team work," and then: "The White Helmets — the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team of 1968." Then with a deft flick of the throttle, an ear-piercing roar, on we move to the opening ride. "A fast, disciplined precision ride." As each cut gets closer the reaction of the crowd can be guessed, not by applause—the bikes drown that—but by the movement of hands and their speed of clapping, by the excitement on faces and by the rapt attention.

Don't mention it to the O.C. but no one yet has had a stop watch in the "pits area" (he did have one in the audience though, for audience ratings or something!). Well, most of us don't have a spare second; jump off one on to another, or hold a partner's bike, help him up, down, sideways or just push the trick away; added to this is the ever-constant exhaust noise drowning everything from commentary to **Sergeant Briggs'** orders. Pandemonium it is—organised—just, but only just. The tableau is now coming back to us and I can smell the burned leather from the boots on the exhaust and hear the mutterings and groans from those in the uncomfortable positions. Are any positions comfortable other than straight up and down in the saddle? Some have their heads over the wheels while others hang outwards and downwards, but as ever **Corporal "Honest Jim" Munro** at the helm brings the ten-man team round to applause. Soon more tricks return after the circuit; **Lance-Corporal John Phillips,** our ex-farmer from Kent, "the man with the strong right leg"—ex-rugby player from Singapore—brings round the flying angel, while the O.C. as always just keeps on talking on the P.A. The "Jimmy," the reverse ride, the Union Jack and the hanging ladder all go out and return, then the brick wall with its "oohs!" and "aahs!" **Corporal Jim Sharp,** who broke his arm at Newcastle, looks on while **Signalman Kenneth Winter** deputises and "bangs" through the wall, bricks scatter and out we run to clear them up. Soon comes the "Fan" which I am on, of course—all the team is less the O.C. and **Signalman "Flossy" Foster.** He gets his chance on the Cowboy Bike as well as collecting three dislocated shoulders, two twisted knees, two sprained ankles all in the year. Yet **Signalman Foster,** this strong ex para-trained Signalman, is tough and on he goes again, but with strict instructions not to fall off with another of his spectacular "Bucking Bronco throws."

Soon it is all over, the fire resulting in scorched uniforms and missing eyebrows and the salute. At last, and usually for the first time, the applause can be heard by all of us as we ride off and clear the arena for the gym display that follows.

Meeting the audience

Perhaps our most important task is not to demonstrate riding and skills, but to meet people and be natural, courteous and informative towards them, to show them our enthusiasm and let them form their impressions of the Army and the Corps from us. So a little stand is ordered which means at least two on stand duty meeting the crowd, guarding the bikes and answering questions. Here we really meet the public and how important it is as the O.C. keeps on telling us. They always have lots of questions and usually quite a little fan club develops. However, after a break we go on again, and once more repeat all the performance but this time getting in sticky blues is much less fun.

After the second show we immediately pack up and load the lorry again, hot and sticky work, bending low, lifting up three hundredweight of bike (up ten feet) inside the canopy—not easy. Soon, however, all is finished and **Corporals Sharp** and **Gann** take over their charge. Here a word of praise for these two. Throughout the season for 20,000 miles at an average of 25 m.p.h., they have travelled, often their only sleep being as co-driver in the cab for a three-hundred-mile journey with few stops for tea. At last, however, **Corporal Richard Gann** (our Aden warrior as the commentary says) will be set up for his civilian life as a lorry driver in February. He deserves a new and decent vehicle and we hope his civilian employer honours him with one. Sorry to see you go, Dick, and we feel sure all his other friends in Royal Signals Units will say the same.

Would you like it? I wonder sometimes whether I do? But it is worthwhile doing one's best and trying to set high standards, living up to them and attempting to give an impression for the public to capture and remember. As the worlds "oldest and best" we understandably have something to live up to and how conscious we are of the Royal Artillery and the Royal Marines teams who are both catching up fast. Somehow they seem to get more official support which makes us a bit green at times, particularly as the Royal Marines always perform freely for no fee.

Old stalwarts

As this is the end of the season may we close by naming the old stalwarts of the team who are leaving, having done a great deal for us for so long. **Lance-Corporal Dennis Needham** has been our clerk, office boy, administrator, unofficial manager, programme accountant as well as riding all the rides, been in most tricks and he leaves a great gap behind. We will miss you, **"Plug" Needham;** good luck to you in Krefeld after over five years with the team. His right-hand man, assistant clerk, office boy, etc., is **Signalman Colin Cairns** who leaves after over four years. His specialities were the difficult gymnastic tricks—but just watch his typing in 4 Div., please! **Signalman Kenneth Winter** joined us almost four years ago. When our team Corporal was injured he took over as leading stunt man—brick wall, go-kart jump, etc. At last **Signalman Winter,** as the team carpenter, had to go through his own brick wall; it only fell down before he got to it on three occasions! **Corporal Richard Gann** is mentioned above but a special word for him because although he leaves the Army now he has always put the team first right through to the end; well done and thanks, Dick. Also leaving is **Corporal "Honest Jim" Munro** after one season during which he achieved fame by being rather more unsuccessful in the gambling field than he was with the tableau. To complete the round-up of departures are **Signalman "Bushy" Williams, Lance-Corporal "Pinky" Pinkus,** such a good sportsman as well as being a good rider and very popular; **Signalman "Lofty" Long** who had "relatives" in every town we visited; **Signalman Roy Rayner,** our man for top places—good training for a para "titch"; **Signalman Dave Booth** and the team driver **Dave Murrell,** who more often than not had his vehicle off the road.

And so onwards to 1969; over half of the new team came in for trials and selection training while we get education and trade courses. Then to 1st January and team riding ready for our forty-first season which includes a tour of America next autumn. In the meantime a Happy Christmas to you all while we close down for the winter, due to open up in THE WIRE again in April.

Thank you

Before we close the team Officer Commanding, Captain A. C. M. Prince, would like to thank all those past and present members of the Corps who have shown such interest and kindness in welcoming us at showgrounds all over the country. Also to thank them for their criticisms and suggestions; may much more come the team's way so it can truly be for the Corps, by the Corps, within the Corps. So please write in with suggestions or criticisms.

FARAWAY PLACES !

UNUSUAL JOBS !

WHY NOT WRITE YOUR STORY FOR "THE WIRE"?

From BAOR to Catterick on Bikes is certainly . . .

. . . A Long Ride

By Lance-Corporal Bloomfield, of 7th Regiment

ON Saturday, 31st August, a party of four, Lance-Corporal Brian Bloomfield, Signalman Raymond Roberts, Signalman Steven Smedley and Signalman 'Dick' Richardson, left Maresfield Barracks on A.D. issue bikes to deliver a goodwill message from the Commanding Officer to the Commander Training Brigade, Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.

The weather was its usual rainy self when we set off on that dark Saturday morning on an almost impossible task (or so we had been told).

An inauspicious start

Our first taste of bad luck was just outside Brackwede when **Steve Smedley** lost a pedal coming up a hill. A replacement was soon bought in Brackwede and we were on our way again.

Our first stop was in Portsmouth Barracks, Munster; we arrived there miserable and soaking wet after cycling continually for 12 hours. We were warmly welcomed by the Guard Commander and Orderly Sergeant and given bedding for the night. After a hot shower and some refreshments we were our usual high-spirited selves. We awoke the next morning a little stiff and sore in the wrong places and after a large breakfast we thanked the Guard Commander for his hospitality and started on our second day of cycling to U.K.

The weather was nice and sunny the second day and we made good time without further mishap and arrived in Bree (Belgium) at two o'clock on Monday morning after cycling practically non-stop for nearly 18 hours.

We found a suitable barn and settled down for the night, more tired than the first day but at least dry.

We awoke early and were confronted by the owner of the barn who took us into his house to have breakfast with his family; after a nice breakfast we thanked him and started on our third day of cycling.

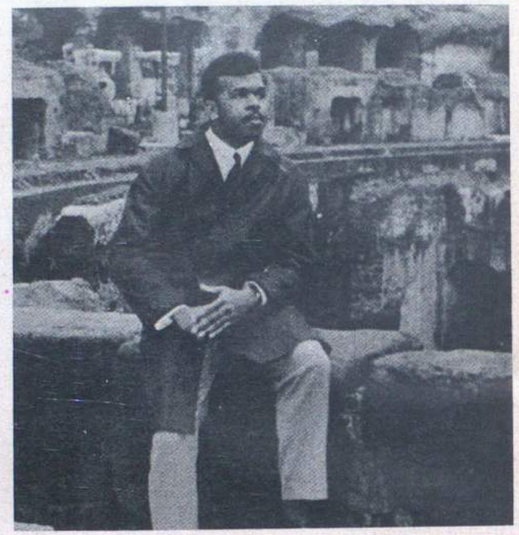
Bad luck again

The third day bad luck struck again when I, too, lost a pedal. This time it was more expensive as the thread had gone and so had the crank arm, so I had to buy the arm and also a pedal. After a couple of hours we were on our way again and arrived in Ghent in the late evening after cycling nearly two-thirds of the way across Belgium. We set off on the fourth day and arrived in Zeebrugge in time for a mid-day ferry, getting us in England for tea-time. After a large tea in a transport cafe we started cycling again in an entirely different terrain to Germany and Belgium (more hills). We carried on cycling until we arrived at Maidstone where we had our first taste of sleeping in barns in England.

Catterick — and the Brigadier was on the golf course

The following days to Catterick went without mishap; we stayed the nights in Leighton Buzzard and Sheffield and finally arrived in Catterick on the sixth. We arrived at Training Brigade H.Q. at approximately 15.00 hours and I asked the secretary where I could find the Brigadier. She told me he wasn't in and that the only person in was the Brigade Major. I was shown to his office and I explained my mission to him and he told me the Brigadier was competing in a golf competition; he told me to go up to the golf club and see the Brigadier there. We arrived at the golf club and were shown into the clubhouse. A few moments later the Brigadier came in and cheerfully asked for a round of beer to celebrate his defeat! I gave him the letter which he received most gratefully and he said he admired our endurance and courage. After a few more beers we said goodbye to the Brigadier. We had planned our trip to Catterick to take a week, to have a week's rest and then cycle back to Herford in a week. On the 14th we all assembled in Darlington for the return leg of the journey. The return was really uneventful so it would be quite pointless writing about it. We arrived in Herford on the night of the 20th, tired but proud of what we had done. Enjoyable as it was we would all think twice about doing it again.

He joined the Corps to see the World



AMBITION REALIZED
Corporal Soqo surveys the Colosseum while on leave in Rome

Article submitted by 260 Signal Squadron

CORPORAL Sailosi Ragasauwalu Soqo (Sid to his friends) radio relayman (B1) has been with "Y" Troop, 260 Signal Squadron (SAM) for six months. **Corporal Soqo** is the second son of **Sailosi Soqo** and was born at Suva Viti Levu, in the Fiji Isles.

After leaving school, **Corporal Soqo** worked for five years with the Fiji Post and Telegraph Department, during which time he often wished to travel around the world, and he became convinced that the British Army would offer him this opportunity. In 1961 the British Army Recruiting team arrived in Fiji and **Corporal Soqo** immediately applied to join the British Army, selecting Royal Signals, in view of his past experience.

Corporal Soqo obtained his first taste of travel when proceeding to Catterick for trade training. His plane called at Honolulu, Los Angeles and New York, where his party were given a conducted tour of the United Nations building. From New York he flew to London, then by train to Catterick Camp. At the camp he saw snow for the first time and wondered what he had let himself in for.

From training, he was posted to 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R. He was with this Regiment for five years. During this period he obtained his second and first class trade ratings, his ACE II and his MPC 1. He also attended an adventure training course in Norway.

Corporal Soqo, during this posting in B.A.O.R., took the opportunity to travel widely and visited Austria, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy and Spain, thus achieving his wish to travel.

He has shown himself to be a good all-round sportsman and represents his Regiment at rugby and at athletics with the javelin and shot.

In December, **Corporal Soqo** goes back on three months' leave to Fiji, after being away for six years. Although he enjoys English food, he is looking forward to a good meal of dalo in company with his family and friends.

On his return, he intends to sit his ACE1 at the first opportunity in order to become fully qualified for Sergeant.

We all wish 'Sid' a good leave and look forward to his return, both to the Troop and on the sports field.



IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
A/T Corporal Fred Roissetter chatting with a Dutch girl marcher

Harrogate Apprentices at Nijmegen

Might as well see what it is all about

IN January of this year there was a mumbling in Penney Squadron about the Nijmegen marches. The A/Ts thought it was just another scheme to keep them occupied and left it at that. However, contrary to all hopeful expectation, these mumblings did not stop, and volunteers for these strange marches were called for. "Might as well go and see what it is all about," was the general feeling. A meeting was duly held, and at last the Nijmegen marches were explained. Twenty-five miles per day for four days, each march beginning and ending in the famous and historic town of Nijmegen in Holland. **Major Hunt** explained that there were usually over 16,000 marchers from 15 different nations, so it all seemed very inviting. Then came the crunches!

(a) We had to be cleared by trade and education.
(b) We had to pay our own way.
(c) We would be expected to train in our own time!

The clearance from trade and education proved more difficult than at first imagined, and it was only because of the greatest co-operation from these two departments that we ever got off the ground! We even moved the date of the Senior Telephony exam by one week!

350 miles covered in training

The payment of costs was, shall we say, inconvenient, but we all felt worthwhile. We have since learnt, after our return, that the P.R.I. is to pay for the minibus, and we all appreciate this assistance. The training, we must admit, was a bit of a bind. Saturday after Saturday, Sunday after Sunday, weeks went into months and the week-end trek became longer and longer. We did nearly 350 miles in training, but we were to realise its value at Nijmegen.

Came the day of departure. Kit was loaded into the minibus and we were away at last. We travelled by TOR lines from Immingham to Amsterdam, on a most luxurious boat—although the prices on board were very high indeed. Anyway, we roughed it for the night in our four-berth cabins on "A" deck and enjoyed our jar of beer listening to the dance orchestra . . . life is hard!

We eventually arrived at the tented camp in Nijmegen and were brought firmly down to earth. However, we were not too depressed, as we had Saturday, Sunday and Monday to see the sights and generally amuse ourselves. On the Monday night we all went to the opening ceremony, which is very impressive indeed. There were at least eight military bands and each country provided a detachment for the march past. This year the ceremony lasted for three hours.

Slowly at first

Came Tuesday, 04.00 hours, and we were 'on the road' for the first time. We then realised just how many people were marching. **Major Hunt** kept a very tight rein on our enthusiasm, so consequently there were some very sarcastic comments as team after team overtook us! Indeed, we all felt pretty depressed when we returned to camp. The following morning was a later start—05.30 hours! This time we noticed that fewer teams were passing us and several of the walkers had a peculiar limp! Once again we felt we could go faster, but again there was tight control. On return to camp we felt as fit as fiddles and, to date, *no blisters!* We were amazed at the numbers outside the M.R.S. Maybe there was something in this go-slow for the first three days. Came day number three. We all felt this day, although none of us had developed the Nijmegen limp! Indeed, it was on this day that we first overtook another team!

Fast at the end

Came day four and we were away. We really did go fast on this day and there were no sarcastic comments aimed in our direction—just a few tired smiles by those speed-merchants of day one and two!

The final march has to be seen to be believed. Those taking part are grouped behind a military band and for five kilometres one marches at attention between lines of literally thousands of spectators. It is a fitting climax to four days' slog.

It is difficult to express in words the 'Niimegen feeling.' On the face of it, to walk 25 miles per day for four days is not the most exciting occupation, but one can never recapture in words the feeling of comradeship and goodwill which is developed during these marches. Probably the most fitting words are the words of thirteen A/Ts who completed the Niimegen Marches for the first time this year—"Can we go again next year, sir?"

* * *

WIRE FRONT COVER PICTURE FOR SALE

Copies of the attractive coloured picture of the Association's Standards and Escorts marching past during the annual Catterick Reunion as featured on the front cover of the August/September Wire are now on sale at Association Headquarters price 7/6 post free.

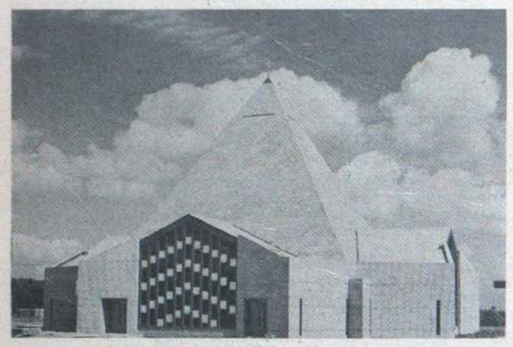
The picture is reproduced to the same size as on the original Wire outer cover mounted on a backing of art cardboard and ready for framing. It should be particularly attractive to Association members as a souvenir or gift.

* * *

KEY FOBS

Very attractive Corps key fobs are now available from the Royal Signals Association, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

These have a silver and gold figure of 'Jimmy' sunk into a circular black background, the whole encased in a transparent plastic surround and are particularly suitable for car keys. At 5/- each they are selling well and orders have already been received for over 1,300.



Exterior of the newly dedicated St. Alban's Church, Army Apprentice's College, Harrogate



Interior of St. Alban's Church

Dedication of New Church at Army Apprentices College, Harrogate

The Dedication Service for the new church took place on Sunday, 29th September. The Chaplain-General, the **Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens, O.B.E., M.C., Q.H.C.,** performed the ceremony. Taking part in the service was the College Chaplain, the **Reverend Curwen Rawlinson,** and with him were the Assistant Chaplain General, Northern Command, the **Reverend J. N. M. Davies** and the **Reverend P. Tansey,** the Roman Catholic O.C.F.

As well as the Commandant and Staff and the Apprentices present, there were many guests and friends of the College, including **Major-General** and **Mrs. D. G. T. Horsford, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, **Brigadier and Mrs. W. G. Tucker, Colonel** and **Mrs. B. Hayles,** and the **Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate.** Also present were representatives of all the firms who took part in the design and building of the Church—**Mr. A. Burton,** the architect, from Messrs. A. M. Gear and Associates, of London; **Mr. T. Marsden,** from the builders, Messrs. Higgs and Hill (Northern) Ltd.; **Mr. Dodge,** from the Rainham Timber Engineering Co. Ltd.; **Mr. H. R. Keedy,** the glass designer; and **Mr. Bannister,** the organ builder.

The Church is very modern in design, primarily for young soldiers, and suitable for new liturgical requirements. The congregation sit in a semi-circle round the altar. Choir and organ console are located together immediately behind the congregation, where they can support and sing with, rather than at, the congregation. For the roof, a laminated timber structure has been developed, which gives space and dignity.

Artificial lighting is provided by unobtrusive fittings, to give both direct light, and light reflected from and illuminating the roof.

The coloured glass adds beauty and finish to the whole building. Gifts came from all the Squadrons in the College, Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess, Junior Ranks' Club; generous contributions were made by the Corps fund and by the Royal Signals Association, as well as the Chaplain-General's Fund. The candlesticks for the altar were presented by the Royal Army Educational Corps, Eltham Palace.

The Service of Dedication included the hymns 'Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven,' 'We love the place, O God' and 'O Worship the King.' The choir sang the anthem 'Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones.' The Commandant, **Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D.,** read the Lesson and the Chief Instructor and the Senior Education Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Scott** and **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Foster** admitted the Chaplain-General at the door of the Church to perform the service.

Afterwards the Chaplain-General spoke to many Apprentices and Staff at the College.



LEAVING AFTER THE DEDICATION SERVICE

Left to right:—The Chaplain General, A/T Alan Cook, Colin Watts, Russell Fletcher, C.S.M. E. Linford and the Rev. Curwen Rawlinson

1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 32

SOME three months have elapsed since we appeared in these columns, so long in fact that memory has dimmed and only highlights remain. However, these latter will be of more interest than a full chronicle of our many activities.

British Week

This was the original concept. Picture the scene. Britannia drawn through the streets of Verden in her chariot by a pair of Landseer lions. Watneys bubbling from the town pumps while Scotch flowed in the fountains. Every German dressed in a red, white and blue waistcoat stained with fish and chips. Our soldiers feted like heroes.

For many reasons, some economic, this imaginative concept had to be brought down to earth where hard sense could dictate a policy. One that produced an exciting week-end programme to which both the British and German communities contributed.

On Friday a horse show and gymkhana followed in the evening by a production of 'The Hot Tiara' staged by the Verden Players in the town square. On Saturday a concert in the town square by the band of the D.E.R.R. and a fete at which the Regiment manned a great variety of sideshows. Here one of the most popular events was a terrifyingly realistic demonstration of unarmed combat, followed closely in interest by the British and German displays of military equipment.

On Sunday a joint Army/Bundeswehr service in the Dom (Cathedral) of Verden was followed by a concert given by the Heeresmusikkorps I of the Bundeswehr. In the afternoon a triangular athletics match between the Bundeswehr, T.S.V. Verden and 1st Division, which was won by the British team in the last race by a margin of three points. The intervals were enlivened by displays of trampolining, gymnastics and helicopter-batics. About the entire week-end the local press was fulsome in its praise.

Cadets galore

We were lucky that Wellington School and Haileybury had both elected to visit us for their summer training. Our Sapper and Gunner friends helped us to vary the programme from straight signalling but there is little doubt that one of the more popular items was the radio exercise across Niedersachsen to Celle and Hanover, where some Georgian history was brought to life. The cadets quickly integrated themselves into the life of the Regiment. We look forward to further visits from these enthusiastic contingents.

Masochism?

Hardly! No one has complained about his Adventure Training exercise and some were hard going. More about these expeditions, which ranged from 1,000 miles on bicycles to sailing around the night spots of Copenhagen, in a later issue.

Two men and a girl

Or the classic eternal triangle. You will not want to read of our exercise achievements; you have your own. We are too modest to write of our success but we would like to pay tribute to members of 2nd, 4th, 7th, 16th and 22nd Regiments and 204 Squadron who so willingly and effectively supported us. The co-operation was magnificent and all problems were 'ours' and never 'at the other end.'

"Petasus"

You could have read in an earlier issue of the extensive re-fit that she underwent last winter—if you did you may have spotted the bogus photograph in the September/October WIRE —and many have paid tribute to her current good looks.

She was chartered for 130 days this season and came through unscathed apart from her engine. It is surprising how ignorant sailors are about the need for oil in iron topsails!

During the coming winter she will be repainted and it is hoped that some of her long defunct navigating gear, especially the log and D.F. equipment, will be replaced.

Details of charters for the 1969 season will be published to units in B.A.O.R. in January next. Meanwhile the Officer i/c *Petasus*, 1 Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 32, will be pleased to answer queries.

EXERCISE "PARASHOT"

By Second-Lieutenant Chris Enright, of 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment

In September of this year the first B.A.O.R. parachuting and patrol competition was held on Sennelager Ranges. Twelve teams from all arms took part in the exercise.

A little hunting around camp soon uncovered the Regiment's ex-Paras though most were somewhat out of practice. **Second-Lieutenant Enright** (ex-2 Para) made his name by his map reading, though he still claims that one of the agents was at the wrong grid reference.

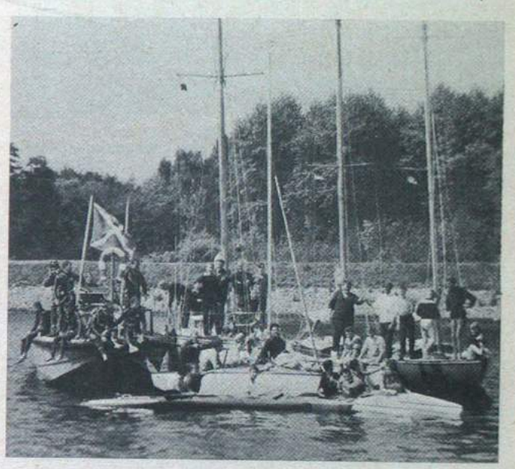
W.O.I (R.S.M.) Turner (ex-216 Para Squadron) left his pace-stick behind and set a magnificent example. The oldest entrant for the competition, he carried the radio all the way and took a lot of keeping up with.

Lance-Corporal Flockhart (ex-216 Para Squadron) had to come as reserve parachutist and driver during the competition. At one stage the teams were picked up by their Land Rovers and taken to another R.V. In order to ensure that the speed limit of 40 m.p.h. was obeyed, R.M.P. radar traps were set up. **Lance-Corporal Flockhart,** by keeping at 40 m.p.h. on corners and through woods, succeeded in passing the team in front. An excellent feat of driving.

Lance-Corporal Matthews, a Regimental P.T.I., the only sport parachutist in the team, had to jump static line, much to his disgust. (Free fallers have some rude terms for military parachutists). **Driver Crouch** (ex-63 Squadron, R.C.T.) said we could call him Signalman for THE WIRE. During the long wait for the aircraft, due to low cloud, he explained his sixteenth trip behind the marquee as "nerves."

The team came fourth overall in spite of some stiff competition from the Infantry units. Next year we will do better and hope to see more Royal Signals teams there with us.

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 22



ALL AT SEA?

3 Squadron, 2nd Division Signals have a real old nautical mix-up—"Petasus" in the centre

DURING the slight pause after our major exercise of the year and the onslaught of Christmas festivities, time for a few lines (which is all the Editor seems to allow these days) on a few of the highlights in the life of the 2nd Regiment during the past months. (*Write freely—the freeze is off.—Editor*).

After the star billing of 4th Regiment, in the last edition, I will only mention in passing our Squadron camps. This year, somewhat far-flung, with 1 Squadron on the Bodensee, 2 Squadron in Holland, and 3 Squadron at Kiel. It was so peaceful at R.H.Q.!

Squadrons and Detachments widespread

It is alleged that **Major John Russell,** Commodore of 3 Squadron, has gills and is sprouting fins, as he leads his Squadron either on or under the water. Our photograph shows the aquatic line up with *Petasus* in the centre. In fact, a very well balanced Squadron, with the Commodore afloat and his S.S.M., **W.O.II 'Geordie' Sanderson,** keeping an eye on the keel.

2 Squadron found themselves 'en fete' in Holland, and very much absorbed into the local scene. Everyone who claimed any prowess in any sport or activity found himself competing against local teams, and it is alleged that **Major Ken Ferguson,** O.C. 2, is trying to claim entertainment allowance to balance the books.

1 Squadron were rather unfortunate with their weather, but spent an enjoyable ten days on the water and in the hills. There is some doubt as to which activity was the dampest.

September saw somewhat smaller groups even more dispersed as the subalterns led their parties on various adventure

training projects they had devised earlier in the year. **Second-Lieutenant Dick Couchman** set out to find the old smugglers' routes between France and Andora, but, in fact, found how difficult it was to find any route across the mountains. We will try again next year!

In the search for Napoleon's route through the Alps, **Lieutenant Chris Needham** has yet to explain how he lost **Corporal Ratia** and half his party before he crossed the border. Perhaps Napoleon was not bothered by travel permits and customs posts?

We wonder how many blisters were raised during Exercise 'Blister Week,' a canoe trek down the Weser from its source, the Edersee.

For those not catered for on these and other projects, there was sailing and diving at Kiel, with a little local canoeing in the Werre.

Winners of B.A.O.R. Cricket for the third time

During September the cricket season drew to a close, and under the very able captaincy of **Captain Ray Stokes,** the H.Q. and Signal Regiment won the B.A.O.R. cricket championship for the second year in succession. There was really never any doubt as to the outcome throughout the competition, because **Ray Stokes** only put his boots on when we were fielding.

And some military activities

October saw the preparation for and the execution of Exercise 'Keystone,' our major FTX, with 6th and 12th Infantry Brigades and 4 CMBG with us opposing 20th Armoured Brigade as the enemy. With troops on the ground, the problems of finding and holding 'real estate' became very apparent. The Second-in-Command found himself detained on a seemingly bare hill top by 'A' Company of 1st K.O.S.B. for some time while trying to find a C50 relay.

'A' Company 1st D. & D. unwittingly provided us with a reinforcement when they left one of their sentries in an ambush position. **Private Tite** became a very useful member of Comhead Papa under the tutelage of **Lance-Corporal Butcher,** until reclaimed by his Battalion several days later.

The exercise involved moving the whole Division by Engineer bridges and ferries, assisted by the Wessex helicopters of 18 Squadron, R.A.F., and the Divisional Flight. The contour-hugging flying of the Flight produced one or two very white faces when they finally came to rest under the trees—very tactical flying. Those who travelled by Wessex may have had a less harrowing flight, but found themselves a little lost when they were landed some two miles from main Divisional H.Q. The hardier souls walked in.

Divisional H.Q. and two of the Brigades crossed the river on one night. The Adjutant, who by this time was devoting all his energy to moving Divisional H.Q., was left on the far bank as whipper-in. He did, in fact, succeed in getting everything across by the following morning, but considerable congestion at the approaches to the bridges caused some packets to be delayed. Several smug staff officers who had flown over, found themselves without their kit, and comfortable, dry billets were at a high premium that night.

And so back in Bunde the boxing team train hard; the Wives' Club fashion show draws close; the pantomime is being rehearsed . . .

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Bulford Camp

The Prime Minister borrowed our boat

IT'S not often that one can turn round and give this sort of excuse for being late on an exercise: "Sorry sir, but the Prime Minister had borrowed our boat, so we are three days' late," but this is just what happened at the start of Exercise "Swap," which was designed to try out the problems involved in an amphibious landing, and H.M.S. *Fearless* figured very prominently in it. It was due to start on 14th October and, of course, at this time she was just leaving Gibraltar, having been much in the news during the Prime Minister's meetings with the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia. When the explanation was told to the soldiers, one irreverent man from 1 Squadron made the apt comment "Come in No. 10, your time is up." He could not be identified in the ensuing confusion.

However, the exercise got under way on Thursday, 17th October, and 24th Brigade embarked on *Fearless* to make their landing on Northern Ireland—renamed for the exercise "Downia." 19th Brigade were already on the Isle of Man subduing the riotous islanders, and JFHQ had notionally flown to Colerne, an R.A.F. Station near Bath. Communications worked extremely well right from the start and stayed that way throughout the exercise, even during the period of the disembarkation of 24 Brigade from the ship and the setting up of Brigade H.Q. ashore.

The G.O.C. was not amused

The SAS were involved in the exercise in Northern Ireland, where 39th Brigade were the enemy. Someone in 39th Brigade with friends in the S.A.S. organised a retaliatory raid on JFHQ at Colerne. This was a bit off, as R.A.F. Colerne is a working R.A.F. Station, and we were strictly non-tactical guests there. Nonetheless, the peace was rudely disturbed one evening as the officers were dining when twelve face-blackened desperados swept into the mess and notionally killed all the officers except the G.O.C., the A.V.M. and the Naval Captain, who were to be taken away for interrogation. The G.O.C. was not amused, and the young man in charge of this party was told to go away (in short jerky movements) or words to that effect. This they did, but only to come back at about 02.00 hours to put in a spirited attack on the Comcen and TX site, which was slightly off-putting for the SAS, as we had all been warned and refused to play with them.

"E" and "B" Troops were the only ones to get to Ireland and the Isle of Man, and they have been telling us how terrible it is at the sharp end.

Sports and Farewells

All the usual sports are going on, but the only noteworthy report this time is that the soccer team beat 2nd Battalion R.R.F. in the preliminary round of the Army Cup. **Craftsman Greenwood,** the goalkeeper, came back from his honeymoon especially to play in this game.

We said goodbye and good luck to **Major Mike Jarrett,** who has gone to the School of Signals as a Planner, and to **R.Q.M.S. Sam Raynor,** who has also gone to the School as R.S.M. (He's probably got plans as well).

Taking note of the Editor's remarks about brevity, we shall now close.

(*The freeze is now off.—Editor*).

4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

A Change of Command

AFTER an almost unparalleled succession of valedictions and valedictory occasions, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson,** left the Regiment on 30th October, on completion of a two-year tour. In final triumph, he was towed from R.H.Q. in an elegantly-appointed drum barrow, WD, No. 2, by two files of junior officers and soldiers between the cheering ranks of the Regiment who were assembled to pay final compliments. A quarter guard, commanded by the Provost Sergeant, **Sergeant Colin Harvey,** went smartly through their paces, presenting on this occasion a final product for the former C.O., rather than just the final rehearsal which he was wont to attend prior to the arrival of some august visitor. The whole cheerful ceremony was climaxed when, on the point of his departure through the gates, the Provost Sergeant stopped the staff car, made a careful search and triumphantly emerged from the boot having recovered the Regimental statue of 'Jimmy,' normally kept in the guard-room showcase.

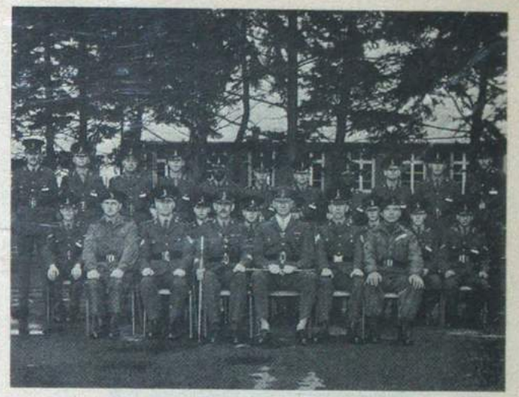
Lieutenant-Colonel and **Mrs. Jackson** take with them to 12th Signal Group (T. & A.V.R.) the very best wishes of all ranks of the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Stonham, the new Commanding



BOISTEROUS DEPARTURE

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson, outgoing C.O., is towed away on a drum barrow by a team of junior officers and soldiers between the cheering ranks of the Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Stonham, new C.O., looks on



SUCCESSFUL M.P.T. COURSE

Rear:—Lance-Corporal P. Sandys, Lance-Corporal E. Walker, Lance-Corporal W. D. Newman, Lance-Corporal M. Barnett, Signalman S. D. Bruce, Signalman D. Taylor, Lance-Corporal G. E. Wilkinson, Signalman J. Buckberry, Signalman K. W. McAllister, Signalman C. D. Brereton, Signalman A. Palmer

Centre:—Lance-Corporal E. T. McKie, Lance-Corporal R. Burnett, Craftsman M. Stone, Signalman G. G. Thorne (Obscured), Signalman D. G. Hughes, Lance-Corporal Ealiu (Obscured), Signalman B. Poulson, Signalman D. J. Hipkin, Signalman M. Tasker, Lance-Corporal D. L. Hair

Front:—Corporal P. S. Foster, Corporal E. Churchward, W.O.I (RSM) A. R. Hill, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson, Sergeant H. J. A. Homewood, Corporal C. R. Hill

Officer, arrived to start his take-over right in the middle of Exercise 'Golden Rod' and found the Regiment acting as hosts to well over 300 visitors, including 150 officers, as well as providing control headquarters administration facilities and communications.

A more opportune time to meet all the Regimental and Divisional personalities going about their business could hardly have been contrived, even though the kaleidoscope of impressions must really have left the C.O. quite dazed.

Apart from this one transcending event—the change of command—Regimental life has continued to be as full and as interesting as ever. Even while preparing for 'Golden Rod,' individual training was not overlooked, and a Military Proficiency Course was held. **Lance-Corporal E. T. McKie,** one of the students, found it sufficiently impressive to write an account:

MPT Course

Twenty-one students formed up in the Training Wing on 23rd September, to begin the first MPT Course in the winter training programme. The senior instructor for the course, **Sergeant H. J. Homewood,** after introducing himself, showed us the location of the barber's shop and the drill square (as if we didn't know!) and as soon as the hair had been reduced to a suitable length, we marched on to the square. **Corporal Ernie Churchward,** who is leaving us soon to start a career in civilian life, drilled us (his last squad) with his natural drive and energy, hammering his 'three Ps' at us from the moment we stepped on the square. However, the hard graft was occasionally relieved by smoke-breaks and humorous incidents.

The curriculum over the three weeks included weapon-training, NBC, military law, first aid, admin., field engineering and instruction on many other military duties. **Corporals P. S. Forster** and **C. R. Hill** trained us on skill with weapons and included many useful details on working parts, pointing out interesting facts and figures throughout instruction. **Corporal 'Mick' Robertson** taught the course the basics of NBC ("gas! gas! gas!") and succeeded in arranging a trip to the gas chamber. No one suffered greatly from the ordeal and **Corporal Robertson** is as popular as ever. Humour always has a part in an MPT Course. The students and their instructors will remember for months to come the first time **Lance-Corporal Sam Newman** (complete with beard) drilled the squad; the attempt at practical mouth-to-mouth resuscitation; the lecturette and demonstration on ballet by **Craftsman 'Mick' Stone** (a spy from R.E.M.E.), and a person (who shall remain anonymous) who quite inadvertently inferred that **R.S.M. A. R. Hill** was drunk. Towards the end of the course the NATO exercise, 'Golden Rod,' started. For the first two days of the exercise, which was located in the unit lines, confusion arose because the Regiment switched to Zulu time and left the course stranded on local time. In addition, the square was littered with communications vehicles, but the instructors carried on admirably and the students lost nothing in instruction.

In the final week all the tests were taken. The big day was Friday, 18th October, when we paraded under the best student, **Lance-Corporal G. E. Wilkinson,** for the pass-off parade. **Major B. C. Hodgson,** the Training Major, took the parade and showed personal interest in each man during the inspection. There were many distinguished spectators watching the parade, including staff officers on the exercise, the G.O.C., 4th Division, **Major-General V. F. Erskine Crum, C.I.E., M.C.,** and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson.** The course was congratulated on the good impression that had been created. The course disbanded and 21 satisfied students went off to pack their kit and await the results of their labour.

(*Late Note.—They all passed*).

Ski-ing

Training has started in earnest by the skiers with a view to improving on last year's high standards. **Major John Moore, R.A., Captain J. H. Lowe, R.Q.M.S. Marshall** and **Signalman Lee,** who were the members of the successful team, are still here and are bringing along the new recruits who may well displace them in the team. Every night at 18.00 hours twenty aspirants meet at the artificial ski-slope where they perspire and grimace in wracked agony as **Major Moore** coaxes impossible responses from their flabby muscles and sinews before they are allowed to put on skis and sweep down the slope. The reward for all this effort is selection for the team and a month's gruelling training in snow at Biberweir in the delightful Lermoos-Ehrwald valley of Southern Germany.

Hockey

Since the last report our somewhat mediocre performance has improved. In the last three matches, before we had an enforced rest due to Exercise "Golden Rod," we have registered three wins.

Our overall performance for the season now reads: Played 23, won 13, lost 8, drawn 2, goals for 53, against 31.

(*Continued on page* 475)



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(*Continued from page 473*)

The first team is shaping well and has proved to be very sound in defence. **Major Mike Hartnett** and **Captain Gordon Hale,** the full-backs, have a good understanding and are covering well. **Major Henry Pritchard** at centre-half covers plenty of ground and is proving a useful pivot.

We need to improve in goal-scoring ability particularly as our two liveliest forwards (**Major Moore** and **Captain Lowe**) are skiers. **Corporals Spencer** and **Bromidge** are developing the forward line and **Sergeant Le Carpentier** is still active on the right-wing.

So far we have played a lot of games but have neglected serious training. This must be our next step if we have any Cup hopes, and we have!

Golf

On Thursday, 3rd October, 1968, six keen golfers from the Regiment assembled at R.A.F. Bruggen Golf Club to take part in the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Autumn Golf Meeting.

We had our share of success. **Captain A. J. Field** won the prize for the best first round of the 36-hole Medal Competition.

Captain R. Garside, R.C.T. (O.C. M.T. Troop) won the Stableford Competition with 36 points. He must be the straightest driver in his Troop. The C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson,** won the 36-hole Medal Competition with a net 145—a mixture of a lot of good strokes and a few Brigadier's shots thrown in. Well, it could hardly be otherwise! **Major B. C. Hodgson** came second in the 36-hole Medal. We look forward to great things from him in his first full season with the Regiment.

The Autumn Meeting brings the season to an end for most of us (the C.O. won the Monthly Medal at Sennelager Golf Club on the Sunday after Bruggen—at the expense of one shot off his handicap!).

Looking back on the year as a whole it is encouraging to note the number of golfers of all ranks who have been produced by the Regiment. We have taken part in the Spring and Autumn Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Meetings and the Spring and Autumn 4th Division Meetings (the 4th Division meetings were played at the delightful Hanover course, which is well worth a visit by anyone coming to B.A.O.R.). We reached the second round of the B.A.O.R. Inter Unit Competition and **Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson** and **Staff Sergeant Kirk** found time to play in the B.A.O.R. Autumn Meeting, both winning their way into the prizes.

Titbit from the Sergeants' Mess

There is no truth in the rumour that **Lieutenant R. G. Aitken** has taken the Divisional Public Relations photographer with him to Berlin. **Sergeant Dick Hope** is still with us and the proud possessor of 273 well-known photographs!

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

Some Buck-Passing

October is traditionally the month of the big exercise. This October was no exception. In fact the Regiment managed to become involved in three major exercises. This, of course, does not help the author of WIRE notes, because at the slightest mention of "how about a few notes for . . . ?" immediately a great barrier of excuses is put up, ranging from: "I'm afraid we couldn't possibly produce anything, security you know," to "I'm afraid we're still far to busy trying to find the auto exchange we lost in the wood up near Hannover."

Anyway, emerging from the bottom of one of the longest lines of buck-passing and rank-pulling ever seen, there eventually came an article by **Signalman Tipton** of 3 Squadron:

Background to an Exercise

It was unheard of. No moves, no 'camming-up,' little metal roads laid for us, cables all tied neatly together. We were providing communications for umpires on Exercise 'Eternal Triangle' in conjunction with 1st Division. We proceeded to the exercise location several days before the main staff party joined us, and, as we had established communications with our usual speed and efficiency, there was plenty of spare time over the weekend and during the evenings.

Slightly glazed eyes

Very quickly various rumours as to possible entertainment started to buzz on the grapevine. The favourite one was that the German guesthouses were going to be open to the troops and not just made sacred ground for the Officers' Mess. When the official sanction did come through, it was amusing to note that the young subaltern carrying the message couldn't find anyone in the living area. Even stranger was that when he went for a quiet drink, he found every guesthouse packed full with soldiers wearing orange or green cravats and gazing happily, with slightly glazed eyes at a vast group of frauleins who had mysteriously appeared in such a small village.

The inn keeper was quite obviously delighted to receive this unexpected boom in beer sales, and as the evening wore on, became more and more insistant that everyone should sing. It was pointed out to him that the officer might not like this and could possibly ask us to leave. Our host was quite aghast at this and replied that if we were thrown out he would throw out the 'big general' who was scheduled to arrive at a later date and live in his guesthouse. This statement immediately made him a great favourite, and his guesthouse became our 'local' for the rest of the exercise.

A 'Disco' Discovered

Two of the local national servicemen very unwisely gave a small group of us the location of a discotheque within walking distance of our living area. The fact that we had been pressing a lot of beer on to the two unfortunates possibly contributed to their rash confidence in us. There was a minor stampede for the door as six soldiers headed post haste for the 'disco.'

For the rest of the exercise its location must have been one of the best-kept secrets of the century, even at the end it was only known to ten people! Funnily enough, since the end of the exercise, just ten soldiers are known to have been back to that small village, which is only now recovering from the shock of its ten days' occupation by a foreign power.

Exercise 'Golden Rod' followed 'Eternal Triangle,' but unfortunately this was an exercise of, to us, a more serious nature, where we were directly concerned in the thick of the battle. Although we were very close to the area of 'Eternal Triangle,' no one was able to get time off to visit 'the local' or 'the disco.' I suppose it will be many months before we will see another 'Eternal Triangle.'

Rugby—all set for a big success—we hope

Despite exercises, we have managed a pretty full programme and achieved a good record in the two months of the current season.

First XV: Played 13, won 13, points for 455, points against 42.

'A' XV: Played 11, won 6, lost 5, points for 213, points against 59.

The record looks good, and even more to the credit of the 'A' side is that they are often pitted against Regimental first teams. One of our difficulties at present is to get fixtures strong enough really to test our own obviously strong side.

We are now entering the cup rounds and hope we shall better last year's effort when, for the second consecutive season, we were defeated in the B.A.O.R. final.

We have a more balanced side this season, having backs with real penetration, something we lacked last season.

Our old rivals, the R.A.F. at Gutersloh, have always respected us for our ability, but now regard us with awe, after having met us on 'one of those days.' We ran in 80 points for no reply.

Cross-country

The advent of cold, dark evenings and indescribable weather conditions heralds the start of the cross-country season. Already a few stalwarts can be almost seen through the gloom as they pound round the Bismark in preparation for the Regimental cross-country in the second half of November. There is the nucleus of last year's team, but the loss of **Staff Sergeant Hall** and **Corporal Holden** will produce selection problems for this year's assault on the Army Cup.

The fresh blood which, together with **Corporal MacMillan, Lance-Corporal Sanders** and **Signalman Blyth** who, on known form, will bear the brunt of the front running, will make up a sound team. Matches will be arranged throughout the winter with the aim of bringing the team to 'the boil' for the Divisional, B.A.O.R. and Army Championships early next year.

Basketball

During the summer a basketball court was marked out on the R.S.M.'s hallowed square. This was not designed to encourage a breach of standing orders by allowing men to venture on to the square in various stages of undress, but to air what basketball talent, if any, the Regiment possessed. An inter-Troop competition was organised, in which 'Echo' Troop emerged eventual winners after a thrilling final with 'Kilo' Troop, which could have gone either way. The gladiators from this competition now form the nucleus of the Regimental side, which undergoes vigorous training sessions under **C.S.M.I. Hierlehy** in preparation for this year's competitions, **W.O.II Phil Noble,** who claims to have lost stones—or is it pounds—during training, and **W.O.II 'Dutch' Holland** provide a backbone of experience in a fast and enthusiastic team.

Sub-Aqua

The club is still diving most weekends, but only the hardened few are enjoying it—or perhaps we should say pretending to. The club had its winter programme meeting and it was agreed to continue diving until weather or ice stopped us. The Diving Officer, **W.O.II Phil Noble,** suggested that the club should do an ice dive during January, and it is known that the leave chart for January went up immediately. The club now has seven second-class divers and nine third class, with some new promising arrivals.

We had the welcome addition of **Captain Ed. Mulley,** who is taking the club over early next year; also, from Cyprus, **Corporal Joe Bonser** and **Lance-Corporal Bill Hardie.**

Stamp Club

Our Stamp Club is now in its six month and is proving most successful. Meetings are held fortnightly and are now 'open house' for the Herford Garrison. Our latest adventure has been the printing of an illustrated first day cover for this year's Christmas stamps. We believe that this is the first time a stamp club in the Corps has issued a first day cover. Another successful venture has been our approval service. This service we can offer to other philatelists in the Corps. For details write to The Secretary, 7th Signal Regiment Stamp Club, B.F.P.O. 15.

10th Signal Regiment Hounslow

Sound in heart and wind

THERE is one bonus about Army life which has never received due recognition and the attention which it merits.

This hidden asset of soldiering is, in brief, the 'belly laugh factor,' and it derives from the uncanny way in which the plain progression of Regimental events can suddenly throw up out of the blue a situation of such comic and cosmic proportions that the only alternative to the relief of tears is that sort of laughter which bubbles up irrepressibly from way down inside.

Regimental soldiering is the only trade or profession which provides 'belly-laugh material.' This is no doubt the reason why civilians, whenever they gather together, very soon find themselves reminiscing about the last war and their Army days. Nothing else in their lives, before or since, ever made such an impact. Our Unit Camp at Shorncliffe last month provided a perfect case in point, coinciding as it did with the onset of the floods and presenting us unexpectedly with 100 R.A.F. 'lodgers' for flood relief duties in our denuded unit lines.

Camp

Highlights of the 'camp crop' of anecdotes included:

Captain B. C. Carpenter, the Adjutant, doing his PE Test and its 10-mile route march with a bottle of Sloane's Liniment in his pocket. Inevitably, the cork came out and followed the laws of gravity, with the result that he emerged from the ordeal with one stiff leg and one embrocated leg in fighting order . . .

The W.R.A.C. P.T. squad, at 07.00 hours, on the first day of camp, rounding a corner at the double, in scant P.T. kit, found themselves passing between the admiring front rank and the supervisories of a Company of the Anglians on parade under an irritable and leather-faced R.S.M. . . .

Y. of S. Wood, on the classification ranges, disappearing entirely from view in the fire trench and only emerging in time to miss the first exposure because of his short stature . . .

F. of S. Callow motoring to camp through the flood waters and slowly becoming engulfed in a particularly large lake until the waters had risen inside his car to above waist level . . .

S.S.M. Prescott acting as a marker at a trig point on the night patrolling exercise and being caught off his guard during a stolen 40 seconds nap by the wet tongue of a love-lorn cow . . .

Finally, there was the Lance-Corporal sitting in a dream beside his W.R.A.C. fiancée during **Sergeant Leggott's** lecture on nuclear effects by explosion or, alternatively by implosion. Raising his hand he asked: "What method do you recommend?" . . .

Who is Sylvia ?

Corporal Sylvia Mitchell, W.R.A.C., of 3 Squadron, became the Army Women's 400 yards champion runner in July, and she has recently not only gained the Army Women's Championship for the high dive and the springboard, but also defeated girls from the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F. to become Inter-Services Champion in these two events. Well done!

Opening of Parliament

Communication Troop of 1 Squadron provided the radio communications for the 41-gun salute fired by the King's Troop R.H.A. from Hyde Park on the occasion of the State Opening of Parliament by H.M. The Queen. Communications were provided between the House of Lords, Horse Guards and Hyde Park to ensure that the first gun could coincide with the moment Her Majesty alighted from the Irish State Coach.

Officer-in-Charge Records visits

Colonel Grigg addressed all officers and seniors on his visit and gave us valuable background on the new reporting system and the sterling work of the divisions and wings which make up the Record Office. Later in the Unit BRUNO canteen over a beer, we heard some priceless past examples of AF B2066 testimonials including:

"If he took a little more care with his turnout, he could be termed 'scruffy!'"

Mannequin parade

There was a turnout of 200 wives for the Wives' Club fashion show earlier this week. **Lieutenant-Colonel Hibberd** compered the show with an ease and aplomb which argued high levels of past practice in the boudoirs of power. **Mrs. McQuade** and **Mrs. Falla** and the other mannequins, drawn from the Wives' Club, displayed their gowns and their charms with distinction.

Teenagers' Mini-Bruno Club

We have over 60 teenagers in this thriving unit teenagers' club, which meets under **Y. of S. Longstaff** twice a week and consumes vast quantities of pop and pop music and also gets down to the .22 range to pop-off.

Turn and turn about

We have said goodbye to **Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Donaghy.** We trust that it is not a permanent goodbye and that the Corps will continue to have his sterling services and his sterling company in a retired officer post. **Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) Eric Thompson** heard of his promotion a week ago. Our special congratulations to him. This will provide added fuel to his task of re-writing the SWS regulations.

Our congratulations, also, to **R.Q.M.S. Mann** and **Y. of S. Longstaff** for the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, presented to them by the Commanding Officer as a fitting conclusion to the unit camp.

Finally, our farewells go to **S.S.M. Grainger,** that other 'Naval Personage' who came to the Corps from the R.N., and acquired by virtue of that fact, that extra dash of colour which earned him our special regard under the nickname of 'The Duke.' **Staff Sergeant Davies** also dons his mufti permanently. Our best wishes for all success in their civilian life.

11th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

PASS-OFF PARADES

4th October



Best Recruit No. 5 Troop — Signalman Vince

ON 4th October, **Group Captain D. A. Pocock, O.B.E., A.D.C.,** Officer Commanding R.A.F., Catterick, took the pass-off parade of No. 5 Troop.

Signalman Vince gained the distinction of being the best recruit of the 17 on parade. Before joining the Army, he worked for the G.P.O. in the Overseas Telegram Department. He is a keen swimmer and footballer and enjoys building radios in his spare time. We wish **Signalman Vince** good luck in the future. He is now at 24th Regiment, where he is training as a COMCEN Operator.

18th October

Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O., Northern Command, was the inspecting officer at the pass-off parade of recruits of No. 3 Troop on 18th October. After the parade, **Colonel Hayles** planted a tree in the grounds of the Regiment and then went to the J.R.C. to present the individual and team prizes.

The best recruit on this occasion was **Signalman Trust,** who hails from Liverpool. He was assistant head boy at his school and played football for Bootle boys. **Signalman Trust** is now at 24th Regiment, where he is training as a Comcen Operator.

1st November

Due to the rain, the pass-off parade of No. 2 Troop had to be held indoors. Strange as it may seem, this was only the second time in a year that the weather had forced us to have a parade inside.

However, this did not deter the thirty recruits from giving of their best. The inspecting officer, **Major-General D. G. T. Horsford, C.B.E., D.S.O.,** G.O.C., Yorkshire District, inspected the Troop and then returned to R.H.Q., where he presented prizes to seven Gurkhas attached to 8th Regiment, who had successfully completed their upgrading courses.

Signalman McConnon, who received the prize of best recruit from the General, comes from County Down, is a keen athlete and holds the Northern Ireland intermediate high jump record (he has 26 medals and cups for athletics). He now goes forward to 24th Regiment for training as a telegraph operator.

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess Autumn Ball

On 5th October, the officers were guests of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at their autumn ball. It proved to be a most enjoyable evening, with a first class menu, and the Corps dance band once again providing music, par excellence.

Visit of Army Recruiters

With the present recruiting problems, it was indeed a pleasure to receive **Major Aspden** and his team of six recruiters from Blackburn. After a briefing by the Commanding Officer on the Regimental approach to recruit training, the visitors took part in a discussion with recruits who were at various stages of training. Both sides reaped mutual benefit from the hour-long discussion. The recruiters then toured the Regiment and saw reception arrangements, the accomodation and recruits in training. There can be no doubt that visits such as this provide for a much better understanding between the ACIOs and the Training Regiments. The Regiment will, indeed, welcome any future visits by teams of recruiters—given reasonable notice.—(Special Recruiters, R.S.V.P.).



Major-General D. G. T. Horsford, C.B.E., D.S.O. presents the best recruit prize to Signalman McConnan

Visit of Master of Signals

The Regiment was pleased to welcome the Master of Signals, **Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.,** on 15th-16th October. On the 15th the Master inspected a Brigade guard of honour, which was made up of soldiers from this Regiment, and in the evening the Regiment took part in Freedom of Richmond parade. The following day the Master toured the Regiment and saw all aspects of training.

Arrivals

Captain Radford, from Singapore; **Lieutenant Simmons,** from 229 Squadron; **Major J. Walsh,** from 4th Regiment; **Staff Sergeant Melody,** our new chef; **Corporal Dool,** from 10th Regiment; **Corporal George,** who has gone to I Wing; **Staff Sergeant Mathieson,** from R.M.A.S.; **Staff Sergeant McMahon,** from 12th Infantry Brigade; **Signalman Martin,** from 22nd Regiment; **Corporal Pinn,** our new armourer; **Corporal Hourigan,** from 22nd Regiment.

Departures

Corporal Doidge, who has gone to the Outer Hebrides; **Major Flemming** to Singapore; **Signalman Conolly,** who has left us for civilian life.

Congratulations

We congratulate **Lieutenant Reed** on being awarded his Corps Colours for shooting.

14th Signal Regiment, Gloucester

OCTOBER, 1968, will long be remembered as the 'month of the rumour.' Any rumour you care to think of. We are/are not being rebuilt. We are/are not moving. In the last week, when someone in R.H.Q. mentioned that it would all come out in the wash, the barber's shop buzz had it ten minutes later that we were moving to Skegness. That is one that is confirmed rubbish. The other is that Robinswood Barracks is to be dismantled and sold, brick-by-brick, to America to be used as a 'fun city.'

Worcester County Youth Regatta

On Sunday, 13th October, the Squadron were responsible for organising the Worcester County Youth Regatta. The mainstay of the organising team was the one and only **W.O.I Stan Barrett,** who has managed to co-opt and work our S.S.M., **Steve Bloom,** our Cook Sergeant, **Bill Booth,** and various other helpers, cooks, barmen and fatigue men.

The weather, although fine, was somewhat windy, and the rescue launch, commanded (commandeered!) by **Captain Bob Middleton,** was in almost continuous use.

A great day was had by all (sorry about that, I read it somewhere!) and at the end of the day prizes were presented by the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Williams.** It should perhaps be added that he, assisted by the Squadron Commander, ran the bridge for the day.

Summer camp

Regimental Summer (?) Camp took place during September/October this year, and again the venue was Monmouth. 2 Squadron was well represented, and notably, we won at volley ball, six-a-side soccer and tug-of-war. Whilst the weather was not on our side, it is still true to say that we all enjoyed ourselves, and it wasn't the fault of the cooks that we found we had lost the odd inch or so from our waist lines. P.E. tests found one or two of us shift people slightly (!) out of condition, but we all have a sneaking suspicion that our new O.C. intends to rectify this before very long.

Hail and Farewell

Recently we said farewell to **Major McDevitt** and welcomed **Major Charles Galbraith** to the unit from Malta—where his views were well-known by various ex-members of that community who now reside here. Perhaps this is why the technicials are now wielding their screwdrivers, etc., in 'smart and soldierlike manner,' and soon the good people of Droitwich will rejoice in the sight of Squadron personnel emerging from the various hiding places as they indulge in P.E. tests (a thing to be mentioned in likewise manner to B.O.).

N for the road

"Take a letter, Miss Smith. Notebook? Pencil? Postcodes?" Postcodes have hit us, and are being received with the same degree of fervour that a few months' experience of the DIG system engendered. So please, if you have cause to write to Robinswood Barracks, Reservoir Road, Gloucester, do add the postcode GL4 9RP. Not GL4 9RR, which is numbers 2 and 4, or GL4 9SB, which is the Vicarage. We spell it out to save you time. Our local postcode book is 457 pages long, and we are listed not under Reservoir Road (page 32), which would seem logical, but in a peculiar G.P.O. Awkward Squad on page 421.

Stop press

The worst kept secret for some time was finally allowed to escape after the above was written. Elements of the unit are to move to Norton Barracks, Worcester, and will have done so at the time these notes appear in print. Final confirmation was obvious when the decorators moved into the C.O.'s present office!

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 43

Brief survey

THIS month saw the conclusion of our third summer camp on the Mosel and the start of both a Lineman upgrading and a M.P.T. course. Exercise "Fallex" provided the airfield troops with their busiest exercise for years and the Laarbruch Players helped to ease the tension with a most entertaining comedy.

Summer camp

For the third year in succession we established a summer camp on the high ground above the lovely town of Cochem on the Mosel river.

Nearly 300 members of the Regiment carried out a week's training which culminated in an approach up river in assault craft followed by a cordon and search operation.

The weather throughout was foul and the rain did its best to wash the whole camp down into the Mosel! However, two factors played an important part in maintaining morale and keeping our spirits high. The first was, as always, the hospitality and friendliness of the local population and the second the high standard of field cooking achieved by **Sergeant Waugh** and his A.C.C. cooks under trying conditions.

This year we had the pleasure of visits from the Commander Rhine Area, **Brigadier J. B. A. Glennie, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C.,** the Chief Air Formation Signals Officer, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** and the Station Commander R.A.F. Laarbruch, **Group Captain K. Stevens, M.A.,** who came to camp especially to say goodbye on his departure.

On the closure of the camp the officers of the Regiment invited many of the local dignitaries, headed by the Mayor of Cochem, **Herr Massoth,** to a farewell luncheon, and took this opportunity to show their appreciation for all the help and kindness offered to all ranks of the Regiment by the town of Cochem.

The same evening all the members present were invited to partake in the 'Wein fest'—a very fitting finale to another successful camp.



ONE OF THE PLEASURES OF SERVING IN GERMANY
Lance-Corporal Wade samples the Mosel wine provided by the Kellermeister helped by the steadying hand of the local Wine Queen at the Cochem "wine fest"



ANGLO-GERMAN GET TOGETHER
21st Regiment entertain leading local personalities of Cochem to mark their appreciation for hospitality received by the Regiment from the town. On left, Major Hughes cracks a joke with Herr Heinrich Knochel (local farm owner whose land is used by the Regiment) and on the right Herr Massoth, Mayor of Cochem, chats with Lieutenant-Colonel Butler

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

EXERCISE "Nomad" having been successfully completed, we have now settled back into Catterick life and more domestic pursuits.

Inter-Squadron Orienteering Competition

On 9th October, the Regiment held its Inter-Squadron Orienteering Competition. The course was over the Catterick Training Area, and was a line competition over a distance of five and-a-half miles. 1 Squadron won the competition by having the first four runners home — **Second-Lieutenant Spiers, Sergeants Bowman** and **Tuppenney** doing particularly well. The competition found us the basis for a team to enter the Brigade Competition next month, and also revealed certain map-reading deficiences in some members of the Regiment!

Freedom of Richmond Parade

On the evening of the 15th, the Regiment, in conjunction with the rest of the Brigade exercised its right to enter Richmond with 'Bayonets Fixed and Band playing.' Despite the bad weather, a very impressive beating of the Retreat ceremony was held in the Castle grounds. The evening's entertainment was completed by a cocktail party for all ranks in the town hall at Richmond.

Visit of Master of Signals to the Regiment

On 16th October, the Regiment was paid a visit by the Master of Signals, **Maior-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.** During his tour he saw all aspects of the Regiment's work.

Scoutmaster Warrant and Leadership Award

Signalman H. W. Sullivan, at present on Comcen Op 74 Course in 3 Squadron, within the Regiment was, on 18th October, in London, presented with the 'Scoutmaster Warrant and Leadership Award'; he is already a holder of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, and is to be congratulated on this latest achievement.

Arrivals and Departures

We have this month said goodbye to **Major Leslie Prescot,** the former O.C. of 2 Squadron, and welcome in his place **Major Mike Senior** from 21st Regiment. Since last mentioning arrivals and departures, we have welcomed **Captain John Dornan,** R.A.M.C., and **Lieutenant Charles Kemp** from the Far East, and **Second-Lieutenant Richard Wilson,** from Germany, to the Regiment. Departures include **Major Bill Hetreed,** R.A.M.C., to SHAPE; **Captain John Tonnison,** to 55 Volunteer Signal Squadron; and **Captain Ray Allison,** on transfer to the R.A.O.C. We wish the latter success, health and happiness in their new appointments.



Commanding Officer presenting 2nd Prize in the Regimental Orienteering Competition to Sergeant Bowman

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30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

International Scout "Jamboree-on-the-Air"

THE Headquarter Station of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society opened its doors to the South West District of the Scout Movement for the annual International "Jamboree-on-the-Air" over the weekend 19th/20th October. The idea of the jamboree is to get Scouts from all over the world together through the medium of amateur radio.

Some twenty Scouts came along and spent forty-eight hours at G4RS. There were two complete amateur stations operating round the clock, G4RS and G3BHK/A, together with four short-wave receivers for general listening and the Marconi D11 station taking suitable FSK signals. The latter proved very entertaining. Contact was made with many jamboree stations including one memorable forty-minute Q.S.O. with Christchurch in New Zealand on 14 KHz. Scouts in twenty-three different countries were spoken to and ideas and suggestions exchanged and discussed. All contacts were made by voice in order to allow the visitors maximum participation although they were not allowed to speak themselves over the air due to the G.P.O. licensing regulations. The party were greatly impressed by the equipment they saw and handled and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Luckily they were excellent listeners!

For the record, the two stations were using an SB 101 and a KW 2000 A with dipoles and a three element beam and the operators were G3DPS, G3EKL, G31BB, G3UPT and G3VYZ. All in all a hectic weekend but well worth the effort and we hope to play host again next year providing the H.Q. Station still has a roof. **Captain (Q.M.) Ray Webb,** who arranged the Jamboree, is Secretary/Treasurer of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society.

"Swiftsure"

The Mobile Recruiting Display "Swiftsure" has recently completed a most successful six months' tour of duty. Originally planned to tour only within Southern Command, it has in fact appeared at many shows in the North and Midlands, and seems to be more in demand each year. Perhaps the Corps Display "Quicksilver" should look to its laurels! Refurbishing will now take place during the winter months in readiness for the next recruiting season commencing in March.

Rugby Football

The season is progressing most satisfactorily with our team through to the 3rd round of the Army Cup, having beaten 40 Light Regiment R.A. and the R.A.P.C. Training Centre on the way.

In the game against 40 Light Regiment there was a spate of injuries. At one time we had three of our team on the touch line, one with an unmentionable, though fortunately not serious incision. Another 'clot' (the remainder of the teams description) knocked himself out on the touch judges knee. In spite of this, our backs eventually got the upper hand and we were easy winners—21 points to 6.

R.A.P.C. Training Centre, Worthy Down, gave us an enjoyable, extremely hard-fought game of the typical cup variety. This was the first time they had been beaten in any game this season and our youthful team can be proud of this achievement particularly as they were up against a much taller and heavier experienced pack. In the end youth would not be denied and we came away close margin victors three points to nil. With most of the exercises over we can now start the serious business of getting a 2nd XV under way to keep all our players active.

Association Football

It is still fairly early days yet in the season but we are through the 1st round of the Army Knock-out Competition having beaten the Life Guards 1—0 at Windsor on Wednesday, 6th November. We have entered the Marriott Cup again this year and as we are currently the cup holders for 1967/68 we are particularly keen to do well again. The Regiment sent seven Corps trialists to Catterick in September and apart from **Signalman Whitton** (goalkeeper), who is now posted to 8th Regiment, the others remain, namely **Lance-Corporals Powell** and **Ryan, Signalmen Anhoury, Smith 204, Power** and **Corporal Nixon.** We are, of course, in the South West Services Football Cup which is well under way.

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FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS
Reports from the Outposts

Radio Relay Trials with H.M.S. 'Fearless'



Not so much a faraway place . . . but certainly an unusual job

Evaluating Ship-to-Shore Radio Relay

From Corporal B. J. Davis 24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.

IT all started when fellow Radio Relay Detachment members **Signalmen Jepson, Tom Riseley, 'Scouse' Phipps** and myself, **Corporal Davis,** were sent to Portland Bill for radio relay trials with the Assault Ship H.M.S. *Fearless*. The purpose of these trials was to evaluate ship-to-shore radio relay such as might be used in support of an amphibious landing. The facilities provided would be three speech and one teleprinter channel.

We arrived at Portland by road on 12th September, whereupon **Signalman Phipps** and myself boarded *Fearless*, and, with the help of a dockside crane, loaded our complete C41 station and spares on to the flag deck. This was to be our working home throughout the trials.

Meanwhile, the other detachment, **Signalmen Jepson** and **Riseley** proceeded up to the top of the hill and set up alongside the Verne Radar Station, along with our Troop Sergeant, **'Scoop' Elliott** and **Corporal 'Jock' Fraser,** who operated and looked after the exchange and line equipment. We then proceeded to establish ship-to-shore communications.

During the next four days, although problems occurred such as aerial positioning and alignment, plus a host of minor technical problems, we managed to work to the ship up to a distance of over 40 miles. The ship then had telephone facilities for country-wide calls. Several calls were made to Whitehall and some calls went as far as Edinburgh, a useful facility for lonely sailors.

These trials were also part of the work-up for Exercise Swap.' The first part of the work-up at Portland was called Exercise 'Cannock Chase'; the remainder of the Squadron joined us for a full CPX later that week and communications, ship-to-shore, went well. At the end of 'Cannock Chase,' the shore detachment returned to the home base, Plymouth, with the rest of the Squadron, while **Signalman Phipps** and myself returned to Devonport Dockyard on H.M.S. *Fearless*. The reason why we stayed with the ship was because of Exercise 'Lovat,' which was the second part of the work-up for Exercise 'Swap,' which was due to start almost immediately; and we were to provide the same type of communications as used on 'Cannock Chase.'

Off to an unknown destination

On 2nd October, the loading of vehicles and equipment was due to begin, but was suddenly halted as the exercise was postponed for a few days. On 3rd October, our shore detachment was rushed on board and within an hour the ship was on its way to an unknown destination. As always, there was an unlimited number of rumours as to our destination, i.e., Mexico, Biafra and Mauritius. After a day at sea, we were told by **Captain M. W. B. Kerr, D.S.C.,** the Captain, that we were heading for Gibraltar, although no reason for the visit was given.

For the next two days everybody was hard at it getting the ship ship-shape, and we were preparing to provide the same facilities that H.M.S. *Tiger* provided in 1965 for a conference between the Prime Minister, **Mr. Wilson,** and **Mr. Ian Smith,** of Rhodesia. We were joined by the guided missile destroyer, H.M.S. *Kent*.

Through to 10 Downing Street

We arrived in Gibraltar on 8th October, whereupon the shore detachment disembarked and proceeded to the top of the Rock to a position called O'Hara's Battery, which housed the guns that dominate the Gibraltar Straits.

We established communications ship-to-shore, providing engineering facilities to the communications centre in the Rock for H.M.S. *Fearless* and H.M.S. *Kent*.

Due to the restrictions on board, once the conference had started, we found it quite difficult to get to and from our place of work, and we used some very unorthodox methods of getting about the ship, as our work place was directly above the conference room.

During the course of the conference we provided a link to U.K. via systems control and the R.A.F. radio telephone, which was tested through to No. 10 Downing Street and proved workable.

Having to provide communications 24 hours a day didn't leave us much time to ourselves for sightseeing, but the few hours we did get were made use of visiting places of interest, i.e., the Apes Den (which made **'Scouse' Phipps** feel really at home). On his final day on board, **Mr. Wilson** went around the ship talking to the ship's company, which included ourselves and the Signal Troop on board.

And so to Ireland

We left Gibraltar on 14th October and returned to Devonport, where we arrived on the 17th, just in time to reload on board for Exercise 'Swap,' which was due to start on the 21st (no rest for the wicked).

The shore detachment disembarked on arrival at Devonport to return to home base to make ready for 'Swap,' complete with water wings, flippers and prestikon. The Squadron embarked on the 19th, and on the evening tide sailed to Ireland, where we arrived on the 21st, and the Brigade proceeded to do amphibious landings on the beaches.

During the period of the exercise, we provided the same type of communications as throughout the trials, which were again very successful.

The exercise finished on 26th October, when we all returned to Devonport Dockyard and waved our farewells to H.M.S. *Fearless* for the time being.

Altogether, we have spent six weeks of hard work proving how useful radio relay can be used in this way. We all agree the hard work was worth it and has earned us personal recognition from the P.M. and also from the communications personnel on board H.M.S. 'Fearless.'

This period spent with the *Fearless* has really put radio relay within this Brigade on the map. **Signalman Phipps** is now on detachment to the Apes' Den as gang-leader on the Rock. We also remember **Lieutenant Mike Powell** muttering something about path profiles and fresnel zones . . . ?

It's tops for the Corps

Corps soldiers stand out in Ascent of Mont Blanc

Earlier this year Major Anthony Hasell, of the Corps, was chosen to lead an Army expedition found from various Corps and Regiments. The object of the expedition was to climb Mont Blanc. The Corps was represented by twelve soldiers varying in rank from Signalman to Corporal. Only two had done any climbing before; nevertheless, seven of the twelve reached the summit —the best showing of any of the Corps or Regiments taking part.



THEY MADE IT!
Lance-Corporal Webb (on left) with his roped team on the summit of Mont Blanc

Contributed by

Major

Anthony Hasell

Getting to grips

THIS year's expedition to Mont Blanc was the third to be sponsored by Southern Command and the first to reach the summit. Twelve members of the Corps took part amongst the fifty-five who went to Italy and only two of them had ever done any climbing before.

We all met together in North Wales for a fortnight's selection and hardening training before flying to the Alps. Here we were met by the Alpini, crack mountain troops who guard the mountain borders of Italy. They were to help us with our training and provide us with tentage and transport.

We camped in the forest immediately beneath Mount Blanc and on the first day climbed to 10,000 feet to get acclimatized, feel snow beneath our feet and get an appreciation of the sheer scale of the Alps.

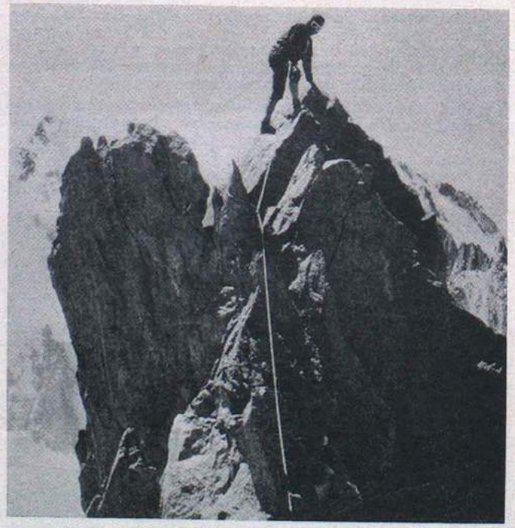
On the Monday we got to grips with ice and soon small parties were spread all over the lower slopes of the Glacier de la Lex Blanche. **Lance-Corporal Sherman** found that sliding on ice was rather different to slaloming in the Army Canoe Championships though his eskimo roll was most impressive!

The next day we set off to climb the Aiguille des Glaciers, but were forced by bad weather and new snow to divert, and the Aiguille D'Estalette was climbed instead. **Corporal Clark,** however, found another diversion and beat us all back to the Elizabeth Hut and a warming drink.

Wednesday was devoted to a high glacier travesse in a blizzard which gave a very good impression of the mountains at



TOUGH GOING
Signalman Asprey tackles a steep slope



GOOD HEAD FOR HEIGHTS
Signalman Roach at the summit of the Giant's Tooth, 13,250 feet

their worst. **Corporal Smith** proved a tower of strength even though his weight seemed to take him deeper into the snow than some of us.

He hung like a spider

The next two days were spent perfecting our ice and snow techniques and practising rock climbing. **Lance-Corporal Webb** lived up to his nickname and hung like a spider from a most impressive overhang, but strength and skill soon had him at the top encouraging the next to risk all and follow in his hand holds.

The weather steadily improved, but there was still too much snow on the higher slopes though on the Saturday a couple of parties did go high up the glacier. It was a very warm and exhausting experience and **Signalman Asprey** and **Corporal Smith** kept each other going with some fairly colourful language. 'Communicating,' I think they call it. We were all glad to have a day off on the Sunday and to enjoy an excellent curry provided by the 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment's cook, **Corporal Thicke,** A.C.C., ably assisted by **Signalman Barrett.**

First major peak

On the Monday the snow had firmed up enough for us to tackle our first major peak, Monte Dolente, which marks the frontiers of Italy, France and Switzerland all of which meet on its summit.

Transport and other delays led to a very rushed assault and it was mid-day before thirty-three of us reached the top. Snow conditions were very dangerous and we were very lucky to get back without any serious accident. Eight of the Royal Signals members of the expedition reached the summit, though **Lance-Corporal McGarry** thought there was a ninth until he discovered that it was a life-sized statue of the Virgin Mary standing there.



EVER WATCHFUL
Signalman Clarke safeguards a companion on an ice pitch

Corporal Leigh is an experienced climber and played an important part in the training period in Wales, so it was a great disappointment to us all when an old knee injury played up and put a stop to his climbing the really big mountains. This was sad but I was pleased to see him recently climbing in Cyprus as well as ever. **Signalman Clarke** was another unfortunate who suffered badly from foot trouble which also held him back from the major peaks.

A dramatic descent

The expedition was now fit enough to climb Mont Blanc and so next day the men who had proved their fitness on Monte Dolente set off for the Gonella Hut which just had room for the thirty-three of us. That night, however, a fierce storm raged and put an end to our first attempt, so on the Wednesday we made a dramatic descent from the hut by sliding down all our ropes tied together and attached to the hut. It was the only way down as new snow had covered the rocks up which we had climbed the day before.

Relaxation

Next day was our official visit to the Alpini School and Headquarters in Aosta. We were shown all round, met the Commandant, drank toasts, made speeches, paraded, fell out to put on hats, found that Guards caps, Signals side caps, Para berets, etc., were none too uniform and fell out again to take them off, were presented with badges, ate an enormous lunch, shopped, met transport under the arch, found that there were two arches, eventually all met, waited to meet the Director of Army Training, watched a rock climbing and mountain rescue display, had a large supper and then drove back to camp. It was a very hot day and certainly the most tiring of the whole expedition.



TRIUMPHANT
Lance-Corporal Sherman on top of Mont Blanc with Sergeant Phillips of the Worcestershire Regiment—the only Sergeant to reach the summit

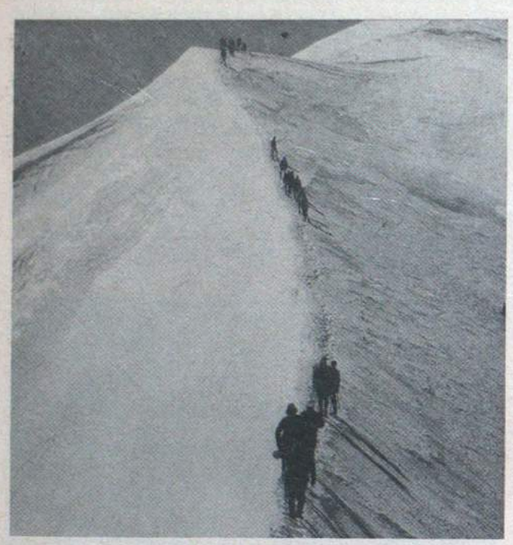
Success

On the Friday we decided to make our second attempt on Mont Blanc. This time thirty set off for the Gonella Hut and five to the Alberico Bivouac via the Turino Refuge. Next morning these parties set off at 2 o'clock and 3.30 respectively with the five climbing the steep and challenging Brenver Arete. The parties met on the 15,781 foot summit at 9.15. A total of 21 reached the top, of whom seven were Royal Signals, a higher proportion than of any of the other arms or Corps on the expedition. The view was magnificent. We could see the Oberland, including the Eiger and the Jungfrau, as well as Monte Rosa and the Matterhorn.

A fitting climax

We could not admire the view for long as were such a large party and any delay on the route would repeat itself down the line. As it was we found ourselves on a steep decaying snow ridge far later in the day than we would have liked and we did not get back to camp until five o'clock that evening. **Corporal Grubb,** with five children to his credit, was wondering how many of them would ever follow in his footsteps. **Signalman Roach** was wondering if he would ever have any to follow in his. He was on his chin strap but like the rest of us he soon recovered and on the final Monday reached the top of

the Giants Tooth, a 13,250 foot high pinnacle of granite and one of the finest rock climbs in the Alps. It was a fitting climax to a strenuous and exciting expedition.



THE LONG DESCENT
The summit conquered, the party start the long downward trek to the base

Courage

is the Word for Beer

CYPHER VACANCIES

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Vacancies exist for Men and Women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work in Cheltenham and London. Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting duties is desirable.

Appointments in London are paid on a scale rising to £1,225, whilst those in Cheltenham rise to £1,100. Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays for which additional allowances are payable. Opportunities exist for Overseas Service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions). There are also good prospects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British Subjects since birth.

Application forms and fuller information obtainable from:

The Recruitment Officer (CY. OP./6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Priors Road, Oakley, Cheltenham, Glos.

Otters, monkeys, sladangs, a cobra, a python and even an iguana pay courtesy calls

A Paddler's View of Malaysia

By Corporal M. Lloyd of 18th Signal Regiment

When eight Corps soldiers undertake a canoeing trip along 260 miles of Malaysian rivers, adventures are never very far away . . .



SMOOTH GOING
The party progresses nicely but many experiences lie ahead

DURING March and April of this year two canoeing courses were sponsored by 18th Signal Regiment. As a result, a number of soldiers serving within the Corps in the Far East qualified as proficient Army canoeists. I was one of these, and for my sins found myself trapped into participating in a project to canoe 260 miles down the Lipis and Pahang Rivers in Central Malaysia. Details of the experience are set out in this article.

* * *

The exercise began on 20th September, when we assembled prior to our departure for Kampong Benta, in Pahang. The canoe crews were divided up as follows: **Captain Palmer** and **Lance-Corporal Omar Bin Salleh, Sergeant Fred Wilson** and **Signalman Tregilgas, Sergeant 'Spud' Murphy** and **Lance-Corporal Eric James,** and finally **Signalman 'Taff' Mansell** of 249 Squadron and myself. **Sergeants Wilson** and **Murphy** were each armed with an SLR and ten rounds; within the group we carried yellow and blue smoke grenades, together with morphia in case we found ourselves in difficulties. We moved to Kampong Benta in a three-ton vehicle driven by **Signalman Abdul Malek Bin Shariff,** who proved himself to be a valuable administrator during the following week.

A little night life

After setting out from Princess Mary Barracks, our first stop was at the customs post on the Malaysian side of the Causeway. Old Malaya and Singapore hands will perhaps be interested to hear that military vehicles are no longer waved through, in fact, in the customs yard there are two three-ton Bedford lorries, complete with unit signs and Ministry of Defence markings that are shortly to be auctioned. The drivers were caught smuggling and have now been punished by the civil authorities. Our paperwork was found to be in order and we were allowed to proceed north. We motored through out the day and at six o'clock that evening arrived at the place where we were to commence canoeing. We 'bivvied' in the jungle just outside the town and spent a few hours sampling the night life. It was here that **Lance-Corporal Eric James** attempted to persuade one of the local beauties named Joannah that **Signalman Mansell,** as the captain of a canoe, was empowered to administer the vows of holy matrimony. This romance ended abruptly at 10.30, the time at which we had been ordered to return to the bivouac area.

With daylight, our newly-established 'fan club' commenced to arrive. While breakfast was being cooked and the camp struck, there were about 20 spectators, this gathering rapidly increased to three or four hundred by the time we were ready to launch. A particular spectacular attraction was the assembly of our Klepper folding canoes; to produce a 17ft. boat from three canvas bags was beyond belief. When the second canoe was put together, the local experts started to come to the fore, they provided a running commentary in four separate languages. We were quite astonished to discover that the national language words for 'Klepper Aerius' was 'Cleper Airieus."

A major set-back

We left Kampong Benta at 8.30 and proceeded down river until approximately 11.30, when **Sergeant Wilson** smashed into a submerged log and damaged his fibreglass canoe. This was a major set-back, the hole was about nine inches long and we were not equipped with a fibreglass repair kit. We beached on a sandbank and ate our lunch while **Captain Palmer** built up a pad of liquid rubber, canvas and Army masking tape to fill the hole. The completed patch lasted throughout the remainder of the trip with very little attention. We moved off with **Sergeant Wilson** now in second position. This enabled him to hear directions from the leading canoe while the repair job was being apprehensively tested out. We stopped canoeing at last light, when it started to rain with that heavy relentless downpour that is only to be experienced in the tropics. Everyone and everything was soaked before we were able to get our 'bashas' organised and get to sleep. We were a little taken aback at six o'clock next morning when, with the dawn, we discovered fresh tiger tracks near where we had come ashore.

Daily routine

Canoeing commenced at seven o'clock, and throughout the day we fell into what was to become our normal routine. Reveille at six, with a quick cup of tea, on the river at seven, one hour solid canoeing to get our bodies aching in a proper manner, a ten minutes 'smoko' and a further fifty minutes intense misery. We would then come ashore from nine o'clock until ten for breakfast. The sun was high in the sky after ten, and we therefore paddled for half-hourly stints with ten minutes 'drifty smokos' until 2.30, when stopped for lunch for one and-a-half hours. At four o'clock we completed the day by enduring two one-hour sessions with a ten-minute



FERRY TRIP

Left to Right:—Lance-Corporal Eric James, Sergeant Wilson, Signalman Mansell, Signalman Tregilgas and in rear Driver Malik



EARLY MORNING SCENE
Combined Corporals and Officers' Mess

break in the middle. After 6.15 we would look around for a likely camp site. This system enabled to to complete up to 50 miles on our longest day. In addition to establishing a routine, we also began to see our first wild life.

Extremely colourful kingfishers were with us all the time; they have light blue plumage with large scarlet patches, they are not shy and we were able to get fairly close to them. Monkeys were the most frequently seen. On four or five times each day we would see them at the waters elge; at our approach the old male in each family would get between us and his numerous wives and children while they retreated, chattering, up the beach. We saw several snakes while on the river; the first of these was on the second day when we passed within six feet of an 18ft. python curled around a stick in the water.

Otters, pythons and sladangs

By lunchtime on Sunday, 22nd September, we had reached the ferry crossing at Jerantut, where we had a rendezvous with our three-tonner. **Malek** was there, and we took on a further three days' rations to take us to our next meeting place at Temerloh. We remained at Jerantut for two hours and filled ourselves with curry from the local coffee shop. Malay curry is not to be confused with the mild stuff that English mothers make sometimes. The Jerantut version was almost explosive. While we were eating, **'Taffy' Mansell** remained with the canoes. He witnessed a 20ft. python chasing four young otters up the river. This was accompanied by a mass exodus of all the local fishermen from the water. The effect on **Mansell** was to cause him to cease washing and bathing for the duration of the exercise.

Soon after we moved off downstream we saw a perfect little miniature house floating by us. It was fitted with silken curtains and contained eggs, curry, rice, and a quantity of fine human hair. Some local Malays told us that a village 'Bomoh' (a sort of medicine man) had prepared it and set it afloat as a gift for the river spirits—thus ensuring that no harm came to the child from whom the hair had been taken. That night we once again made camp in the dark, only to be awakened at two o'clock in the morning when a herd of sladang water buffalo passed through the bivvy area; thereafter we all put our bashas up in a tight circle.

Silent approach

On Monday morning we were promised an easy day; 45 miles later we staggered ashore after a fairly uneventful canoeing session. All through the day we kept seeing the local girls washing in the river ahead of us. In spite of our adopting 'silent paddle routine,' we were never able to catch them before they wrapped themselves in their sarongs and ran off into the trees.

We met **Malek** for the last time on Tuesday at Temerloh. Here we visited the rest house for breakfast while the driver remained on guard over the canoes. As we ate our food, surrounded by our special river fragrance, we were joined in the dining room by four-star **General Tengku Osman Bin Tengku Mohammed Jewa,** the Commander-in-Chief of the entire Malaysian Army.

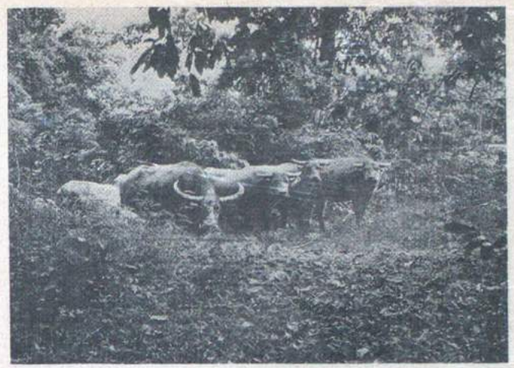
As our P.T. shorts were unpressed and our hockey boots filthy, we felt that it was only polite to beat a hasty retreat back to the river. After embarking, we paddled until 5.30 that evening when we were allowed to come off the river and bivvy on an island. The reason for our early night quickly became evident, the 'Admiral of the Fleet' had bought himself a 'Playboy' magazine and wanted to savour the glossy pages before it got too dark. He continued this activity by candlelight, well into the early hours of the morning.

Enter a king cobra

Wednesday passed fair uneventfully. We stopped for the night when a thunderstorm threatened to swamp us. By last light we had established our camp in heavy rain when a king cobra, complete with extended hood, appeared in **Lance-Corporal Eric James's** sleeping area. Not being taken with our aroma it crawled away into the bush, leaving behind it eight semi-petrified members of Royal Signals; the slightest rustle in the grass from thereon put us all on edge. At about midnight, **Taff Mansell** was awakened by a sladang sticking its head into his bivvy. The loud clangs produced when he hit on the mess tins with his horns woke everyone. I managed to get to sleep after this incident, only to be awakened by **Sergeant Fred Wilson,** who shared my bivvy. He had felt something crawling near him and wanted my torch to take a look. In reaching for it, something bit me on the arm and drew blood. Remembering **Eric James's** cobra, I was horrified. **Captain Palmer** quickly reassured me that it was only a something mosquito bite, and the best way to cure it was to shut up and let him get some sleep! He further added that an extra paludrine tablet in the morning would do the trick. Mosquito bite or not, my arm quickly swelled up until it had doubled its normal size. The cure for this turned out to be two hours' rapid paddling the following morning.

Keeping warm by getting into the river

We were not sorry to leave 'cobra island' on Thursday, when we departed for Kampong Benta, a place with an identical name with that of our starting point. We arrived at an island opposite the Kampong at 3.30 in the afternoon.



FRIENDS LOOK IN
A herd of wild sladang call in to say hello to their friend Signalman Taff Mansell



AUTHOR OF THE YEAR
Corporal Lloyd, writer of the article, receives a "silver" mess tin from Lance-Corporal Omar (*left*)

For at least half-a-mile we kept company with a large black snake swimming in the same direction. It kept its head raised about nine inches out of the water, and we did not land on our island until we had reassured ourselves that our 'friend' was going to bypass it. No sooner had we got out of the canoes than the sky opened up, the rain was very cold, the jungle state of mind of some of the members of our party quickly took over. Following the example set by the sladangs, they crawled into the river up to their necks in order to keep warm—the stupidest animals at times can sometimes teach us a trick or two.

A helpful iguana

That night was to be our last on the river. A 5ft. iguana found its way into the bashas and woke everyone. This was most fortunate, really, as the river had risen and the canoes were almost floating away; had it not been for this lonely 'iggy' we might have ended the trip canoeless. A guard was set to watch the water level for the rest of that night.

On Friday morning we got off to a relaxed 30-minute paddle to the new bridge at Pekan. Here **Malek** was waiting for us. We had loaded and cleaned the canoes by 8.30 and were on our way to Singapore. Everyone was soon asleep with the exception of the boss—he had got his hands on yet another 'Playboy.'

Something gained

The less experienced members of our party found the trip a challenge and very hard going. I feel that I gained something, even if it was only callouses on my hands and blisters on my backside, but God bless the inventors of the outboard motor!



24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (210), Plymouth



"TAKING YOU A STAGE FURTHER IN YOUR WATER-PROOFING!"

Lost—one ship !

THE theme of our activities over the last two months could be described in the words of the old song "Has anybody seen our ship?" We were all set to spend October away on two amphibious exercises in Scotland and Northern Ireland with H.M.S. *Fearless*. After a major waterproofing effort on our vehicles and equipment, the first amphibious exercise, called Exercise "Lovat," was suddenly postponed as the first vehicles were moving off to load on board ship. We watched H.M.S. *Fearless* sail away to an unknown destination, and not for some days did we discover that she had gone to Gibraltar for the Rhodesia talks. This left our second amphibious trip in danger, too, but by postponing the exercise for three days we managed to salvage something from Exercise 'Swap,' our overseas exercise for this year—held in Northern Ireland! At least the weather stayed dry, although some of us got wet feet going ashore. All in all, it was a very successful outing. **Corporal Davis** fills in a bit more detail in his separate article on his various trips to sea. (See page 481).

We are now getting down to some individual training and the first M.P.C. course is assembling with trepidation. We are looking forward to a visit from **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** Signal Officer-in-Chief, on 19th November; then Christmas, the New Year, and, who knows, we may even see the sun!

We welcome **Sergeant 'Chalky' White, Corporal Alf Francis,** R.P.C., **Lance-Corporals Roy Smith** and **'Chippy' Wood** and **Signalman Dave Heyes.**

Farewell, and our best wishes to **Sergeant Charlie Tapp** and **Corporals Tom Tate** and **Ernie Wilson,** R.P.C.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

Congratulations to the following on their recent additions to the family: **Sergeant and Mrs. Lewer, Corporal and Mrs. King, Corporal and Mrs. Davidson, Corporal and Mrs. Saunders, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Read** and **Signalman and Mrs. Costello.**

Best wishes to **Corporal and Mrs. W. Bennett** and **Signalman and Mrs. Soulsby** on their marriages.

235 Signal Squadron (D.C.N.) B.F.P.O. 51

Squadron weekend

THE departure of most of the W.R.A.C. Troop in September provided the Squadron with a good excuse to have a Squadron weekend and give the girls a send off to remember.

This started with an all ranks' dance which was held in the open air on the Saturday evening. The girls requested that the dress for the evening should be formal. The boys, not to be outdone, turned out in dinner jacket and with the girls in their long evening dresses they set the tone for an exceptionally good evening. Two bands were in attendance and dancing went on non-stop until the early hours, everyone being most loathe to break off. A cabaret act of two English folk singers was also appreciated. Great credit must go to all concerned for their efforts in organising the evening.

The next morning, Sunday, a cricket match between the Junior Ranks and Officers/Senior N.C.O.s was held on the square and the day went deservedly to the Officers/Senior N.C.O.s' team.

The same evening a barbeque party was held at Armier Bay. This got off to a late start due to the buses arriving late, but once everyone was organised and the beat group started playing, the party was quickly under way and another enjoyable evening was had by all.

We were kindly given the Monday off by the O.C. to "get over it all," and the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s held the fort. Buses were provided to take those still with the energy left to various places of interest around the island, and to relax on the beaches.

The weekend was voted a great success by everyone, and was very much appreciated by the girls.

Visit of Officer-in-charge Royal Signals Records

On 24th September the Officer-in-charge Royal Signals Records (**Colonel T. H. C. Grigg**) visited the Squadron. He addressed members of both 234 and 235 Squadrons in the Globe Cinema St. David's Barracks. The visit was waited for in great anticipation by the members of 235 Squadron who were waiting to find out whether they were to be posted to Hong Kong or Bangkok or nearer home to the outer Hebrides.

On the morning of the 25th **Colonel Grigg** had coffee in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where he was introduced to the members.

Maintenance Troop outing

Towards the end of September the members of Maintenance Troop were treated to a night at the Bir-Id-Deheb 'Olde Tyme' music hall organised by 'our very own' **Sergeant Ian Messenger.** The show followed the same lines as the old music halls, for those who might remember what it was like, with the audience taking part as much as possible. Towards the end it became difficult to tell which side was the audience especially with our own 'stars,' **Sergeants Don Shrives** and **Ian Holmes,** in good form.

In fact the compere even commented on the fact that we were the best Thursday night audience ever.

M.P.C. course

The Squadron ran an M.P.C. course class II - I during the month of July. Although the numbers were small a very high standard was maintained throughout the duration of the course. Besides achieving high standards the course got excellent sun tans from drilling in bare buff in the hot Mediterranean sun. The pass-off parade was taken by **Colonel G. V. Micallef,** of the Royal Malta Artillery, who complimented the course on their drill and turn out. A compliment indeed as the



VISIT OF O.I.C. ROYAL SIGNALS RECORDS
Left to Right:—Captain L. A. Woods, Captain (TOT) A. J. Lees, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, Captain E. K. Anton, Colonel C. Mitchell, Captain (QM) D. G. Newton, Captain R. E. Oliver

R.M.A. supply guards of honour for visiting dignitaries to Malta.

The course was pleased when the pass-off was filmed for screening on Malta Television and photographs appeared in two of the local newspapers.

Cricket: Single wicket knock-out competition

This event brought the cricket season to a close, and again was a success, as far as getting people to play who never thought they could. In fact it was two of these players, **Lance-Corporal Rog Parker** and **Sergeant Dave Jolly,** who sprang the surprises, until they met one another—the quarter-finals, of which **Dave Jolly,** with his 'tweakers,' came off best.

The semi-finals arrived with **Sergeants Don Shrives** and **Dave Jolly, Sergeant Hughes** and **Corporal David Smith. Dave Jolly** was out for no score after seven balls, **Don Shrives** going on to the final after scoring off his fifth ball.

In the final **David Smith** made 48 from his allocated 24 balls—and **Don Shrives** was out for a duck (a hairy one).

Final result: 1st, **Corporal David Smith;** 2nd, **Sergeant Don Shrives;** 3rd, **Sergeant David Hughes;** 4th, **Sergeant David Jolly.**

Here and there

The only new arrival being **Sergeant Ian Holmes** whose special knowledge on M.S.T. is very welcome.

While those who have left us are **Major Neil Macleod; W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Ron Crampton** (on taking his R.S.M. appointment); **Sergeant Dave Burnage** (on release); **Sergeant Bob Simon, Corporals Tony Tai, Sean Moore, Daniel Rogers, Lance-Corporals John Hirst** (on transfer); **Fred Bryson** and **Signalmen Daniel Lyons, Stewart Jones, Anthony Miller, Kevin Toolan** and **James Carr.**

W.R.A.C. departures

Sergeant Marie Packham, Corporals Patricia Mair, Patricia Trickey, Pauline Marritt, Kathleen Johnstone, Maurine Dresser, Lance-Corporals Julie Hearne, Joan Crawford, Christine Farrington, 'Tubbs' Kertland, Privates Linda Deans, 'Ross' Stopp, Susan Richards, 'Tann' Jones, Jennie Edmondson, Katherin Lund, Shelly Hession, Doreen Fields and **Yvonne Lee.**

Malta rally

28th September saw the start of the Malta rally which was organised by the Forces' Driving Club. This rally started at 21.00 hours and went on through the night until 06.00 hours. This is the longest rally of the year and attracted many entries including several service vehicles. From 235 most of the regulars entered. **Corporal 'Doug' Curry** in his 1200 Anglia had **Lance-Corporal 'Baz' Allington** navigating, **Lance-Corporal Steve Tiong** entered his mini with **Corporal Brian Hill** in the hot seat, and **Corporal 'Moxie' Crittenden,** in his Simca 1000, navigated while his wife drove.

During the rally there were two special stages on which the cars had to average 30 m.p.h. over half-mile and one mile respectively. This proved to be a hair-raising experience as the roads used were two of the twistiest sections in Malta. In fact only one crew managed to do any of the stages in the time allowed.

This time **Corporal 'Doug' Curry** finished the rally (last time he ran up a Saab's boot and had to retire) and won with just 31 points to spare over the runners-up.

Corporal and Mrs. Crittenden finished sixth and these two crews made up the winning team.

This now puts **Lance-Corporal Allington** ahead of the Malta Rally Championship with **Corporal and Mrs. Crittenden** third. Also **Corporal Curry** now lies third in the F.D.C. club championship and second in the Malta Driver of the Year.

Signals Wing, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

Notes by

S/Sgt. (Y. of S.)

D. S. J. Wootten

WITH the summer term behind us and all well rested from our recess leave, we enter the winter term once more. This term we have quite a change around in our staff, and firstly we welcome **W.O.I (R.S.M.) A. J. Simpson,** who is now well established in the chair left vacant by **R.S.M. F. M. Orr,** on his departure to the Far East. We wish **R.S.M.** and **Mrs. Simpson** a very pleasant stay with us in the Wing. We also welcome **W.O.II (Y. of S.) V. W. Rayner,** who joins us from 30th Signal Regiment, and **Sergeant H. B. Brownlie,** who has just finished with the Life Guards in Singapore.

Leaving us this term are **W.O.II (Y. of S.) W. Coxon,** who is going to British Honduras for nine months; **Staff Sergeant Jim Dunnett,** who leaves us for 7th Signal Regiment; and **Staff Sergeant Ron Mathieson,** who is going to 11th Signal Regiment. We thank them all for their work in the Wing and hope they all benefit from their experience at Sandhurst. Eton College Cadet Force will, I am sure, miss **Staff Sergeant Mathieson** for his splendid work with them, which was well rewarded by an invitation to accompany them to Norway for 14 days training, on which he thoroughly enjoyed himself. **Staff Sergeant Mathieson** was using his 'spare time' training to become a Para man. However, with his posting, on promotion, he has now retired from this type of hobby! His place has been taken by **Sergeant Fred McMillan,** who has had to hang up his fishing boots and put on his running shoes in an attempt to lighten his weight in order to improve his 'soft landings.' **Sergeant McMillan** is also trying to introduce a new technique. In future, Para men will have one normal and TWO reserve parachutes!

TV requests some Corps help

From time to time members of the Wing are asked to assist in many activities from outside organisations. Our latest request, which came from Thames TV, the London ITV Company, was for technical assistance on communications in the making of their weekly serial "Frontier," which portrays life in a British garrison in India during the Victorian area. Local auditions were held by **Y. of S. Wootten** in the Instructors' Room, and as good looks were not one of the requirements, the Yeoman gave the job to **Sergeant McMillan.** When asked how he is getting on at Teddington Studios, **McMillan** always replies "See my agent for the answer!" Will you see him on television? . . . Oh yes—his right hand on an antique morse key!



"SPIRIT OF LE MARCHANT"

The Commandant of the Military College, Sandhurst, Major General P. M. Hunt, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., being piloted by Major F. C. Lockwood, O.i/c Flying Training. Occasion: the christening ceremony of the new CESSNA 172, a private plane bought by the Academy for use in free fall parachuting and Gliding. The plane is named after General Le Marchant who, at the time of William Pitt, played a great part in the birth of Sandhurst

" Spirit of Le Marchant "

Our Chief Instructor, **Major F. C. Lockwood,** has also been in the news recently. You may remember that as Officer-in-Charge Flying Training, R.M.A.S., **Major Lockwood** had the task of selecting and purchasing a private plane for the Academy. This was no easy task, so many things had to be taken into account. His final choice was a Cessna 172. This aeroplane not only fills the requirements for flying training, but in addition it can be used by two other clubs in the Academy—the free fall parachute and gliding clubs.

The photograph shows the Commandant, **Major-General P. M. Hunt, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.,** and **Major Lockwood** at the christening ceremony at Blackbushe Airport. The ceremony was covered by the local press. The aircraft has been aptly named " Spirit of Le Marchant." **Major-General Le Marchant** was, of course, an ex-Cavalry officer who first impressed the government of his day with the idea of starting a training establishment for Cavalry and Infantry Officers along the lines of the then 'Woolwich Academy' for R.A. and R.E. Officers. Prime Minister William Pitt finally accepted the need for such a training establishment and that, in short, was the birth of Sandhurst. I am sure **Major Lockwood** was thinking of **Le Marchant** as he impressed upon the Commandant the need for the Academy to have its own aeroplane. Now, not only do officer cadets who already hold a pilot's licence fly the aeroplane at a cheaper rate, but others, including cadre staff, can now afford to train as pilots, and this is an asset to the Army in general. On its inaugural flight, the Commandant, piloted by **Major Lockwood,** flew over the Academy, where he dropped a 'Teddy Bear,' the mascot of the Academy Edward Bear Club.

Success at Athletics and the R.S.M. gets in some practice!

The Signals Wing athletics team put up a splendid show at the Academy permanent staff sports meeting. We came overall second, being beaten by only three points in the final score. In view of our small numbers, from which we had to choose competitors, we are well pleased with the result, and next year will go all out to win. We did, however, for the first time win the Head of Department race, and for those who are not familiar with this race, it entails the R.S.M. drinking a pint of beer with all speed and the C.I. driving a wheelbarrow down a hundred yards straight. Success this year was due to the beer drinker practising all the year round in the Mess, and the wheelbarrow driver (who, incidentally, ran right into the Commandant last year) practising in his garden!

Our B.A.O.R. summer overseas training took place once again in the Eifel area. Apart from a few days of warm sunshine before we started, the whole of our stay was dogged by high winds and continual rain. However, morale remained high and we all enjoyed ourselves, including **Sergeant Jim Akehurst,** who, in his capacity as Signals D.S. to one of the Colleges, found himself the A41 manpack operator during the Company night attack. This year, our D11 admin. link and internal line were provided by 16th Signal Regiment. Many of the officer cadets working at our Control Headquarters took the opportunity of looking over the D11 which, to them, rates as a piece of sophisticated equipment in comparison with the A40 and A41 which they normally use.

" A Yeomen's Skill at Yarns " Meeting?

This year, we also entered a team in the Royal Signals Southern Command skill at arms meeting. Our position in this meeting is not worth particular mention, but we were not bottom. Among the team were our two Yeomen. Next year's meeting will be called " The Yeomen's Skill at Yarns Meeting "! Apologies on behalf of all Yeomen present to the resident Sergeants' Mess members of 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment for the temporary lack of bar space!

Our M.T. Section is as busy as usual and have little to report this time, but all are looking forward to winter overseas training in Cyprus this term, and for the lucky ones, a trip to France for Exercise " Tipperary " in October.

Included in our next report will be an account of our Wing football team which, we feel sure, will do well this coming season.

602 Signal Troop (Special Communications) Gloucester

On being a member of the ' Jet-Set '

ON my return to the Troop after a six-month stint on 'Det,' I was greeted by many unfamiliar faces before at last meeting someone I recognised. This was to be expected, as although I have been in the Troop for over two and-a-half years, I still have not met everyone in it. We are fortunate in having commitments in a number of countries, and as soon as one is up to Troop standards, it is possible to become a member of the 'Jet-set,' spending only brief periods in the U.K.

Maintaining contact with friends can therefore be a difficult task, but by 'pumping' all and sundry for news and views, it is possible to remain fairly up to date.

Troop Personalities who make the news . . .

Chas Birchall returned from Germany, only to depart almost immediately for the Caribbean, accompanied by his wife, **Penny.** Farewell to 'Birchall Sunday noshes' for a year or two. **Dave Black** has also headed in that direction on his return from the Gulf; rumour has it that he travelled as fast from the U.K. to the Bahamas as he did on the road to Bahrain Airport.

Don Seymour is now back from the Caribbean. The only point to be cleared up was a bill for a £10 person-to-person telephone call to Miami! " It was worth every penny," says **Don.** He also managed to take in some ski-ing in Colorado (U.S.A.) whilst he was in that part of the world.

Bernie Kendall and **Harry Butler** while in Germany visited a very famous brewery, along with members of the Marlborough Club, only to find that there had been a mix-up in the dates. This led to much abuse being hurled at the organisers, including one very obvious phrase. They were eventually shown round, and as further recollections of the visit are distinctly vague, perhaps the remark was unjustified.

The parachute section continues with its hairy duties. Its latest recruits have had a mixed reception on selection. While **Mick Middlecoate** completes his parachute training at Abingdon, **Paddy Gass** walks around the barracks nursing a busted (literally) gut, and **Andy Fyvie** flogs on with pre-selection, hoping that one day a selection course proper will start.

Dave Wools has shown the reason why Cyprus is called the Island of Aphrodite. **Dave** has married **Pat Weston,** a nurse at B.M.H., Dhekelia. Also from Cyprus, **Ron Potter** and **Rog Boag** report having a tremendous time at the Limassol wine festival, all wine being free, which they visited in conjunction with a party from the B.M.H. Perhaps there is more romance in the offing.

Jack Kendle and **Jack Tivenan** had a fortnight's duty-free swan with the T.A.V.R. to Malta and Gibraltar, respectively. The first thing that impressed them was the T.A.V.R. knowledge of allowances which could be claimed. **Jack Kendle's** visit coincided with the festival at Rabbat on the anniversary of the death of St. Paul, in which a gold statue of the saint was paraded through the streets to the accompaniment of bands and fireworks. Apart from watching the procession, he appears to have taken a great delight in being able to contemplate his feet whilst standing up to his neck in the Mediterranean.

Back in the U.K., **Dave Butler** and **Andy Fyvie** figure prominently in the 14th Regiment football team, when in camp, and **Andy** is also a member of the Corps squad of players.

Yeoman Halliday retains his flair for quick thinking. When in the Brecon Beacons, so his story goes, he 'placed' a Land Rover in a ditch, just to test whether **Johnny Rich** could get it out.

31st (Greater London) Signal Regt. (V)

ANNUAL CAMP, 1968

They settled down like veterans

Notes written by Lieutenant (QM) R. N. Stilwell

SUMMER Camp . . . in October? These were the reactions by many when the dates for this year's annual camp were announced early in the year. Nevertheless, when the time came, after countless minor, and at least three major dress rehearsals, the Regiment finally moved from the London area to our camp locations 'somewhere in Europe,' all personnel were keyed up and full of expectation and 'go.' It must be placed on record that the 'first night' nerves were forgotten and the Regiment settled down like veterans to carry out the task that had been set them. The reports that have been coming in since the return home of the Regiment are very gratifying, and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. T. Paterson,** can rest assured that all his planning over the past few months was well worthwhile. Unfortunately the Regiment is losing **Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson** early in November to the School of Signals. Our very best wishes to him on his new appointment. Let us hope that we shall see more of him on his visits to London. You will be very welcome, sir, at any of the messes and clubs of this Regiment, and we will, as you have requested, give our utmost support to our new C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel M. B. M. Brown,** and we hope that his tour of duty with us will be pleasant and enjoyable.

A nightmare for the Q.M.

Of course we had our problems, not the least of which was the big headache that was given to our Regular Quartermaster and his staff, who had the unenviable task of turning an empty shell of an old barracks at Mons into something that was habitable. I am told that he has become an expert in clambering over railway lines and unloading and loading railway containers. The Regiment owes **Captain Sydney Ormond** and his staff a very big thank-you for all the midnight oil that was burned in the planning and execution of this operation.

Thanks must also be given to the staff at St. Martin's Plain Camp, and movement control at Dover for the excellent way that they looked after us on our journeys to and from the Continent. We must not forget, also, our friends at BAE, SHAPE, and our American and Belgian allies, who made us so welcome. Our appreciation must also go to our Belgian friends at Mons Barracks, who extended the hospitality of their club to our officers. This was most welcome.

A lot of hard work was carried out by members of the Regiment; nevertheless, we also managed to play hard as well. Our soccer team was beaten, but not disgraced, in spite of the score (7—1), by the BAE. We also managed to get in some badminton and swimming. Visits were organised and two outings were made to local war graves, including Ypres and Hill 60.



Courtesy: Shape

COMMAND GROUP—FALLEX 68

Left to Right:—Lieutenant Quick, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. T. Paterson, Major Willis, Captain Greenhill

One cannot hope to mention everybody who played such a large part in making this year's camp such a success, but it is felt that special mention should be made of our cooks and associated staffs who did such a very good job under trying conditions. Also we must remember **Lieutenant Simpson's** radio troop, who worked by themselves on detached duty with the U.S. Forces in Germany, they most certainly gave a very creditable performance.

A much-appreciated ceremony

At the end of camp a ceremony took place that most definitely must not go unrecorded. It took place at the Headquarters of the NATO/SHAPE Support Group, U.S. In honour of the detachment from this Regiment which was commanded by **Major D. Mistlin.** The U.S. base fell in on a ceremonial parade to see us off. Our course, our detachment co-operated in this arrangement, the outcome being that the national flags of our two countries were exchanged during the course of this parade. The Commander of the U.S. Garrison, **Colonel A. P. Nathan,** in wishing our unit farewell, paid tribute to the high standard of efficiency of the Regiment and hoped that he might have the honour of meeting us again at a later date.

Visitors

During the second week we were visited by the top brass, the first to arrive being **Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., A.D.C.,** and the Commander of 11 Group. They were closely followed by **Major-General Henrici,** Assistant Chief of Staff, Communications and Electronics, SHAPE. The following day saw the arrival of the Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Honorary Colonel. All were kind enough to say that they were very impressed with what they saw.

Finally, may we take this opportunity of wishing all our comrades, wherever they may be, our best wishes for Christmas and for a peaceful 1969.

34th (Northern) Sig. Regt. (V)
Tyne/Teesside & West Riding

Anyone for Scarborough . . . ?

OVER 250 volunteers went wearily home for a rest at their normal civilian jobs following a strenuous three-day 'mini-camp' at the Reserve Army Signal Training Centre at Scarborough. Although a common enough experience for the permanent staff of my volunteer regiment, the minor miracle of mobilisation invariably impresses the newcomer. A welder becomes the M.I. room corporal; a tax inspector becomes an S.S.M. (not so different?); housewives, typists, bus conductors and blast furnacemen become drivers, operators, cooks and bandsmen. Even the Training Major, **Major Leslie Clayton** has been known to cook 'cordon blue' sausages in the officers' mess kitchen (but not to eat them!). While others operate the excellent communications centre, study map-reading or set up the radio relay stations; the band, under **W.O.I (Bandmaster) S. R. Peacock,** blow and march across the main square.

At the officers' mess dinner, we were pleased to welcome the Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier Claude Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L., Colonel Wally Lee, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.,** and **Colonel Bob Edwards, T.D. Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Sheffield** was dined out and congratulated on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in the A.C.F. He presented us with a pair of silver statuettes of soldiers in full dress, a very generous and appreciated gesture.

We all look forward to the next Scarborough weekend in December.

. . . or Harrogate ?

In spite of floods and snow, 56 officers attended the officers' weekend at Harrogate, combining a two-day series of lectures with the annual 345 Club (past officers) meeting and dinner. We were pleased to welcome twelve past officers to dinner. They included the following ex-Honorary Colonels and Commanding Officers: **Colonels N. R. Bigland, T.D., A. M. Booker, T.D., A. D. Hewitt, T.D.,** and **W. A. Lee, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.** Other 'old and bold' were: **Majors J. G. Widgery, T.D., K. McIver, T.D., R. O. Edwards, W. Brindley, T.D., J. B. Franks, T.D.,** and **M. Petch, T.D.,** W.R.A.C., together with **Captains J. Baxter** and **P. J. Hill,** W.R.A.C. Incidentally, for those past officers of 49 (WR) Signals and 50th (N) Signals who may read these notes and want news, if they write to the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Evans,** at the T. & A.V.R. Centre, Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough, they will be put in touch with either **Colonel Guy Thompson** or **Major Bob Edwards,** the two secretaries.

. . . or Leeds ?

49 (WR) Signal Squadron, at Leeds, has been in the news (literally), when the O.C., **Major Jim Malcolm** spoke over Radio Leeds recently on the activities of his Squadron. He had plenty to talk about! Particular interest has been shown in the safety communications provided by the Squadron during the Three Peaks Cycle Trials (Helvelyn, Pen-y-Ghant and Scaw Fell). This was used to control and guide those cyclists lost in the mountain mists.

One of the Squadron's affiliated C.C.F. Units (Leeds Central High School), who are very keen Signalmen, indeed, were recently complimented on their performance in the Nijmegen Marches by the Chief of Staff.

Their latest achievement is to build a radio telescope at the school and it is used for tracking satellites.

The annual dinner of the Leeds Branch of the Royal Signals Association, held at the Squadron Drill Hall recently, was a successful and well-attended occasion. In fact, the distinguished guest list read like a page of Corps History!

KEY FOBS

Very attractive Corps key fobs are now available from the Royal Signals Association, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

These have a silver and gold figure of 'Jimmy' sunk into a circular black background, the whole encased in a transparent plastic surround and are particularly suitable for car keys. At 5/- each they are selling well and orders have already been received for over 1,300.



Captain Alan Coombs, Staff Sergeant E. J. Hewitson and Lieutenant Peter Goldsworthy master the intricacies of a Radio Relay antenna

37th (Wessex & Welsh) Sig. Regt. (V)
Bristol

Mini annual camp

ONE tends to take life in the T.A.V.R. very much for granted and, apart from annual camp, highlights in the year pass unnoticed and unheralded. In October, the Regiment concentrated once again for a Regimental Weekend at the Cribbs Causeway W.E.T.C., near Bristol.

We were honoured and highly delighted when we heard that the S.O.-in-C. could come and visit us on Sunday, 27th October. We appreciated this all the more as he had only just returned from a tour of B.A.O.R. On arrival, **General Anderson** inspected the quarter guard and complimented them on their high standard. The complete guard hadn't met since annual camp in June, and one member was heard to remark that they were a bit over-trained (having had only one practice, at 08.30 hours, that morning). This set the standard for the rest of the day.

The planned programme was notable for a complete absence of signal training. This wasn't changed, however inappropriate it may have appeared. The S.O.-in-C. saw all ranks, men and women, negotiating deceptively simple vehicle tests and a WOSB-type obstacle course, recovering bogged and bellied vehicles without any official aids, cooking their own midday meal, purifying their own drinking water, planning local defence, practising first aid, and thoroughly enjoying themselves whilst learning to be complete soldiers. The pictures tell the story. The S.O.-in-C. spoke to almost every member of the Regiment during his five-hour stay. A singular achievement which was appreciated and which very much impressed us all.

Concentrating a Regiment which recruits from Plymouth, Taunton, Bridgwater, Bristol and from Cardiff and Swansea in Wales, isn't an exercise which can be repeated too often in a year. But the end product once again justified the means. The event this time has been noticed and heralded, and, we hope will be repeated.

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

When the 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Regiment (V) get together . . . things go with a swing



1. The S.O. in C. inspected the Quarter Guard and talked to Sergeant Michael Hawkins of Bristol, accompanied by the Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel F. Ramsbottom

2. Corporal Frank Roe-French, who left the Regular Army in October 1967 and immediately joined the TAVR in Taunton, explains a vehicle recovery problem to the S.O. in C.

3. An unlikely explanation by the TOT! Left to Right:—Lieutenant (TOT) Gene Filliter, Lieutenant Dick Lovis, S.O. in C. and C.O.

4. The lucky few who had their lunch cooked by the Regimental Cooks. Lance-Corporal Sheila Robbins from Bath heads the queue

5. An officer team obviously delighted to find the one obstacle where the plank actually bridged the gap

6. And these little pills make it drinkable—so cheer up! Left to Right:—Sergeant Rowlands (Plymouth), Staff-Sergeant Driscoll (Cardiff), Sergeant Baldry (Plymouth) and Sergeant John (Cardiff)

[Photos 1, 2, 3 and 5 by courtesy: South West Picture Agency, Bristol. Photo 4: Evening Post, Bristol.

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DEC 68—W.2.

39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

IT is now a little more than 18 months since 39th Signal Regiment (V) was formed from 65th Regiment, 92nd Regiment and 404 Squadron. The Regiment is now the only Special Communications unit in the British Army and feeling the responsibility of this situation, it is making every effort to improve the skills required for this unique role.

Now we have progressed further . . .

In the Regular Army we are used to an annual training cycle, but as the Volunteers only attend in their spare time, this cycle tends to be drawn out over about three years. Thus, in 1967, the Regiment concentrated on individual training, and the annual camp of that year was, in general, a concentrated individual skills course, but this year we progressed a little further and our camp served two purposes. In the first place it proved that the previous year's work had been most successful in that tradesmen and women really did understand their tasks, and secondly, it was used as an introduction to collective training.

The Regiment deployed one of the mobile communications centres at Scarborough, manned a static communications centre in Scotland, and sent radio detachments to Germany, Malta, Gibraltar, and to the wilds of the Catterick Training Area. This might sound a bit ambitious as an introduction to anything, but in the Regiment there are many old hands who were able to guide the less skilled. Apart from a few minor hitches at the beginning, all went extremely well. The detachments were working in a static role, except the SAVR crew, who carried out a 'Cook's tour' of Germany in a Land Rover. When one of the detachments landed at Malta, it discovered that the radio had been damaged in flight, but it was not long before technicians from 235 Squadron (DCN) were working on the equipment. Before the communications centre in Scarborough had time to wonder if they should be trotting out the old one about sun-spots, Malta came through 'fives' and stayed that way throughout camp.

Night air drop

The detachments on the Catterick Training Area were supplied by air drop during the night, and as an introduction to the subject, a demonstration drop was arranged for H.Q. Squadron on Bellerby Moor. A party of our W.R.A.C. element travelled in the aircraft to see how it worked at the business end, while the men on the ground dashed around collapsing canopies in a typical Yorkshire climate of wind and occasional rain.

The climate wasn't worrying the radio detachments in the training area, for when the Commanding Officer, hovering low in a helicopter, did eventually find them amongst the bracken, they were thoroughly enjoying themselves. It was difficult to decide if the men's or the ladies' detachments were the most efficient, for while one might lack nothing in camouflage perfection, the cuisine of the other would be excellent! It goes without saying that technically they were all very good.

A number of the Regiment are parachutists, and camp usually provides an excuse for them to demonstrate their skill. This year was no exception, and Scarborough Bay was chosen as the DZ. The R.A.F. are most co-operative when it comes to a jump into water, for the regulations are relaxed and untrained men are allowed to jump. I suppose the theory is that you can't hurt yourself—you just drown! Anyway, we loaded about thirty of the Regiment into an Argosy, and on a very misty afternoon, with a horrible swell on the sea, we proceeded to drop sticks of men into the water. **Major John Garratt** and our Padre were among those who had not worn a parachute before. The latter was presumably making a liaison visit. The Scarborough Yacht Club were very helpful and had arranged for an armada of motor boats to pull the jumpers from the sea. They were soon in the control boats and changing into dry clothes, inwardly warmed by a tot of rum. The appearance of the military members of the boats' crews suggested that they were not all good sailors and probably deserved the rum more than the parachutists.

We haven't yet succeeded in obtaining permission to train our W.R.A.C. as parachutists, but they work on a par with men in most other respects and we still have high hopes that they will join us in the sky one day.



Colonel Langton, Lieutenant-Colonel Walker and Major Gilbert, W.R.A.C., talking to Staff Sergeant McGarry during the Annual Inspection

Towards the end of camp we conducted a party of visitors round the communications centre and then entertained them in the Grand Hotel. One of the features of the conducted tour was the annual morse competition. The junior ranks of the Regiment compete for a handsome communications receiver, and this year it was won by **Corporal Havey,** operating at 28 words a minute; **Corporal Bennett** was second, with **Lance-Corporal Quince,** W.R.A.C., a close third.

A credit to the Regiment

The final parade at camp was a credit to the Regiment in general and to **R.S.M. Overton** in particular. It is quite incredible what a high standard of drill and turnout can be achieved after so little practice. **Colonel Langton,** our Honorary Colonel, took the salute and inspected the parade, having rushed up from Henley the day before, where he was officiating at the Regatta.

The all ranks' dance on the last night was an absolute wow! The foundations of the dining room, where it was held, will never be the same again.

. . . Never a dull moment

Since camp, the Regiment has been engaged in a variety of social and Regimental functions. Living as we do, on the boundary of the City of London and with close ties with the City, and in particular with the Worshipful Company of Skinners, there is never a dull moment. 3 Squadron, at Tunbridge Wells, have had their share of excitement too, for several of their vehicles and drivers were engaged in flood relief during the disaster in the South East recently.

Despite our successes, we know that we still have a great deal to learn. At present we are devising the best and quickest means of deploying our communications centres, with their high-power radio transmitters. If you are leaving the Service soon and think you might have something to offer us, why not pop into our T.A.C. in Worship Street, or at Tunbridge Wells. Who knows, you might be able to join the best Regiment in the Reserve Force.

Welfare needs Clothing!

Face to Face

IN view of the number of interesting points raised "The Wire" is happy to be able to reproduce verbatim the transcript of a discussion between the Director of Army Recruiting and John Tusa (B.B.C. 4) and David Devine (Defence Correspondent, Sunday Times).

Question
The Defence White Papers are going to raise something of a contradiction in a lot of people's minds. On the one hand we are told that the Army is going to be reduced in strength, therefore, some people are going to have to be laid off early. On the other hand, the Army is still going on with its recruiting matters and approaching the problem of recruiting just as seriously and enthusiastically as ever. Is there a contradiction here?

Answer
No. The numbers the Army will lose over the whole period of rundown will be something of the order of 29,000. The very great majority of those will be found by normal wastage and the only people who are going to retire prematurely are those towards the end of their careers. This action is only being taken in order to make certain that promotion prospects remain as good for both officers and soldiers who stay in the Service.

Question
What is the situation with your recruiting figures over the last few months?

Answer
This year, against a target of 15,500 if our present rate over the last six months were to be continued, we should end up with between 9,000 and 11,000 recruits so that in the worst case we should have a shortfall of about 6,000. In the best case, it seems likely to me at the moment, we shall have a shortfall of about 4,000.

Question
Isn't there a further factor in that the modern Army are requiring a high quality type of recruit and that you are having difficulty in competition with civilian life?

Answer
There is no doubt that we do require a very high grade chap nowadays to man our very complex equipment. At the moment we are taking only about 32-43% of applications as opposed to the 55% or so that we were taking a few years ago. This does present us with one of our major problems.

Question
You say you have difficulty in persuading the public that you need 15,500. I suppose this gets back to the successive cuts that have been made in the Armed Forces and people say, "Well, we suppose they don't want anybody at all." Is this the root of the problem?

Answer
Every time the word cuts appears in a newspaper, on television or on radio, this focuses attention on an aspect of the problem which from my point of view is largely irrelevant, because we still need this very large number of chaps, 15,500 a year, in order to man the Army.

Question
Shouldn't some of your recruiting campaign then be directed more pertinently at headmasters and at parents rather than prospective recruits? Don't they very strongly affect the movement of the necessary numbers towards recruiting?

Answer
You are right in suggesting that we should angle some of our publicity towards headmasters and parents and we do. We have a large number of conferences for headmasters and we have a very efficient and well organised system of Youth Liaison Officers up and down the country. The fact of the matter is that headmasters and parents don't have nearly so much effect on their children as they think they have, particularly when they reach our target area age of 17½ to 18-19.

Question
What is your current angle in persuading people of that age that the Army is a worthwhile career?

Answer
There are a number of media that we use. First of all, there is the Press advertising, secondly television advertising, thirdly the various Army displays up and down the country, fourthly the Satisfied Soldier Scheme. This is the scheme by which the soldier who is enjoying himself and is making a success of his career goes back to his own local area and tells local Press, radio and the school from which he sprung what it is like in the Army—really from the horse's mouth. These are the sort of methods we use. We are just starting a publicity campaign with the new theme of "Join the Professionals."

Question
What will it mean though, what profession will you be offering them?

Answer
It varies of course, depending on the various Arms of Service. You can be a professional really in almost anything in the Army. You can be a professional handler of almost any weapon you would like to name. You can be a professional radio operator and in the Royal Corps of Transport you can be a professional driver of an amphibian—I can go on endlessly. As a Sapper you can be a professional maker of the best and most modern bridges in the world, and so on.

Question
You mentioned a moment ago the Satisfied Soldier Scheme. I wonder if you could tell us anything about the evidence that exists as to satisfaction in the Services today. My impression is that despite the cuts such figures as I have been able to go into in any detail indicate that the rate of re-engagement is higher now or at least at a level very directly comparable with that in the past in good periods.

Answer
There is absolutely no doubt to my mind that everything one sees as one goes round the various units in the Army is to the effect that today's soldier is thoroughly contented with his lot, feels he is doing a worthwhile job and thoroughly enjoys working with first class modern equipment. This job satisfaction is very much borne out in the prolongation rates. It is a remarkable fact, for example, that even last year, which might have been thought to have been a difficult one for the Army, no less than 12,000 soldiers voluntarily extended their engagements. I think this is a very encouraging state of affairs.

Question
Wouldn't people say that this was connected with the state of unemployment in the country. If people are in the Army, they certainly aren't going to get themselves out of a job when they might have difficulty in getting a new one?

Answer
I am glad you have brought up the question of the relationship between unemployment and recruiting. First of all, I have made quite a detailed check since I have been D.R. about the number of ex-soldiers who are in fact unemployed. If you go to any big Labour Exchange up and down the country you will find that the number of ex-Regular soldiers on the market, within the target bracket we are talking about, is virtually nil. I don't think there is any need for any serving soldier who does his stuff in the Army and goes out of the Army with a good record to worry unduly about his employment prospects in civilian life.

Unemployment, however, does work against us in the Recruiting Organisation because there is a tendency for the up and coming young man who thinks he might like to give the Army a go in times of full employment to say, "Well, let's give it a go because I know that if I don't like it I'll get my job back." When you have got unemployment he says, "Well, I think I'd better sit tight because if I go into the Army and by any chance I don't like it, it might be more difficult for me to get my exact job and position back." So, in fact, unemployment works against us and there is no doubt that where unemployment has gone up so recruiting has fallen off. It is a surprising thing but it is true.

Question
Let us take a look at the attitude of the public. You say that you can prove that soldiers are more satisfied perhaps than they have ever been—you have intensive advertising and yet you are not getting the figures. What is there in your appeal that is not getting to the public? Are we back to the factor of the defence cuts, people assuming that there is nothing to be had from a career in the Army?

Answer
I think it is terribly difficult for the public in the face of four White Papers inside 18 months to see that the soldier's career is still nationally significant. It is really my main problem over the next 18 months. We've got to get through to the public that there is a career for the soldier. The Army is going to be different to what it was before, but it is still in my view going to be an intensely worthwhile, nationally significant and challenging career.

Question
Do you think that the contraction into Europe is going to have any serious affect on recruiting in the future? Was there really a large demand for the adventure of overseas training and overseas stations?

Answer
There is no doubt that the fact that the Army's role will be largely centred on Europe in future presents us with a considerable challenge, so far as the future soldiering and recruiting is concerned. On the other hand, I think there are one or two things that one wants to remember. First of all, Europe is a pretty large place stretching from Iceland, Northern Norway in the North down to Southern Turkey, Cyprus almost in the South. It is a very large area in itself and there is a slight tendency when one mentions Europe, particularly with regular soldiers, to think immediately in terms of the Hanoverian Plain. Although what happens on the Hanoverian Plain is intensely important from a national point of view, it is not the only place in Europe where we shall be interested. It has always, of course, been a British tradition to operate on the North and Southern flanks of Europe and I believe that this side of our European responsibilities will become more important in future. Over and above this we will continue to need to have a worldwide capability and this is going to mean a tremendous amount of training outside the United Kingdom. In this year alone, no less than fifteen countries are being visited for training purposes ranging from Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, Cyprus, Malaysia, the Persian Gulf and the United States.

Question
In what sort of strength will these training operations take place?

Answer
The aim is that each major unit in the Strategic Command should have one overseas trip, one large-scale overseas training trip per year, and this in fact is working out in practice. I was looking at the record of service of the S.C.L.I. who are a Battalion in the Strategic Reserve and who are allotted to the Allied Mobile Force. This year they will have sent a Company in January to do Exercise "Frozen Jump" in Canada. From January to April each Company in turn went off to do an exercise called "Hardfall" in Norway. Then in May they did a Battalion Exercise "Polar Express" in Northern Norway, and in August they have got another move which I don't suppose even they know about yet.

Question
In spite of all this, it is still a shrinking Army in a shrinking world role and although you can point to these exercises scattered all over the globe, this is in a sense window-dressing by comparison with what the Army has been doing over the last five to ten years?

Answer
I don' think it is a shrinking role—certainly not from the point of view of national significance. I think, historically, we have always been at our most effective when we have been the largest of the medium size powers rather than a super power, for which neither our relatively limited national territory nor our financial situation fits us.

Question
Could we go on to a slightly different subject and that is the effect of the amalgamation and the disbandments of regiments on both morale and recruiting?

Answer
Let's take your first point, the question of morale. Obviously one can only be desperately sad about the fact that famous regiments with tremendous records are either having to be amalgamated or, in some cases, going out of existence altogether. On the other hand, there is no doubt that it is perfectly possible by intelligent planning and intelligent handling of these sort of situations to produce, very quickly, the most superb regiments out of regiments that have been amalgamated. You are experienced enough in this field to remember the famous case of the amalgamation of the H.L.I. and the Royal Scots Fusiliers, which was one that everybody said could not possibly work. People marched on the Lord Provost of Glasgow for weeks on end about this particular amalgamation. I had the good fortune to have the Royal Highland Fusiliers, which is the amalgamated battalion between the H.L.I. and the Royal Scots Fusiliers, under my command in Cyprus during my time in the United Nations, and it could not have been a better or a happier battalion. There are other examples I can name. The Queen's Own Highlanders and in the Cavalry, The Queen's Own Hussars. There are many more examples where these new Regiments settle down astonishingly quickly to be amongst the happiest and most efficient in the Army.

As regards the effect on recruiting. It is a fact that, of the young men who come into the Army Careers Offices up and down the country, only about 25% know when they come into the office where they want to go. The other 75% are what we call uncommitted and are put into the appropriate branch of the Service. This is after a discussion between the young man and the recruiting staff and in accordance with the young man's choice, his abilities and also the requirements of the Service. I would like to see this figure of 25% committed increased, and I hope that the use of the Satisfied Soldier Scheme will enable regiments to attract more of the right kind of committed recruit. I don't think, therefore, that recruiting in the long run will be seriously affected by these amalgamations and disbandments. We may have a temporary period of turbulence, but we shall overcome that.

Question
You mentioned at the start that one of the reasons why some people are to be retired a little bit prematurely was to make sure that the promotion structure was not clogged up lower down. In fact, when the Army is smaller, is this not going to have adverse affects on people's legitimate hopes for promotion? Surely the smaller the Army, the longer it is going to take to get to the top and the fewer the top posts there are going to be.

Answer
No, I think the whole point of the premature retirement scheme is that it should take care of this and make certain that promotion prospects are as good as they would have been if there had not been any rundown. In fact, so far as those coming into the ranks are concerned, I believe promotion prospects will in the long run be better and the reason for this is the introduction of the new 16 year commission—the Special Regular Commission. I believe we should be taking into this commission, as time goes on, progressively large numbers of up-and-coming Corporals at the ages of 21-22, Sergeants at the ages of 23 and 24, and some of the regular high class Warrant Officers at the ages of about 27-29. This will mean a much greater flow of quality material through the ranks. So far as the officers are concerned, I think the premature scheme will give them almost exactly the same chance of promotion as they would have had before the rundown.

Question
Just going back to promotion for the moment, there are two questions which spring to my mind. The first is are you making it easier for people to get higher positions at an early age? There seems to be considerable pressure for this to happen outside the Army in civilian life, as people are very conscious of the need to have youthful executives.

Answer
This is true and certainly the Army does give you tremendous opportunities to have real responsibilities at a relatively young age. In this connection it is interesting that we have just been able to negotiate a new Short Service Commission Industrial Career with the Confederation of British Industries. The reason we have been able to do this is because industry realises that the Services do get real responsibility very young indeed and that somebody that comes out of the Services at the age of 24 as an officer, or indeed as a Sergeant for that matter, has really exercised considerable responsibility probably under rather difficult conditions. He has, therefore, by virtue of his experience, shown that he has got the abilities which will later on make him into a good manager in ordinary life.

Question
I wonder if you could explain this C.B.I. scheme in some small detail? It isn't absolutely clear to everybody outside yet.

Answer
The way it works is this. As soon as a young man has passed the Regular Commissions Board for a Short Service Commission and he indicates that he wants to have a joint career with the Army and industry, he will get a brochure which will give him the names of just under a 100 major firms who at the moment are operating the scheme. He will then make six choices of firm, rather like he makes choices of regiment, and he will have an interview with these firms, preferably before he goes to Mons O.C.S. or actually during his time at Mons. As a result of this interview, a firm makes him a provisional offer of employment and we hope that during his service the firm concerned will keep in contact and will come, perhaps, to his passing out parade at Mons and will pay him a visit at his regiment. Six months before he is due to end his time in the Army the provisional offer will be converted into a firm offer of employment one way or the other. This allows a firm to again change its mind in the light of the young man's performance in the Army, or alternatively in the light of their requirement for management trainee at any particular moment. I believe this is a flexible system which provides the best answers both from the point of view of the young man himself and industry.

Question
My second point about promotion is that you mentioned that Corporals and other ranks were going to be considered for these commissions. In fact, you are slightly breaking down on the sort of two-tier, two-ladder system of promotion in the Army. Do you think that this may be one of the hurdles in the recruitment business in that people feel that you've got to be a certain sort of person to be taken in as an officer and the rest are just soldiers?

Answer
You are right about this. It is not a question of consciously breaking down. I think that one of the things that has happened, since we became an all regular Army, is that the relationship between the Corporals, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and the Officers has become very much more fluid. To give you an example of the sort of thing I mean. The other day when I went to the Welsh Brigade Depot at Crickhowell, I was met by the R.S.M. who was a delightful chap. I said to him in the usual way of these things: "Do you like it here?" and he said to me. "Oh yes, Brigadier, this is easily the best station I have ever served in. This is the first time I have ever been able to get my golf handicap into single figures." Well, I begin to prick up my ears when I hear that sort of story because, in my day, when I joined the Army it was astonishing to think of an R.S.M. playing golf at all, let alone having a single figure handicap. I told this story when I went to Sandhurst the next week and the cadets dutifully laughed as they usually do at so-called Brigadier's jokes and at the end of the lecture the R.S.M. in the Welsh Guards, a very nice man, came up to me and said: "Excuse me, Sir, but I think you ought to know that not only have I got a handicap of three but I belong to Camberley Heath!" This is an example of the way in which the Warrent Officers and Sergeants in the last ten years have changed completely. They are now, in effect, middle managers—they dress like middle management, they behave like middle management, they have aspirations for their children like middle management. It is a totally different situation to what occurred even 10 or 12 years ago. This is the thing we've got to get across to the ordinary man in the street.

Question
What about Junior Entry? Can we talk about that for a little?

Answer
Junior Entry has not gone too badly so far this year. We had a good year, last year, and this year we are only about 5 or 7% down on last year's very good figures. I think the reason for this is that parents and headmasters up and down the country are now very satisfied with the facilities, both educational and for developing character, that are provided by our various Junior Training Establishments. Of course, we are going to have to meet increased competition and I am quite certain that anybody who goes in through Junior Entry, because of the sort of promotion schemes that I have been talking about earlier, has got an even better chance of getting on and having a really good career.

Question
There have been some questions recently about the ages at which Junior Entry should be allowed to opt out and the fear that Junior Entry is asked to commit itself for too long or too early an age. Now what is the situation here?

Answer
This is at the moment under discussion by a committee and I think a fair answer will come out at the end of it. It is quite obviously not in our interests to keep anybody in the Services who doesn't like it and I think that we shall be able to produce a fair working solution.

Question
Are you meeting specific problems in the light of, for example, the protest movement amongst youth in general? There have been one or two small incidents, but isn't it rather remarkable that there has been so little of this shown inside the recent Junior Entry?

Answer
I think the reason is a simple one really. It was very well put by an apprentice who was being quizzed by a headmaster on one of these programmes on Radio Nottingham the other day. The headmaster said to him, "What is the main difference between education in the Army and education in ordinary life?" The apprentice said, "Instead of being in a class of 32 I am in a class of 12 and when I have something to say, or a constructive criticism to make, somebody pays some attention." He went on to say "and I feel free." Well, I think this is one of the reasons why we haven't got any Sorbonnes or Hornsey Colleges of Art in the Army yet. I hope we never have.

Question
Could you tell us anything about the Welbeck College scheme? How is that actually going now?

Answer
Welbeck has been a tremendous success. Without Welbeck we shouldn't have any worthwhile officer cadre for either R.E.M.E. or Royal Signals and both these Corps now have upwards of 240 Officers from Welbeck serving in their ranks. There is no doubt too about the academic results achieved by Welbeck. Some of the first class Cambridge degrees produced by Welbexians are very encouraging. We have been having slight difficulty over recruitment for Welbeck, as a part of the general uncertainty. But I believe that, here again, once the facts get through to the public and they begin to understand that the Army has a sixth form college which has been going for sixteen years and is getting astonishing results, we shall not have any more problems. It is a question of getting parents, educationalists and everybody to go to Welbeck and see for themselves. Once they do I know they will be convinced.

Question
I don't think we ought to forget the ladies in this overall discussion of the Army. What is the position as far as the women are concerned?

Answer
It is terribly important that we should go on getting our full quota for the Women's Services, both Officers and other ranks. We are having, in common with the men, slight dffiiculty in getting the numbers we want, but I think they are suffering from the same kind of uncertainties as we've been suffering from on the men's side. I believe that the Women's Services will continue to offer just as good a career as they've done in the past and we certainly want all the girls of the right kind that we can get.

Question
I think perhaps we ought to end on a note of caution, in the sense that everything you have said is conditional on stability being maintained at this particular plateau. As you yourself said, you have had four White Papers in the last three or four years. How can you be sure that you are going to be left on this relatively low plateau of Army strength? You know how much political decisions may affect many things that you have said in the last few minutes?

Answer
Inevitably, in a democratic country, the Defence Services are, to an extent, at the mercy of their political leaders and I should be dishonest if I didn't at once agree with you. However, there is no doubt in my mind that this White Paper does give us the way ahead for the foreseeable future, for 8-10 years. Who can tell what the future will be after that—I don't know. One simply cannot tell, but my feeling is that where countries, in important geographical positions with important roles in the world like the British, have taken risks with their Defence Forces usually the chickens have come home to roost sooner rather than later, and I believe that we've gone as far as we possibly can in coming down towards the numbers we require for our new role. It seems to me, therefore, that we are now at a reasonable level and I believe this latest White Paper is a springboard from which we can develop along realistic and sensible practicable lines. I certainly hope so.

Seven days on Lundy Island

The following is a typical example of the daily forecast for Lundy and the Bristol Channel:

Gale warnings, Lundy and Bristol Channel Force 7 to 8, westerly, backing south.

By Corporals Burton and Hetherington of 5 Inf.Bde Signal Sqn.

THE Island of Lundy is 3½ miles long and about half-a-mile wide at the widest part. It lies more or less due north and south across the Bristol Channel, and is 24 miles from Ilfracombe, in Devon, and about 30 miles from Tenby in Pembrokeshire. The nearest part of the mainland is Hartland Point, 11 miles due south.

A party of eight left Tidworth in the early hours of the morning en route for Lundy and climbs unknown—at least to us. Six hours' travelling brought us to Ilfracombe where, after a short wait, we embarked on the M.V. *Westward Ho*. After two hours' sailing, the Island of Lundy appeared through the haze which, for all we know, may have been on the sea, since we were occupying the bar at the time.

First impressions of the island, as the ship approached the landing beach, were of a stark, towering mass of rock and vegetation, rising steeply from the sea. This sight was received with mixed feelings by would-be climbers, which were expressed in a number of ways—the mildest being "where's my return ticket."

After landing, the rest of the day was occupied in taking over the old lighthouse (complete with ghosts), and generally settling in to what was to be our home for the next seven days.

That same evening, after a quick meal of 'steak and kidney pud with pom,' we set off to recce the local tavern. To our delight, this was only half-a-mile away and we learned, with satisfaction that although it opened at six o'clock, closing time depended on the goodwill of the barman and the behaviour of the customers. Needless to say, our behaviour was exemplary.

After a hearty breakfast the next morning, we were on our way to the 'Quarries' for our introduction to climbing, under **Second-Lieutenant Ebdon** and **Signalman Harry Waugh.** These climbs we found to be unsuitable for our purposes, although we did notice a plaque commemorating **Lance-Corporal Harman,** son of the owner of the island, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry at the siege of Kohima during the Second World War.

We then moved on to the Halfway Buttress, where we completed the following climbs: Logan, 80ft. 'difficult'; Dehydration Squeeze, 60ft. 'difficult'; and, in addition, we made two first ascents, one of which we named '205' and graded 'very difficult.'

After a light lunch of bread and cheese, we moved over to the 1st Knight Templar, where we completed Route 1, 150ft. 'very difficult.'

Considering that the weather had not been very good (Force 7/8 winds and squalls) we were all rather pleased with ourselves, with the exception of **Signalman Waugh** who had lost his pipe somewhere on the rocks.

We then made our way home in good spirits.
(Note to future climbers on Lundy: should you find Harry's pipe, he claims that it would make an excellent piton in an emergency).

Abseiling practice

Saturday morning found us again on the Knight Templar, where we did Heatwave, 70ft. 'very difficult' with a 'hard, very difficult' variation near the top. This climb proved to be very interesting in a number of ways, notably two falls by **Corporal 'Geordie' Hetherington,** which gave the climbers below confidence in the top rope. This was followed by abseiling practice on a 35ft. 70 degrees slab.

After lunch, we visited the Cheesemites, on the western side of the island, but due to the high winds and bad rock, we decided not to attempt them; however, on a rocky outcrop a short distance south of the Cheeses, we put up a first ascent on a 40ft climb with an awkward overhang. This we named 'By Harry' and graded 'hard, severe.' Due to the severity of the overhang, the ascent was not completed by everyone.

By this time we were rather tired and so decided to return to the Old Light for tea, then on to the Marisco Tavern.

. . . enough rice to feed the population of China

Sunday, as usual, was declared a day of rest, so we were not aroused by **Corporal Barry Burton** rendering a form of reveille on a piercing whistle. The day passed slowly, but most pleasantly, the curry experts, **Corporals Burton** and **'Geordie' Hetherington,** decided to try their hands at making a curry lunch, aided by **Signalman John Madden,** the expert on rice. This venture ended up with enough rice to feed the population of China and sufficient curry for two. But utilising the principle of the fishes and the loaves, everybody received some curry—and enjoyed it (?).

That night, having arrayed ourselves in 'battle order,' with darts at the 'high port,' we advanced on the Marisco Tavern to engage the islanders in combat at that well-known pastime of 501 up. Our thanks must go to the islanders for a very enjoyable evening, and especially to Eddie and 'Ginge,' who came down from the North Lighthouse, about three miles, to play for the opposition.

On the Knight Templar itself

A typical Mornday morning—back to work. This day was spent on the north face of the Knight Templar itself. Two first ascents were made, the first we named 'Anthill' and graded 'very difficult,' and so named because **Signalman Harry Waugh** found, much to his discomfort, that for one of the holds his hand was in an ants' nest. The second was named 'White Horse' and also graded 'very difficult.' This climb had a 15ft. 'chimney' and **Corporal 'Geordie' Hetherington** got stuck. **Signalman Waugh** came down and **'Geordie'** used him as a stepping-stone in order to reach the top, and was later heard to say that the climb had been a walk-over. The reply made by **Harry Waugh** cannot be quoted here.

At the foot of the Constable—not the local 'bobby'

This day was to be our last day of climbing, so at the crack of dawn, about 9 o'clock really, we left for the north end of the island. With burning feet, we arrived at the foot of the Constable—the climb that is, not the local 'bobby.' Only two members of the party made this climb, **Second-Lieutenant Ebdon** and **Signalman Waugh.**

Following this we visited the North Lighthouse, where we were shown around by 'Ginger,' one of Sunday night's darts opponents. His first words on meeting us were: "Don't touch the brasswork or you'll be —— unpopular in here." The visit included a look at the light itself and its rotating mechanism, also an explanation of how the automatic radio beacon worked; all highly technical, but very interesting.

After a welcome mug of coffee, we departed and headed for Gannets Rock. This rock is separated from the island by about 30ft. of water at high tide, and is therefore only accessible at low tide. The climb was completed successfully, but during the descent, by abseiling, the rope was snagged by the last man. **Second-Lieutenant Ebdon,** being the last man, volunteered to retrieve the rope. This meant he had to do the climb again up the other side, release the rope, and abseil down a different

part of the face. While this was going on, the tide was coming in. The remainder of the party had rigged up a safety rope between the rock and the island and had sat down on the safe side of the gap waiting for the situation to develop.

They were not disappointed. By the time the climber had reached the bottom, the sea was just meeting in the gap; he waited for the slack of the waves, then nimbly leapt from rock to rock, dry shod, until he was about half way over. Then, to his dismay, a rather large wave rolled into the gap. We could hardly contain our glee. With the authority born of command, he cried "back you waves," but to no avail; the wave rolled relentlessly on, leaving our intrepid adventurer up to his knees in water and with the nickname 'Kinky Canute.'

'Riotous good humour'

Amid riotous good humour, we arrived back at the Old Light for a hurried tea, then down to the Tavern for our end-of-stay celebration. Alas, during this final scene of merry-making, tragedy struck our little band, we had drunk the pub out of draught beer. However, being of stout heart, we did not let this get us down, we then attempted to drink the place out of cider. At the end of the night (perhaps early morning), as we weaved our way back to our beds, we were happy in the knowledge that, although we had not succeeded in our last aim, we had done our very best . . . no man could do more.

Through the misty dawn the sun crept up to assail our bloodshot eyes, and the thought "we go back today" battered its way into our befuddled minds. Our first action was to switch on the radio for the gale warnings; all was well, the winds were right, so we would be able to leave the island.

Tidying-up was completed in record time and our baggage was loaded on the tractor to be taken to the landing beach. It was a rain-soaked flock that stood on the beach awaiting the boat. Amid fond farewells, at least for one member of the party, we were ferried to the good ship '*Westward Ho.*' Our journey home had well and truly begun. Arriving at Ilfracombe, we found that the truck that was to take us back to Tidworth had not yet arrived, this we had half expected. Not to be beaten, our valiant leader begged us for pennies (*not for that*), and with the help of the G.P.O., found that our truck was on its way.

The remainder of the party, not wanting to be put out of action by exposure and frostbite, retired to a quiet little pub for a game of darts until the truck arrived.

After loading-up, we made ourselves as comfortable as conditions would permit, and set forth from Ilfracombe on our journey back to Tidworth. On arrival at the guardroom, travel sore and weary, we found that to our regret, although we had been out of sight, we had been fondly remembered in the way of duties.

Footnote

The weather forecast for the day following our departure was: Gale warning, Lundy and Bristol Channel, Force 8, south-east, backing east. With the wind in this quarter it is impossible for boats to embark or disembark passengers to and from the island. Had this weather occurred one day earlier, our stay might have been prolonged indefinitely.

Note to **Signalman Stewart Saunders:** "Sack your Ju-Ju man."

☆ *"Seeing the Light"* ☆

An exercise deception ruse that nearly backfired

By Corporal Stacey, of 21st Regiment

DURING Exercise "Fallex" four members of the Station rugby team were selected by the directing staff to simulate Jehovah Witnesses, three R.A.F. and one Army (myself).

At 15.35 hours on Friday, 18th November, 1968, I burst into the Squadron Commander's office and began to strip off all my kit.

"What are you doing Corporal?" "Sir, I have seen the light and will soldier no more," I replied concentrating on a still spinning steel helmet to avoid laughing.

"Come, come, Corporal, this is just not like you, now pick up your kit and wait outside."

I made no reply mainly because I was fighting to keep control of an attack of the giggles.

The S.S.M. was summoned and it took but a few seconds for the O.C., **Major Robins,** to explain my case to him in whispered tones finishing with what sounded like, ". . . Righto then S.S.M. carry on!" (Honestly).

Then came an extract straight from the M.M.L. which concluded, "Corporal, I am telling you for the third and last time to get out of this office."

"No Sir!" "Right, that's it," he said turning to the crowd that had gathered outside the O.C.'s office. "You, you and you get him to the guardroom."

In the guardroom I was interviewed by a very tactful and patient R.A.F. Warrant Officer, but with a stock answer of "I have seen the light," I soon had him baffled and was then placed into a cell on my own.

After 15 minutes in a cell things began to look less funny, especially when a Medical Officer arrived and, after examining me, began asking some very queer questions so that even as a 'Hairy' I got the impression that he thought I was a 'Nutter.'

However, my spirits were somewhat revived when I heard shouts of "Repent you sinners the end is nigh," for I realised that my fellow 'Witnesses' were arriving. After what seemed an eternity of chaos, order, disorder and sermons, quiet was eventually restored to the Guardroom.

An R.A.F. Corporal was placed in the cell with me but with the aid of a rope (bootlaces) dangling from the window bars we frightened one R.A.F. Policeman into removing all our belongings and separating us.

I had thought that that would finally convince all and sundry that it was only part of the exercise, but my morale suffered a severe setback when I overheard the report by the S.N.C.O. I.C. Guardroom to some Officer on the telephone.

"Yes Sir," he was saying, "We have four blokes here, three of them are R.A.F. and obviously part of the exercise, but the Army bloke we are treating as a genuine case."

I had instant visions of a tour in the Psycho ward, and so I pleaded, yes pleaded, with the policeman that I, too, was an exercise case and not a nut case. Slowly the truth dawned on him—we were all members of the Rugby Club.

Eventually we were all released to non-combat duties on the Station.

That is how one aspiring Albert Finney spent four days working in the Squadron blistered and sore, and a lot wiser for having 'Seen the light.'

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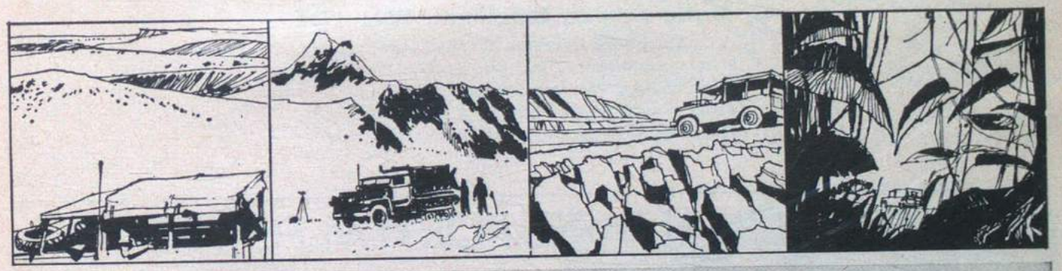
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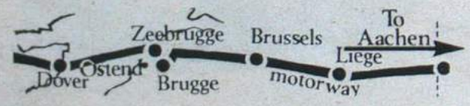
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Veteran Wireless Vehicle at School of Signals



The 1932 Military Austin 7—fitted for wireless. The dummy is wearing the uniform of the early thirties

A recent acquisition to the Museum at Blandford is a 1932 Austin 7 fitted with the Wireless Set No. 1, said to be the first mobile speech set ever used by the Corps.

The vehicle has been lent to the Museum by **Mr. William Hodge,** of Tudor House, Eton Wick, Windsor, Berks., who bought it from the Army in 1939 and restored it to its original condition.

The 'Military Austin 7' was widely used by the Royal Signals in the early thirties and the vehicle now at Blandford was in use by the 1st Divisional Signal Regiment at Aldershot in 1932.

The Wireless Set No. 1, which was installed in the vehicle by **Mr. Hodge,** was the first to employ both radio telephony (speech) and wireless telegraphy (morse), and also the first to be designed to work on the move.

It is battery-operated and extremely robust, and was severely tested by the Oxford University Expedition to Greenland in 1928. It was adapted for use by the Army in small-wheel vehicles and a pack version was also designed for transportation by horse, mule or camel.

Frequency coverage was from 4.2 to 6.8 Mc/s. (71 to 44 metres) and its range on the move was about two miles for voice and five miles for W/T. But early tests carried out in England in 1930 proved it was possible to work two static Wireless Sets No. 1 at distances up to 420 miles during daylight using normal rod aerials.

The vehicle, with the No. 1 Set mounted, will remain on display at the School of Signals until further notice, but it may be used from time to time by **Mr. Hodge** for veteran car rallies.

ROYAL SIGNALS GAMES CLUB

Representative Corps Colours for Summer Season, 1968

The following colours have been awarded:

Canoeing

New Colours

Sergeant M. A. Brett—8th Signal Regiment
Signalman D. Wink—2nd Division H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Signalman R. M. Pawlow—2nd Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment.

Cricket

New Colours

Captain S. R. Carr Smith—H.Q., Training Brigade
Signalman J. T. Green—30th Signal Regiment

Golf

New Colours

Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Scott, O.B.E.—School of Signals
Major T. H. Blashill—7th Signal Regiment
Major J. K. Heyes—223 Signal Squadron
Corporal W. Milne—13th Signal Regiment

Colours Re-awarded

Major-General (Retd.) E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E.
Major M. J. Hales—Ministry of Defence
Major J. B. Prince—School of Signals

Lawn Tennis

New Colours
Lieutenant-Colonel E. N. L. Brown—School of Signals
Major J. K. Heyes—223 Signal Squadron

Colours Re-awarded

Corporal R. Dunster—30th Signal Regiment

Shooting

New Colours

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Gilbertson—30th Signal Regt.
Major J. Cox—Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Lieutenant V. J. Reed—11th Signal Regiment
Corporal C. M. Blowman—School of Signals
Corporal K. Purkiss—21st Signal Regiment

Colours Re-awarded

Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher—Ministry of Defence
Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Ward—Ministry of Defence
Major G. A. S. Exell—School of Signals
Captain R. J. Haywood—School of Signals
Staff Sergeant E. R. R. Smith—21st Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. F. Smith—13th Signal Regiment
Lance-Corporal M. Corcoran—7th Armd. Bde. H.Q. and Signal Squadron.

Colours for sailing, approved by the Corps Committee for award for the first time this year, are yet to be nominated.

A GOOD YEAR FOR CORPS TENNIS



Standing:—Lieutenant-Colonel E. N. L. Brown, Captain M. A. Cornforth, Captain R. C. Siderfin, Major J. K. Heyes
Sitting:—Major L. S. Bamber (Captain), Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maclean, Corporal R. Dunster

The Corps Tennis Team had a good year, finishing third in the Corps League table. They played seven matches, won 4, lost 2 and drew 1, winning 48 sets to 25 sets.

Next year's Secretary will be Captain Mike Cornforth of the School of Signals, and all interested Corps players are requested to write to him.

Sylvia of 10th Regiment has a successful year



Her full name: Corporal Sylvia Mitchell of 3 Squadron, 10th Signal Regiment

Sylvia Mitchell, a 20-year-old physical training instructor of the Women's Royal Army Corps, has had a very successful year.

In July, **Corporal Mitchell** became the Army women's 440 yards champion runner and she has recently not only gained the Army women's championships for the high dive and the springboard but also defeated girls from the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F. to become the Inter-Services champion in these two events.

Sylvia joined the W.R.A.C. straight from school at the age of 17 and after her basic training she completed a three months' course at the Army School of Physical Training to become a Lance-Corporal Instructor and within 18 months of joining the Army she was a full Corporal. She spent a year with 10 Company W.R.A.C. as a physical training instructor in Aldershot before going to 10th Signal Regiment.

Late Sports Results

Hockey

Corps 5; Royal Engineers 2.
Corps 3; R.E.M.E. 1.
Corps 1; Royal Artillery 0.

Rugby

Corps 14 pts.; Royal Artillery 8 pts.
Corps 0 pts.; R.E.M.E. 24 pts.

Association

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Ablett, 67, King Edward Road, Northampton.

"The cuts by the Government in the Forces' manpower has certainly not quenched the spirit of the Royal Signals Association." This was said by the President of the Northampton Branch, **Lieutenant-Colonel S. Brock, M.B.E.,** on the occasion of the annual dinner and dance held recently.

How true this was, was amply reflected by the all-round success of the evening, where everybody had a really enjoyable time. It was amply borne out, too, by the numbers attending this much looked-for event; last year about 60 attended. This year there was double that number. It was borne out, too, by the great progress made by this highly active branch during the past year.

Among the guests attending was **Colonel W. Clarke,** Commanding Officer of the Royal Pioneer Corps, of Simpson Barracks, who proposed the toast.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases asissted financially in October	44		
Number of clothing parcels sent	33		
Amount spent in grants and loans ...	£757	8	10

One of the Month's Cases

EX-REGULAR, 12 years' service, now dying of cancer after many months' illness. His wife has nursed him devotedly throughout, and the Association has made a grant of £25 for her urgent coal and bedding needs.

One of the Month's Letters

"BOTH my wife and I would like to express our thanks for the prompt response you gave to my request for a major rehabilitation loan. The speed with which it was granted reflects the excellent organisation of the Royal Signals Association in dealing with other Associations and members of the Corps. It enabled me to complete the move of my family in time for the children to resume their education in new schools after the summer recess. In my opinion, this scheme is a new and important factor in assisting the long service Regular to re-establish himself in civilian life prior to his termination date. Instead of negotiating for credit, "cash in hand" means a substantial discount on purchases, also a leisurely settling-in period during residual service, without leaving it too late and having to apply for security of tenure of a married quarter as an irregular occupant after discharge. Again, please accept our thanks for your best wishes and assistance."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

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